

High Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants
Remarks of H.E. Abdusalam H. Omer
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Addressing the root causes of large movements of refugees

- Excellences, distinguished panelists, it is a privilege and an honour to be participating in this crucial roundtable discussion
- Addressing the root causes of large movements of refugees is an absolute priority for us all given the global situation. I was once a refugee myself and my own mother became a refugee at the age of 95 and I can assure you all, nobody wants to leave their home for a moment let alone decades if not permanently.
- I had the honour of visiting the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya earlier this year with H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President of Somalia and I have never been more humbled and determined to ensure that the root causes of large movements of refugees is addressed both at home and abroad.

- What makes a human being risk it all and leave the land they love? Essentially, this is what they do when they become refugees. Refugees leave behind not just their homes, properties and families but their inner happiness and confidence of belonging.
- What most people will never understand is what it means to be a refugee. What does it feel like? I think it important that we get to know refugees and listen to them to understand them better and appreciate their journey. This way, we can create the most effective policies locally, nationally and internationally to assist them.
- Somalia has experienced one of the most painful civil wars in modern history. As a result, state institutions collapsed with the entire state structure itself. For over two decades of civil war, the Somali people have sought asylum and many have resettled, in your countries and more.
- Somali people and Government are grateful to the international community and your own countries for their tremendous humanitarian response in welcoming, resettling and integrating Somali refugees.
- Many of these people, once refugees, are now integrated in their new societies and directly assisting the reconstruction of Somalia through remittances, investment and returning to capacitate public institutions.