



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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DURING

***ROUNDTABLE 4: "GLOBAL COMPACT FOR RESPONSIBILITY-
SHARING FOR REFUGEES, RESPECT FOR
INTERNATIONAL LAW"***

AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON
ADDRESSING LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Monday, September 19, 2016
United Nations, New York

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue of global significance. Since morning the reality of the tragedy of our time has become stark.

It is a reality of unprecedented moment;

It is a reality of abdication of responsibility by able countries and disproportionate burden for developing and fragile countries;

It is a reality of reality of growing fear, discrimination and rejection of people needing compassion, protection and assistance.

It is a reality of failed institutional frameworks.

This round table therefore, challenges us to explore vigorously how to turn new global commitments on this issue into concrete international action and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Let this not be an exercise of mere political rhetoric, but one that will demonstrate our true commitment to the principle of international cooperation, burden and responsibility sharing, which is a key cornerstone of the protection regime.

Kenya's commitment to this principle is unquestionable. We have hosted refugees from the region for over two decades. And we continue to do so. Currently, we have over 400,000 refugees from Somalia, South Sudan and other countries in the region.

Needless to say, we have paid an extremely heavy price for our generosity. The inability of the international community to share this burden contributed to the loss of the humanitarian character of the Dadaab

Refugee Complex. As a result, terrorists have appropriated this protected space for the planning and execution of the recent terror attacks in Kenya. We have lost the lives of promising young men and women, who would have immensely contributed to Kenya's development aspirations.

I believe the time has now come for the international community to share this burden and I am convinced that the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing must address the following issues:

Firstly, the need to address the root causes of protracted refugee situations is crucial. This is a political responsibility that we must all bear. As you are all aware, the Somali protracted situation has been allowed to continue to fester for far too long.

Secondly, we hope that the outcome document will translate into equitable burden sharing accompanied by predictable financing beyond the token contributions that developed nations have pledged in the past.

Thirdly, to manage the flow of migrants and refugees, we look forward to the inclusion of a comprehensive networked database on refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. This will enable interactive exchange of information between the affected countries and enable them eliminate criminal elements and facilitate efficient and effective documentation of refugees.

Additionally, a key component of the Global compact for responsibility sharing must take into account the needs of the local host communities. This will go a long way in preventing tension between the refugees and host communities. Furthermore, mechanisms for environmental reconstruction and restoration of the areas around large camps must be taken into account. The environmental degradation around the Dadaab Refugee Complex is a case in point.

Moreover, a global compact for responsibility sharing must include international resource mobilization mechanisms for the creation of conditions favourable for return in the country of origin. Consequently, rebuilding the social infrastructure is key. Adequate support for housing,

education, health facilities and livelihoods must be catered for. The Federal Republic of Somalia needs special attention from the International Community in its reconstruction process. In this regard, we, together with the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia and UNHCR intend to call for a Joint Donor Forum to take this process forward.

Action in this regard from the international community will be a true test for the envisaged global compact for responsibility sharing.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the Kenyan delegation, to this assembly urges us all to seize this historic moment to change the course of history for the millions of refugees worldwide.

I thank you.