



**Launch of the Zambia Country Chapter of the
Regional Refugee Response Plan for
the Democratic Republic of Congo Situation
Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka, 23 May 2018**

Remarks by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Janet Rogan

Hon Stephen Kampyongo, MP, Minister of Home Affairs

Ms Pamela Kabamba, PS, Home Affairs

Mr Abdon Mawere, Commissioner for Refugees

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and members of the Diplomatic Corps

Senior government officials

Colleagues from the United Nations in Zambia

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning. I'm delighted to be here representing the UN in Zambia. I want to set the context for my remarks today with a quote about refugees in this continent:

"...all refugees are individuals with a right to life in Africa. All need a chance to recreate their lives in Africa, and to regain the dignity of being self-reliant and making a contribution to the development of our continent."

So said HE Julius Nyerere, then President of Tanzania, almost 40 years ago, in May 1979, when representatives of 38 African countries (including Zambia), 5 African liberation movements, 20 non-African countries, 16 international and regional organisations, and 37 NGOs and refugee-serving agencies came together in Arusha, Tanzania for a Pan-African Conference on the African Refugee Problem. At that time, the number of refugees on the continent had risen alarmingly, reaching around 4 million - a movement of people that itself represented a potential additional cause of conflict.

That conference 40 years ago was massively important. It made a series of recommendations that were later adopted as the basis for refugee policy and responses on the continent. But even more important than that, the people attending the Arusha conference were faced with the core humanity of the crisis. Every aspect of the discussions was about people; people who could be their relatives - our relatives; our friends; ourselves. The stories of those people touched the emotions. Their resilience in face of adversity was deeply impressive. Their ability to survive horrors and atrocities humbled their audience.

Many years later, in 2016, at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, 180 countries, 700 CSOs and NGOs, the private sector and academia came together to discuss our 21st century global refugee crisis - with more than 65 million refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people around the world. 65 million - that's more than four times the population of Zambia!

40 years ago the aspiration at Arusha was **burden-sharing** by and between the countries of the continent, with the international community just assisting. Yet

two years ago in Istanbul the five biggest donors were still supplying two-thirds of humanitarian aid and the Summit agreed on the urgent need to diversify the funding base. A **Grand Bargain** was launched by major humanitarian donors and aid organisations to improve effectiveness, along with an initiative called **Connect Business** to bring the private sector in to the emergency response. I'm glad to see private sector here today.

40 years ago Arusha talked about **the need to address the root causes** behind the movements of people seeking refuge from violence in their countries. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework which was agreed by UN member states in September 2016 after the World Humanitarian Summit looks not only at how to help refugees to **"thrive, not just survive" - bringing together both elements of development and humanitarian support**; it also looks at the **political conditions underlying refugee outflows** and encourages states to be proactive in their diplomatic engagement on peace and security efforts. I would here note the efforts of President Lungu and his government along with regional counterparts to address these issues, including through the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security as well as the African Union, and strongly encourage them to continue these efforts.

While the global and regional level set the scene, the issues confront us at the national level. For over 40 years, Zambia has been a place of safe haven for people seeking refuge from conflict in its immediate neighbourhood and from further afield, whether in the days of the Front Line States and the independence struggles, through civil wars, or other unrest and conflict. Since January 2017, around 21,000 citizens of DRC have crossed into Zambia, the vast majority of those arriving in Luapula province since 31 August 2017.

Others arrived in Lusaka or Meheba in NorthWestern Province, where they joined around 21,000 DRC refugees who have been in Zambia for longer.

Zambia has now joined the pilot countries for applying the **new Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework** I mentioned. This means that the government is bringing an integrated approach, protecting and settling the refugees alongside host communities with the intent that this approach will help both the refugees and the host communities not only to survive but to thrive, together. This approach recognises that it is better to help people as far as possible to be self-sufficient, to enable them to live with dignity and to be fully part of social and economic life in the joint community.

