



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
To the United Nations – New York
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BRIEFING BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES

WEDNESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2022

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

I thank you Mr. President and congratulate you on Ghana's assumption of the Security Council Presidency for the month of November.

I also thank **Mr. Filippo Grandi**, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his briefing.

The continued increase of refugees globally stemming from protracted armed conflict, economic crises, and the effects of climate change is greatly concerning. We note that 83 percent of refugees globally are hosted by developing countries with the least developed providing asylum to seven million people representing 27 per cent of the global total of refugees.

Mr. President, protracted conflicts, the climate crisis, global inequality and a trade and investment order that is not development friendly are leading to increasing migration. Developing countries that are struggling to manage multiple crises are shouldering the largest responsibility in hosting migrants and refugees.

From our experience in Kenya, the hosting of large numbers of refugees, for more than three decades, in socio-economically and ecologically fragile settings, presents formidable challenges. These include acute environmental stress; and, conflicts between refugees and host communities over the dwindling resources.

In addition, opportunistic terrorist groups have used refugee camps as recruitment, radicalisation, and staging grounds for their operations.

In your recent five-day visit to the region which you just mentioned, High Commissioner **Mr. Grandi**, you witnessed first-hand the situation of refugees in Kenya and that of the internally displaced in Somalia.

In Kenya, you visited Kakuma and Dadaab camps where about 20,000 refugees having arrived this year alone. You witnessed how the worst drought in 40 years in the Horn of Africa has affected refugees and host communities in Kenya.

In Somalia, you witnessed how the ravaging drought is displacing hundreds of thousands and compounding an already devastating humanitarian situation.

Mr. President, Kenya has and will continue upholding its obligations in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention to host and protect refugees. And in view of the refugee crisis in our region and globally, we, alongside other Member States will keep advocating for continued burden and responsibility sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. We wish to underscore four points in this regard:

First: The international community has consistently not responded adequately to appeals made by developing countries and UNHCR in refugee relief efforts. As the refugees and internally displaced who are least responsible for global warming suffer its worst effects in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere, the world must not turn aside.

We appeal for sufficient funding to enable the UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies on the ground to provide live saving support to those need.

Second: Funding aside, the wealthiest countries with their high employment economies can do a lot more in resettling of refugees. While financing is only one pillar of responsibility, hosting is the other. Therefore, the wealthy countries, beyond providing financial support to the UNHCR, should offer opportunities for resettling of refugees.

Third: Kenya has previously expressed grave concern over the worrying trend in recent years in which people of African descent travelling to Europe via the Mediterranean suffer extreme violations of their human rights with thousands losing their lives. In addition, early this year, we witnessed a surge of refugees from Ukraine owing to the war. We observed, with great concern, credible reports of the discriminatory and racist treatment of refugees of African descent fleeing Ukraine for safety in Europe.

We thank the agencies and people of goodwill who came to their rescue. We strongly recommend that all states, recognising their obligations under international humanitarian law and refugee conventions, systematically seek to purge racial discrimination or ethnocentrism from their refugee and migration control systems.

Fourth: The most effective and sustainable way of dealing with the refugee problem is to tackle the root causes. These include climate change and forced displacement, leading to unmanaged migration, and trafficking.

Without determined investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation, the trends will only worsen. COP-27 will offer an opportunity to get on the right path by developed countries meeting their past commitments, and not seeking to block the development path of countries in the Global South in the mistaken belief that this is a solution to climate change.

In **conclusion**, I reiterate the imperative for the international community to support refugees, host countries, countries of origin and all other relevant stakeholders in the protection, assistance, and eventual return of refugees to their home countries.

Kenya will continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Thank you