



Input provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

into the

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’
Compilation and Stakeholders reports**

for the Universal Periodic Review of

ZAMBIA

I. Background Information

As general background information, UNHCR would like to note that Zambia is a host to some 113,000 refugees originating mainly from Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A smaller number of refugees originate from Rwanda, Burundi, and Somalia. The majority of refugees residing in Zambia are accommodated in four camps/settlements in Western, North Western, Northern and Luapula Provinces, and few in urban areas, mainly Lusaka. In addition, according to the Government of Zambia, some 30,000 spontaneously settled refugees live in Zambia.

Zambia acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees on 24 September 1969, and on the same date, the country acceded to the 1967 Protocol.

II. Information on Positive Aspects

UNHCR would particularly like to highlight the following positive aspects of the refugee protection system in Zambia:

1. The co-operation between the Government of Zambia and UNHCR on the implementation of the “Strengthening Protection Capacity Project – Zambia” (SPCP – Z), a project supported by the Government of Denmark that aims to devise tools and approaches to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Zambia to protect refugees and expand opportunities in providing durable solutions.

2. The positive steps already taken by the Government of Zambia to recognize the need to replace the 1970 Refugee Control Act with a **revised** Refugee Bill, which meets international standards for the protection of refugees.

III. Information on Suggested Recommendations

UNHCR would like to recommend to the Government of Zambia that the following steps are undertaken in order to ensure the establishment of an effective refugee protection system in Zambia:

- 1.** Review of the current Refugee Bill to ensure that it meets international standards for the protection of refugees, and then enact the revised Refugee Bill.
- 2.** Lift the reservations made to Articles 17, 22(1), 26, and 28 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
- 3.** Amend the Immigration and Deportation Act and other laws affecting refugees (such as the Criminal procedural rule sanctioning the automatic deportation of aliens who are convicted of certain categories of offences), so as to be at par with the provisions of the Revised Refugee Bill.
- 4.** Enact, following adoption of the new refugee legislation, administrative procedures and mechanisms to implement the new law, including measures resulting in a protection sensitive admission and removal procedure, a fair and efficient refugee status determination procedure and the granting of adequate rights to refugees, as well as provisions that will facilitate the legal integration and attainment of self-reliance for refugees in Zambia.

UNHCR
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