

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

# REPORT ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

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**Hon. Eng. Hillary Onek, Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees**

**1/23/2020**

# REPORT ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 16<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## 1.0 Introduction

One year since the Global Compact on Refugees was adopted, the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, bringing together over 3,000 participants from States, International Organizations, NGOs, Private Sector, Academia and Refugees, among others. The objectives of the GRF were;

1. To translate the principle of burden-sharing into concrete action by bringing the international community together to announce bold, new measures to ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.
2. To attract pledges/contributions and exchange good practices in the areas of burden and responsibility sharing, education, energy and infrastructure, Jobs and livelihoods, Solutions and Protection capacity.

## 2.0 Uganda's Delegation

Uganda's delegation was led by Hon. Hillary Onek, Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees and comprised of Hon. Mary Goretti Kituutu, newly appointed Minister for Energy and Mineral Development; Hon. Jennifer Namuyangu, Minister of State for Local Government; Hon. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, Minister of State for Primary Health Care; Mr. Aggrey Kibenge, Permanent Secretary Designate, District Chairpersons of Kamwenge and Yumbe; and a host of other technical officers from the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Water and Environment, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Secretariat under the Office of the Prime Minister and the Uganda Permanent Mission (Embassy) officials led by Amb. Eunice Kigenyi.

## 3.0 Global Refugee Forum Structure

The GRF structure was mainly characterized by the Main Plenary Sessions, with Uganda allocated 4 seats taken up by the Ministers and Breakout Sessions on a number of topical areas which were open to interested participants. Uganda **co-sponsored the themes of Education and Energy and Infrastructure**, which included issues of water, environment,

sanitation and health. The Ugandan delegation in addition participated in various side events as panelists, in high level dialogues and held various bilateral meetings.

**4.0 Key preliminary outcomes from the GRF**

From the summary of the co-conveners, the following has been indicated as the preliminary outcomes from the GRF:

- More than 770 pledges and contributions were submitted by a broad range of actors including a commitment for further engagement from development actors and multilateral development banks through a range of financing and policy instruments; a possible source of funding for response plans;
- Out of which 350 pledges related to improving laws and policies including commitment to receive and admit refugees, out of camp policies and inclusion in national service delivery systems;
- Support platforms including the IGAD support platform were launched as situation specific mechanisms for burden- and responsibility-sharing;
- About USD 2.2 billion was pledged by the World Bank Group through a dedicated funding and financing window for refugees and host communities; the Inter-American Development Bank pledged about USD 1 billion and in addition, a broad range of States and other Stakeholders pledged financial support for refugees and host communities to the tune of USD 2 billion.

**5.0 Key highlights of the respective events in which the Ugandan Delegation participated**

<b>Event and organizers</b>	<b>Government participation</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
Briefing meeting at Uganda’s Permanent Mission in Geneva organized by the Permanent Mission	All delegates participated	The program for the 3 days was harmonized and delegates briefed on the key issues of focus in the pre-arranged bilateral meetings.
Plenary sessions (opening	Team Leader in the	Uganda’s refugee model was

<p>and closure) organized by Swiss Government and High Commissioner and addressed by UN Secretary General and the co-conveners (Costa Rica, Ethiopia, German, Pakistan and Turkey)</p>	<p>company of the Ministers participated in the panel on comprehensive responses in action and delivered a statement on behalf of the Government of Uganda</p>	<p>emphasized, and the initiatives being undertaken through the CRRF of the response plans applauded. The High Commissioner described Uganda as a city for refugee non-encampment. In the statement, the Government of Uganda pledges were presented alongside the expectations from the international community. That is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining its progressive, open-door refugee policy;</li> <li>Including refugees in its national planning framework and statistical systems;</li> <li>Promoting access, quality and inclusiveness in education and health delivery systems for refugees and host communities by implementing the Education Response Plan and Health Response Plan;</li> <li>Promoting inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems through the implementation of the Water &amp; Environment Response Plan; and</li> <li>Ensuring the integrity of the asylum system.</li> </ul> <p>The Hon. Minister appealed to the international community to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renew focus on addressing root causes of displacement;</li> <li>Increase investments in countries of origin to make conditions favorable for return;</li> </ul>
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		Support implementation of the GCR and its CRRF - through new funding; and Alignment of pledges/contributions towards Uganda's response plans.
Special event (IGAD support platform) organized by UNHCR	The Team Leader in the company of the Minister of State for Local Government and other technical staff attended	The IGAD support platform was adopted and launched to helping galvanize political commitment, mobilize assistance, facilitate coherent responses and support policy initiatives for refugee protection and management within the IGAD region.
High level dialogues and panels on Humanitarian and Development nexus in addressing forced displacement; on the whole of society approach (jobs and livelihoods) and on burden and responsibility sharing organized by Japan and UNDP; the Republic of Korea; and Denmark respectively	Minister of State for Local Government together with technical staff from the ministry of Local Government and District Chairpersons of Kamwenge and Yumbe.	The Minister emphasized the key messages. Thus; Uganda's refugee response model, of welcoming our brothers and sisters in the hour of need remains intact; Uganda has a progressive refugee model; Uganda has fulfilled its obligations as a refugee hosting country and equally the international community should meet its obligations.
Time to act: proactive approaches to reduce maternal and newborn deaths by Netherlands and World Health Organization	Minister of State for Primary Healthcare supported by Technical staff from the Ministry	Emphasized that Uganda had developed the response plan on health for both refugees and host communities inclusive of issues of maternal and newborn deaths and that the international community should fund the response plans in order to realize this aspiration.
New approaches to	Newly appointed Minister	The Minister re-echoed the key

