

Dear Mr. Miliband,

I would like to thank you for your letter. Please find below answers to your questions.

1. **The protection of civilians:** With more than 400,000 thousand civilian deaths, armed non-state actors targeting civilians, 19 UN-designated areas under siege, food and medicine used as weapons of war, and children dying from starvation, the Syrian conflict has rendered irrelevant long-standing international law on the protection of civilians in conflict. In this new context, **how will you work with member states and civil society to fulfill obligations to protect civilians in conflict?**

First is prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts. This is obviously the most effective way to protect civilians. When an end to violence is not possible, like in Syria, then the respect for international law is crucial to ensuring human suffering is minimized. All those who violate the law must be held accountable for their actions. Security Council should consider applying targeted measures against parties and individuals who systematically violate their obligations to protect civilians.

In peacekeeping missions, we have to focus on design and implementation of PoC mandates. In addition, peacekeepers must be given the necessary resources and capabilities, including new technology, in order to be able to act more effectively to protect civilians.

In order to bring about more efficiency and effectiveness within the UN system, thus avoiding work in traditional silos and duplications, I propose to reshuffle the Chief Executives Coordination Board by setting up the UN Peace Operations Group should reflect the spirit of the peace sustaining resolutions so that protecting civilians, peace and security and sustaining peace is everybody's job description. Additionally this group should be supervised by SG and DSG as DSG should have more precise job description to deal with mediation, prevention and cooperation with the regional arrangements. Doing this could help coordination as SC and PBC could get better inputs to make decisions. Other two groups I believe are needed are UN Sustainable Development and UN Programmes, Management, Budget Groups that should seek to achieve better coordination among the Secretariat and the AFPs.

Time cannot go back but we can learn from mistakes at least and seek to mend ways we operate in our responsibility to protect.

2. **The right to seek and gain asylum:** Around the world, countries are turning away from their obligations to refugees and asylum seekers. Border closures, detention centers, repatriation and denial of due process are common. **How will you work with member states to reinvigorate humanitarian obligations under international law, including the right to seek and gain refugee status for those fleeing for their lives?**

UN has to be more proactive and assertive in facilitating effective response to the migration crisis. UN simply cannot afford to be sidelined and in the waiting mode for other stakeholders to reach a decision. Reacting in the aftermath of the EU-Turkey deal and pointing to its shortcomings can't be an option for an Organization that should instead be guiding and leading global endeavor in this complex task, in order to reaffirm and

strengthen its relevance in the global governance system. Secretary-General's proposal on the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, to be held in September 2016, will be an important opportunity to facilitate joint response and solutions to some of these most pressing questions.

3. **Global responsibility sharing:** Conflict is driving 14,000 people to flee their homes every day, and 20 million refugees are seeking safety abroad. Less than one percent of these were resettled in 2015. Refugee hosting is a global public good, but the costs are often borne by low-income countries. Greater responsibility sharing is critical, including increased financial assistance and resettlement, for which UNHCR has proposed a target of 10 percent of refugees. **What is your vision for a global burden-sharing agreement for refugees, and how would you pursue it?**

Global response to the large movements of refugees and migrants have so far been uncoordinated and without appropriate burden sharing. Firstly, it is of crucial importance to move away from negative perception and even hostility and xenophobia towards migrants and refugees and instead consider this global phenomenon with positive approach, as a chance, an opportunity, particularly within the demographic aspect. The World Bank has repeatedly underlined that managed migration could help bring an end to extreme poverty as well as increase global prosperity.

We have to ensure "shared responsibility" and solution to the current crisis based on international refugee law, human rights and humanitarian law. Human rights of migrants have to guide our actions. Only by global solidarity can we overcome this enormous challenge. So we have to generate political will to this effect and ensure states meet their responsibilities under core international human rights instruments to protect the dignity and rights of migrants and refugees. UN Summit in September should help us come closer to this objective.

Traditional mechanisms of repatriation and resettling refugees is either hard to implement or face fierce opposition. In the meantime both people who seek refuge and societies that host them suffer. The only reasonable way forward is to combine humanitarian with development aid. UN can through modified approach of the management should serve as the coordinator of the activities and the agent that can encourage other donors so that the aid is purposefully delivered.

4. **From delivering aid to ending need:** The Commitment to Action, launched by the UN at the World Humanitarian Summit, recognizes the increasingly protracted nature of displacement and promises to bring development and humanitarian efforts together to support sustainable outcomes for the most vulnerable people. **How will you take forward the Commitment to Action, including its focus on joint needs assessment and planning, multiyear timeframes, and multisectoral partnerships? How will you measure its success?**

We are definitely faced with the necessity to move beyond short-term, supply-driven approaches, and instead focus on demand-driven outcomes seeking not only to deliver aid, but reduce need and vulnerability. International humanitarian assistance largely still operates in traditional ways: success is measured by projects achieved, people deployed, structures set up and funds released. We have to reverse this trend and focus on the results produced. Thus, the new approach is needed, one that is based on complementarity, greater levels of inter-operability and achieving sustainable, collective outcomes rather than coordination of individual projects and activities. International aid system has to reinforce, not replace national and local systems; anticipate, and not wait, for crisis; transcend humanitarian-development divide by working towards collective outcomes, based on comparative advantage.

