

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT BY HON. DANIEL VH KASHIKOLA, MP, DEPUTY MINISTER  
OF

HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY

DURING THE 71<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME [EXCOM]

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

***05-09 OCTOBER 2020***

**Mr Chairperson**

**Mr High Commissioner**

**Your Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates**

1. It is my singular honour and privilege, to address the seventy-first Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on behalf of the Government and the people of Namibia.
2. Namibia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the African Group.
3. We highly commend the crucial humanitarian work done by the High Commissioner and his dedicated team in addressing the problem of refugees, especially in the context of a pandemic.
4. The unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the fore, the great need for cooperation amongst Member States, and international organizations in mitigating the spread of the virus amongst the most vulnerable persons, including refugees.

5. Namibia is currently hosting **9 957** persons of concern, and thus far, has recorded 6 positive cases for COVID-19 , 4 recovery and 2 active cases with 1 demise who had pre-existing medical conditions.
6. I would like to take this opportunity to express Namibia's appreciation to UNHCR for the support given in the form of Personal Protective Equipment for utilization in the refugee Settlement.
7. Mr. Chairperson, during the first Global Refugee Forum held in December 2019, in Geneva, Namibia pledged in four areas, namely; education, health, statelessness, and sports. We have since made considerable efforts in ensuring that, the pledges and their goals are achieved within our set timeframe.
8. The Tripartite engagement between the Governments of Namibia and Burundi, and the UNHCR has commenced and is progressing agreeably, and will result in voluntary repatriation of considerable number of Burundian refugees currently living in Namibia.

9. Namibia is also finalizing the process of local integration for the remaining former Angolan refugees in the Osire Refugees Settlement, and to this end Permanent Residence Permit fees have been waived.
  
10. Mr Chairperson, Namibia continues to receive an increasing number of applications from asylum seekers and accordingly, the national system of support and protection requires additional resources.
  
11. I would like to conclude by declaring that despite the current economic and health crisis the country is facing due to COVID-19, Namibia remains determined to uphold its international obligations and play its part in creating more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing solutions for refugees as per the Global Compact on Refugees.

I thank you!