

## **High-level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathway for admission of Syrian refugees**

Remarks of the Deputy Secretary of State for  
Management and Resources of the United States of America  
Ms. Heather Higginbottom

*Panel discussion on the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants (19 September 2016)*

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President Obama has made assisting displaced people a top priority for the U.S. government. Last year, the United States contributed more than US\$ 6 billion to humanitarian causes. So far this year, the United States has provided nearly US\$ 2.3 billion in humanitarian assistance worldwide. As I announced this morning, we are further increasing our support of Syrian refugees, and we will make additional contributions to the global displacement effort through September, and beyond.

We recognize that so many countries are already doing so much to address refugee displacement, but this is a global problem of enormous scale. The world needs significant, new international commitments. President Obama will convene a high-level refugee summit on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York on September 20. The summit will adopt a model similar to last year's Peacekeeping Summit, which generated commitments of 50,000 new peacekeeping troops and police. We will invite nations that have made new and significant commitments to assist refugees, including pledges made here today.

President Obama's summit is complementary to the UN's September 19 summit to advance key principles around refugees, migration, and internal displacement. Taken together, these two events, along with the World Humanitarian Summit in May, are essential milestones as we strive to meet the challenge of providing humanitarian assistance and resettlement for the world's most vulnerable people.

We are focused on three main goals and we have set specific targets for each:

- First, to create a stronger and more sustainable funding base for humanitarian organizations and UN humanitarian appeals, we aim to increase worldwide humanitarian funding by at least 30 percent. To do so, we are asking countries to increase their overall 2016 contributions above 2015 levels.
- Second, to increase resettlement and admissions, we are asking other nations to help us double the total number of refugees resettled or otherwise legally admitted to countries in 2016.
- Third, in order to enable refugees to be self-reliant and contribute to the countries and communities hosting them, we are asking countries that are hosting large refugee populations to adopt policies of greater inclusion. Our goal is to ensure that one million more children are enrolled in school and an additional one million adult refugees find lawful employment.

We recognize that these are ambitious goals and that many governments are already doing a great deal in a trying time. We recognize that each country faces unique challenges and will

contribute to the global effort in different ways. The commitments made today, and the ongoing efforts of so many to assist Syrian refugees, are significant. Still, we—the global community—must do more. All of us have a responsibility to aid and protect innocent civilians in their time of need.

It is an unassailable fact that if we are to make a tangible impact to reduce the suffering of those in grave need, to provide safety and security and opportunity, we must all redouble our efforts, dig deeper to find new resources, and embrace new approaches. The world's most vulnerable people are counting on us.