More coordination and communication is needed for making UN more efficient and effective in providing coordinated and coherent support to the countries in addressing their needs. Thus, setting up three groups within Chief Executives Coordination Board, namely UN Peace Operations Group UN Sustainable Development Group and UN Programmes, Management and Budget Group, as proposed in my platform, must be ensured. These modifications will enable UN to efficiently spur actions towards bringing development and humanitarian efforts together in order to achieve sustainable development in its all three dimensions.

5. **Achieving outcomes for the displaced:** The world came together in 2015 to commit to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary-General's report, *One Humanity, Shared Responsibility*, and the Commitment to Action make multiple references to establishing collective outcomes—mutually agreed goals and targets—for displaced populations. **What process will you lead to establish and institutionalize such collective outcomes, and how will you measure progress toward them for displaced populations?**

In order to meet the needs of displaced persons, it is of utmost importance to address root causes of any kind of displacement. Around 65 million people are fleeing from scourge of war. In addition, according to many researches, even more people want resettlement for economic reasons, making migration a global theme with long-term impact. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development provides framework for finding sustainable solutions. There is no better way to achieve peace and security, foster development and protect human rights than by pursuing our common Agenda through extended partnerships and respecting principles of inclusiveness, engagement and responsibility. In doing so, UN must lead in supporting countries to successfully deliver; therefore, I plan to undertake processes that will ensure its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. This primarily means ensuring clustered UNAFPs for avoiding traditional silos and duplications, as well as providing adequate programmes for achieving collective outcomes. Adequate measurement of progress is essential in order to reach to the most vulnerable groups of population, therefore capacities of both, national and UN statistical capacities must be strengthened.

In addition, I propose to set up an international panel of experts to do a deep review of the current spending in light of the need for better coordination and the need to better mirror UN agenda. International independent panel of representatives from all the regions should be set up to make sure there is a fresh view from outside. Extending partnerships should lead to avoiding duplications and more effective role of other donors including ones coming from the private sector. We need to embrace modern technologies as that can help tremendously. For instance, the blockchain technology offers incredible possibilities to better coordinate and execute humanitarian aid thus avoiding any misuse of resources.

6. **The “Grand Bargain” and humanitarian financing:** Never has the global community been so generous, and never has the gap between need and financing been so great. In this context, we urgently need to make the humanitarian system more efficient, coherent, and transparent. The “Grand Bargain” establishes a pathway to modernize the humanitarian sector, and was one of the most significant outcomes of the WHS. **How will you make the case for more financing, and how will you work with UN agency leads to implement the Grand Bargain and drive greater cost-efficiency, transparency and accountability in the humanitarian system?**

Global cost of conflicts in 2014 was estimated at around 14.3 trillion USD and global humanitarian appeal by the OCHA for 2015 stood at 20 billion USD. When one factors in the human cost of violence and the fact that the UN and international community are overburdened with conflict management and resolution, it is only logical to make greater investment in prevention. Even though the cost to meet humanitarian appeal equals only to 0.025% of the world GDP and eventually must not be an insurmountable challenge, focusing on that would mean the international community would reduce its scope of action to mere acceptance of inevitable. Small investment in prevention, albeit hard to measure effectiveness, can have disproportionate effect and go long way in alleviating those grave consequences and costs of armed conflicts. But the UN capacities for prevention and mediation continue to be under-resourced and under-funded. Only 1.5% of UN’s budget is devoted to activities related to prevention and peacemaking. Therefore, capacities and tools in this field have to be strengthened. Core budget reforms are necessary to create room for that.

I believe that the only long term solution is the focus on development and all we do to help should focus on that along with the short term immediate support when needed. The point is that funds exist and UN must be more successful in building effective global partnerships.

7. **Political solutions and conflict resolution:** Humanitarian action can address the consequences but not the cause. Protracted and intrastate conflicts are increasingly immune to the efforts of external actors to resolve. Core to the Secretary-General's role is the need to speak and act for peace. **How will you work with member states to reinvigorate conflict response and reach political solutions for some of the world's toughest conflicts?**

It is obvious there is no substitute to political solutions of conflict, as Syrian crisis, now in its sixth year, painfully testifies. States must show strong commitment to regular dialogue and to building trust, which in practice means less of assuming positions of other side and more communication between opposing sides for the benefit of better solutions and progress. Regional and sub-regional organizations need to play valuable and positive role in facilitating a beginning of the dialogue and conciliatory tone, as we have seen in many instances. One crucial aspect that cannot be overlooked throughout the diplomatic process of searching for political solutions is constructive engagement of relevant states and other stakeholders (regional organizations, etc), from the immediate and wider region as well as global players, those that can use their influence on the developments on the ground to help carve the best possible resolution. To that point, unity of the Security Council is indispensable.

Let me reiterate that I think that the UN Peace Operations Group closely supervised by SG and DSG within the Chief Executives Coordination Board, which also has to be strengthened, should be put in place for ensuring more coordination and coherence. This modification can make a difference in supplying the Security Council and the Peace Building Commission with necessary and improved insight enabling better decision-making and improved coordination. UN Peace Operations Group should reflect the spirit of the peace sustaining resolutions so that peace and security and sustaining peace is everybody's job description.

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