We have seen from the video this morning that life in Kenani Transit Centre in Nchelenge in Luapula province is grim. Some of you have visited and seen for yourselves. It's a transit centre. By definition, it's not meant to be a place for permanent living. Government, with the support of the UN in Zambia, a number of implementing partners and the refugees themselves, is now opening up a new settlement at Mantapala, between Nchelenge and Kawambwa on land graciously offered by HRH Chieftainess Kanyembo. There is life in Mantapala, with small shops springing up, gardens being planted, children playing. It has certainly been challenging to do that work during the rainy season, which has been very heavy this year, and I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly throughout, particularly the local authorities and workers, as well as UN staff and partners deployed there.

Of course, that work requires funding and I am proud to have been able, as UN Resident Coordinator, to raise earlier this year **USD 6.6 million from the**

Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), which is the UN's global emergency response fund, for the first six months of work to open up Mantapala. I am pleased to note that host communities are also already able to benefit from the facilities being established at Mantapala with that CERF emergency funding - approximately 80% of those accessing health services at the new health post in Mantapala are from the host community, whose nearest health post previously was several kilometers away. Generous contributions from the Government and People of Japan, Ireland, Sweden, Italy and private donors have further boosted the total raised so far to USD 8,308,049. And I know there are additional pledges from Germany and the EU. But more is needed!

Let me tell you why, and how the funding contributions will be used. There seems to be a lot of confusion about how the UN works in a country, so we need to do a better job of explaining! In all our activities, the UN works in support of the government of the day to deliver on national priorities, in line with the various mandates of the different UN agencies, and in accordance with the legal framework governing our programmes and activities. In our case, that is the Zambia-UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework, which mirrors the 7th National Development Plan. Almost all of the UN funds and agencies are operating in Zambia. My job as UN Resident Coordinator is to bring all of those UN agencies together and ensure a coherent approach - what we call Delivering as One.

So which agencies are working in Luapula? In the case of this refugee response, we are of course all familiar with **UNHCR** - the UN Refugee Agency. In brief, UNHCR is responsible for coordinating the refugee response in support of government, working closely with the Commissioner for Refugees, and for

ensuring life-saving services to the refugees. In addition, a number of other UN agencies have mandates to support the humanitarian response. **UNICEF** leads on child protection, clean water and sanitation, nutrition and education; **WFP**, food and nutrition security; **UNFPA**, maternal and adolescent health, including sexual and reproductive health rights and services; **IOM** is covering transport; and **WHO** is supporting on health systems and services. They work with civil society organisations including **Save the Children, Caritas Czech Republic, World Vision, Zambia Red Cross Society, Plan International, Oxfam, ICRC, Africa Action Help and MSF Spain**. Looking forward, other UN agencies like **FAO, ILO** and **UNDP** will also join the response to help build livelihoods and resilience, according to mandate.

All of these UN agencies and civil society partners are working together with government, **Delivering as One**, to ensure the best support possible for the people who need this help. In 2016 the UN Secretary General (Ban Ki-moon) said *"the World Humanitarian Summit must be for the people living on the frontline of humanity. **They count on us and we cannot let them down.**"*

The appeal we are making to you today is not to let down the citizens of DRC who have crossed over into Luapula seeking a place of greater safety, and those who have found themselves in Meheba, or here in Lusaka. And not to let down their sisters and brothers who are receiving them, who need support to do that through this comprehensive humanitarian response. In Luapula province, the rate of stunting is 57%, even higher than the national average in Zambia of 40% which is one of the highest in the world. 20% of children in the province do not manage to go to school; of those who do only 10% reach grade

12; 70% of the pupils overall are boys; the rate of early marriages, pregnancies and GBV is very high. **They count on us and we cannot let them down.**

The circumstances of Zambia are conducive to providing a successful integrated, comprehensive response, bringing together development and humanitarian support: successive governments and the people have received refugees for decades; the numbers are small in global terms even though the impact is big locally; and the UN system and the many partners are truly working together in the response. Let us try to fund this response well and make Zambia a model for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

Thank you.