<p>financing resilience and sustainability for water and sanitation by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Oxfam, UNHCR and UNICEF</p>	<p>of Energy and Mineral Development and outgoing minister of State for Environment</p>	<p>messages of Uganda and indicated that the country under the CRRF was in the process of finalizing the Jobs and Livelihood plan in addition to the Water and Environment Response Plan already adopted as a strategy of building resilience and sustaining WASH interventions</p>
<p>High level dialogue on education and other sessions on education organized by various stakeholders</p>	<p>Mr. Aggrey Kibenge, permanent Secretary (designate) representing the Ministry of Education and Sports participated in these events supported by a technical officer from the Ministry</p>	<p>In the various sessions and events, Uganda's policy and Education Response Plan was hailed and calls made to the international community to increase funding for the full implementation of the ERP;</p> <p>A call was made to re-align all humanitarian and development support towards agreed priorities in the ERP;</p> <p>Mr. John Goodwin, the Chief Executive Officer of LEGO Foundation, announced funding to the tune of USD 100 million towards child play learning methodologies at ECD and lower primary level in Uganda, Ethiopia and another East African country – to be shared out in a manner proportionate to the refugee burden each country carries</p>
<p>Bi-lateral meetings with JICA, Denmark, Ireland, Korea, United States of America, the World Bank, EU Commissioners, EU</p>	<p>The Ministers with support from the technical persons</p>	<p>JICA pledged USD 5 million for the next year towards resilience and root causes of forced displacement;</p>

<p>Members of Parliament, United Kingdom, Belgium, LEGO Foundation, UNDP, UNHCR, Netherlands, Enabel, Austria, Italy, Norway, Sweden</p>		<p>European Union committed USD 11 million for environment in support of the Water and Environment Response Plan;</p> <p>Denmark committed USD 4 million for the Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) and USD 6 million towards education;</p> <p>Concern were raised by USA, Denmark and Sweden regarding issues of transparency and accountability in the refugee response and delayed investigations;</p> <p>Korea called for the need to establish an emergency trust fund to address the humanitarian development nexus and the need to address the shortage of data on refugee management;</p> <p>Denmark and Sweden raised concerns of discrimination on the account of sexual orientation and need to be accommodative;</p> <p>Ireland used the opportunity of the bi-lateral to lobby and front their candidature for the Chairperson of the UN Security Council;</p> <p>UNDP committed to support in areas of rule of law, conflict prevention, decent work environment, private sector engagement and technical</p>
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		<p>expertise and that the Government of Uganda should engage with the UNDP Country office to concretize on the possible areas of support;</p> <p>Concerns was raised by the World Bank regarding delays in approval processes for IDA 18 RSW pipeline operations. There are four pipeline operations with a total committed amount of USD 265 million. Approval needs to be fast-tracked so that Uganda benefits from 100% grant financing IDA 18 terms before the cycle ends in June 2020. The World Bank Managing Director of Operations announced a new funding of \$2.2 billion dedicated window for refugees and host communities (WHR) over the next three years as part of IDA 19. Uganda will continue to have access to IDA financing to sustain the progressive policy environment.</p> <p>UNHCR to lobby and implement projects for alternative sources of energy to stop dependency on wood fuel and to guarantee sustained asylum space;</p> <p>Sweden pledged USD 4 million to UNHCR for the Green Fund. Respective countries and donors will study the proposals and see how to support Uganda accordingly.</p>
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## **6.0 Recommendations:**

1. The Government of Uganda should fast track approval processes for pipeline operations from IDA 18 Sub Window for Refugee and Host Community (RSW) so that Uganda benefits from favorable 100% grant financing terms before cycle ends in June 2020.
2. The Government of Uganda should develop a strategy to clarify the measures it has put in place to address risk and fraud including the milestones registered to avoid being continually regarded as not serious in addressing issues of transparency. The measures may include reaching out to the specific countries through our missions.
3. Follow up should be undertaken with the respective countries on the bilateral meetings to concretize on the mechanisms of cooperation in place. This should be undertaken by OPM and the respective Ministries and with the assistance of our Permanent Mission in Geneva.
4. The UNHCR Country Representative should follow up with UNHCR headquarters regarding the allocation for Uganda as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest refugee hosting Country in the world and with the most progressive policy. The allocation should be made transparently and in line with the CRRF modality of providing for refugees and host communities within the nexus.

## **7.0 Conclusion:**

1. Gratitude was extended to the Country Representative UNHCR for facilitating Uganda's delegation to participate in the Global Refugee Forum and to our Permanent Mission in Geneva for arranging all the bi-lateral meetings and preparing the delegation accordingly.
2. The Coordination meeting under the Chair of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister;
  - Noted that Uganda was adequately represented at the Global Refugee Forum which took place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - Adopted the recommendations for implementation.
  - Allowed the summary report to be disseminated to stakeholders.