



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

(The Presidency)

Federal Secretariat Complex, Shehu Shogari Way, Maitama, Abuja P.M.B. 119 Garki, Nigeria.

☎: 08188888419, 08188880419

SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME 5TH-9TH OCTOBER 2020,

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE FEDERAL COMMISSIONER,
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS, SENATOR BASHEER GARBA MOHAMMED ON BEHALF OF
THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, DISASTER
MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The High Commissioner,

Member States of the ExCom,

On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), I commend you and the Secretariat for organising the seventy-first session of the High Commissioner's programme.

In spite of the ravaging effects of the Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic-claiming millions of lives globally- we have all been able to find creative ways of pushing forward objectively with a great sense of resilience and strive- focusing on the issues that protect the vulnerable citizens of our various countries.

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disasters Management and Social Development alongside its agencies have not relented in our responsibility to provide international protection to refugees and asylum seekers while catering for the internally displaced persons, refugees, migrants, returnees and other Persons of Concern.



In spite of the governments immediate lockdown response to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic from within, the Federal Government of Nigeria has been flexible at all its borders with neighbouring countries to ensure access to territory for delivery of effective humanitarian responses.

The onslaught of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP), the Boko Haram insurgence in the North-East; the rampaging activities of reoccurring armed banditry in the North-West; the instability due to militancy in the Niger Delta; the farmers/herders conflicts in the middle- belt of the country and the nefarious activities of kidnappers and the likes throughout the country have mostly been the key causes of displacement alongside common natural disasters. Climate change and environmental degradation have similarly been complimentary factors. And the foregoing triggers are now exacerbated by the excruciating effect of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country - further deepening the vulnerabilities of POCs across the nation. In consequence, Nigeria has close to three million Persons of Concern including the internally displaced, refugees within Nigeria as well as those in the neighbouring countries. While we improve the security situation within the country and begin national sensitization, reintegration and rehabilitation programmes for POCs, Nigeria intends to be intentional in the exercise to repatriate Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, Niger and Chad Republics.

In the spirit of international solidarity, cooperation and burden sharing as encapsulate in the **Global Compact on Refugees** (GCR) adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018, Nigeria has hosted over 57, 000 Cameroonian refugees from 2017 when the political crisis degenerated - and this figure is on the increase. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) is working endlessly to provide the added support needed at entry points in Ogoja, Adipo and Takum Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the respective states of Cross River, Benue and Taraba States by increasing staffing and establishing more offices where the needs are more prevalent thus ensuring the protection in line with the GCR.

At present, at least 57% of the refugee population live in host communities while 43% live in settlements. The proposed construction of resettlement cities comprising of 600 housing units each in its first phase starting in the North West, North East, and South-South geo political zones by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) projects to provides sustainable housing and reintegration to hundreds of thousands of POCs over the course of the next five years while improving the lives of those in neighbouring communities; equally the collaborative empowerment programme of the NCFRMI and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to

roll out loans to verified Refugees and IDPs in the country are laudable durable solutions initiated by the Commission to bring succour to the vulnerable ones in our society through entrepreneurship and vocational trainings of their choice. This is also aimed at scaling up livelihood interventions as one key pillar in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) so refugees can contribute to their individual self-reliance, strengthening their independence in the national economy and reducing adhoc government assistance in a phased out approach.

Furthermore, the State governments have been equally supportive in actualisation of the President Muhammadu Buhari's vision to resettle and reintegrate POCs. The gesture of the host Governments of Benue and Cross River States to donate 400 hectares of land to refugees for agricultural activities is a clear echo of the spirit of burden sharing and international solidarity advocated by the GCR.

On this occasion of the 71st session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), Nigeria pledges to include refugees, IDPs, returnees and their host communities in national, state and local government development plans, while strengthening the protection environment by ensuring the integrity of the asylum system in line with international legal instruments. The Government will also strive to ensure the availability and access to durable solutions for refugees, IDPs and other POCs under the leadership of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari through his passion, resolve and commitment to uplifting Nigerians and those seeking refuge within the country.

On behalf of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and her agencies, we jointly reiterate our commitment to the Global Compact for Refugees.

Thank you.



Senator Basheer Garba Mohammed

Honourable Federal Commissioner,

National Commission For Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)