

President of Uganda

SWEDEN

~~Sweden fully subscribes to the statement by the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides. In addition, I briefly would like to make the following five points.~~

1. Today, the world's spotlights are on Uganda. And rightly so. Uganda ~~has a long history of hosting refugees.~~ It has one of the most welcoming and progressive refugee policies in the world. Sweden strongly supports Uganda's generous refugee policy, which should be an inspiration to other countries hosting refugees.

Uganda's approach to refugees incorporates the key principles of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. It is now important to focus on how the CRRF can be applied in practice in Uganda.

2. The link between humanitarian aid and long-term development has to be strengthened. Without undermining humanitarian principles, development and humanitarian actors must work more closely together for a collective outcome.

3. Eighty six percent of refugees in Uganda are women and children. They are particularly exposed and their specific needs have to be addressed both within the emergency response and within the long-term refugee assistance. It is crucial to apply a gender perspective from the very start of interventions and to ensure that interventions cater for the needs of women *and* men, girls *and* boys. This will make refugee assistance more efficient and sustainable.

4. The root causes of the refugee situation in Uganda need to be tackled. There is a need for a long-term political solution to the conflict in South Sudan. Sweden welcomes the decision by the IGAD Summit on 12 June to revitalize its effort. Urgent action is needed to prevent further escalation of violence and

continued displacement. In this respect, the region has a key role to play in taking a holistic approach in assisting in finding a political solution.

5. Sweden remains a committed humanitarian and development partner to Uganda. During 2016 Sweden provided 9.3 million USD in humanitarian assistance to Uganda and additional 4 million USD to long-term development of maternal and child health in West Nile. So far this year, 8.1 million USD has been approved for humanitarian assistance and further 5.7 million USD will be committed for long-term multi-sector development assistance in the refugee affected areas. In total, Sweden will contribute with 27.1 million USD for the period 2016-2017. But, most likely additional humanitarian support will be made available later this year. We will also finance the secondment of one personnel to UNHCR for the CRRF from August this year.

Thank you for your attention.