

DATE

3RD OCTOBER – 7TH OCTOBER 2016

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
HOME AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND,
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS TSANDZILE AND
HEAD OF THE SWAZILAND DELEGATION TO THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSIONER'S
PROGRAMME

ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED,

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS ASSEMBLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEES.

CHAIR,

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR). WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

CHAIR,

DESPITE THE ONGOING ECONOMIC MELTDOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THE RESILIENCE AND BENEVOLENCE OF HOST COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS INDEED TO BE APPLAUDED AND ENCOURAGED. THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO FALL AMONGST THE MOST VULNERABLE AND EXPOSED GROUPS GIVEN ITS HIGH LEVEL OF MOBILITY AND SOCIAL INTERACTION. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE EXTRA SUPPORT TO THIS GROUP OF VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND ENSURE THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED FROM SUCH RAMPANT ATTACKS.

CHAIR,

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH ITS LIMITED RESOURCES REMAINS COMMITTED TO

MANAGING, CARING, PROTECTING AND PROVIDING FOR REFUGEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICES. THE GOVERNMENT EMBARKED ON A PROJECT OF REHABILITATING THE MALINDZA RECEPTION CENTRE AND IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND READY TO ACCOMMODATE NEW ARRIVALS. AS A COUNTRY WE STILL FACE A CHALLENGE OF LONG STAYERS IN THE CENTRE WHO DO NOT SEEM TO BE KEEN TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY AS MUCH AS WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO.

AS A MEANS TO INTEGRATE REFUGEES INTO OUR SOCIETY, THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT IT HAS GIVEN SOME REFUGEES SWAZI CITIZENSHIP. WE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE SELF-RELIANCE AND INTEGRATION. DESPITE THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRUNCH THAT OUR COUNTRY IS FACED WITH, WE CONTINUE TO INJECT BOTH HUMAN AND FINANCIAL

RESOURCES TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF REFUGEE PROTECTION. OUR COUNTRY CONTINUES AGAINST THE LABOUR MARKET ODDS TO EMPLOY REFUGEES HOSTED BY IT IN VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL FIELDS.

IT IS NOTABLE CHAIR THAT WE HAVE LEARNT THAT THE REFUGEES RECEPTION PROCESS IS AN ONGOING EXERCISE WITHOUT A SHORT TERM AGENDA AS LONG AS OUR WORLD IS FACED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF THE POLITICIZATION OF ETHNICITY, POWER STRUGGLES OR CONTESTS AND INSOLUBLE SOCIO POLITICAL PROBLEMS THAT LEAD TO DEADLY CONFLICTS.

THE WORLD WAS NOT READY FOR THE RECENT RISE IN THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES. IN THAT CONTEXT, WE PLEAD WITH HOST COUNTRIES TO BE PATIENT AND PROVIDE AS MUCH PROTECTION

AS CAN BE POSSIBLY AFFORDED TO THESE
VULNERABLE PEOPLE WHO WENT TO BED ONE
NIGHT AND WOKE UP WITHOUT A HOME THE
FOLLOWING DAY.

I THANK YOU CHAIR.