

PLACE

Geneva/Khartoum

DATE

08 October 2020

UNHCR supports new joint Solutions Initiative by Sudan and South Sudan for over 5 million displaced people

Geneva/Khartoum (UNHCR) – UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, today pledged its full support to a new Solutions Initiative by the governments of Sudan and South Sudan for over five million citizens of their countries who live in exile or as internally displaced people. The Initiative was announced at UNHCR's Executive Committee in a meeting of the two Foreign Ministers chaired by High Commissioner Filippo Grandi. "Today marks a great leap forward for long-awaited solutions for Sudanese and South Sudanese people", said UNHCR's Representative in Sudan, Axel Bisschop, "as both governments agreed today to address the needs of refugees and IDPs. We whole-heartedly support the Initiative to rally more international support for solutions."

UNHCR also welcomed the support the Solutions Initiative was receiving from the start, including from the European Commission. The meeting to launch the Initiative was attended by international partners including the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). IGAD will lead the process to prepare a dedicated High-Level Meeting on Solutions in early 2021.

All parties agreed that key factors for success will be the participation of refugees, IDPs, and returnees in the process, full regional engagement and contributions by other UN actors. A first preparatory meeting will take place in Khartoum later this month.

"The agreement can positively change the lives of over 1.8 million Sudanese displaced in their country and 700,000 who live in exile in the region," Bisschop concluded. "UNHCR stands ready to fully support solutions, with our expertise, presence and operational capacities across Sudan, from the Kordofans to Darfur."

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Weblinks

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