Action Can Begin at Home, But It Cannot End There: 9 Humanitarian Goals for the Biden-Harris Administration's First Year

President Biden will take the helm of a world on fire. IRC's 2021 Watchlist of the 20 countries most at risk of greater humanitarian crisis reveals that untended conflict, unmitigated climate change, and now COVID-19 are driving unprecedented humanitarian need and attendant instability. The number of people globally in need of humanitarian assistance tripled between 2015 and 2021, rising to 235.4 million. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating vulnerability, increasing global humanitarian needs by 40% over the last year and reversing decades of hard-won progress to reduce poverty, gender inequality, hunger, disease and mortality rates. Since the beginning of the pandemic, political violence has increased in 43 countries, including in settings where IRC works like Libya, Yemen, and Mali that were already experiencing complex emergencies. Violent conflict has increased 75% over the last decade; accordingly, the number of people forcibly displaced has nearly doubled since 2010, with nearly 80 million people now forcibly displaced and the number of refugees increasing by 14 million just over the last four years. These trends are concentrated in fragile and crisis-affected countries: The 20 countries on IRC's 2021 Watchlist represent just 10% of the global population, but account for 85% of those in humanitarian need, 88% of all internal displacement and 84% of all refugees in 2019.

Against this backdrop, global humanitarian leadership has been in retreat. Humanitarian aid levels *dropped* in 2019 for the first time in 7 years, with stagnating foreign aid rapidly outstripped by ever-growing needs. On average, humanitarian response plans are just 40% funded, with some of the world's largest crises, such as Yemen and Venezuela, less than 30% funded. Violence against civilians is increasing, with civilian deaths accounting for 75 to 95% of all conflict-related casualties, while perpetrators go unpunished. Low- and middle-income countries are straining to support nearly 90% of the world's refugees, while global resettlement slots offered by wealthier nations have dropped more than 50% over the last four years, with 2020 the year with the fewest refugees resettled in two decades. In contrast to the relative generosity of low- and middle- income countries bordering conflict zones, the United States, Australia, and many European nations have narrowed pathways to safety for asylum–seekers. And the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 – which is meant to coordinate and rally support for COVID-19 response in crisis and conflict affected settings - is currently only about one-third funded, despite great and growing health, economic, and social impact, in particular for women and girls.

President Biden has prioritized immediate actions in America and for Americans. This is understandable. But he has also committed to re-establishing US global leadership. Nowhere is this more necessary than in the world's proliferating humanitarian crises. America can only serve its own interests if it also leads abroad. America isolated will never be America first. COVID-19 shows that we live in a deeply interconnected world. So do instability, insecurity, migration and climate change. From the Middle East to Africa to Central and South Asia and Latin America, untended humanitarian crises have direct consequences for US interests. The US cannot resolve these challenges alone, but it is US leadership that can galvanize others to share the burden—and it has been the US absence that has led a global race to the bottom. Urgent and expansive humanitarian action from the Biden-Harris Administration can reverse these trends and restore America's reputation for protecting the most vulnerable. Such action will be among the most visible examples of the values-based foreign policy to which the Biden-Harris Administration has committed itself. These values are not a luxury; they are a must-have to restore American prosperity and ensure long-term security at home. The International Rescue Committee calls on elected representatives of all parties to reject short-sighted neglect of external problems, and re-establish the US as a global problem-solver, in its own as well as others' interests.

Drawing on its decades of experience responding to crises in over 40 countries worldwide and resettling refugees in 25 cities across the US, in this brief the International Rescue Committee recommends nine actions for the Biden-Harris Administration to take in its first year.

1. **We cannot beat COVID-19 at home until it is beaten abroad**. COVID-19 is a top priority because it has brought the world to its knees. According to the World Bank, the pandemic has already pushed 88 to 114 million people into extreme poverty, and the UN estimates that the pandemic could make an additional 82 to 132 million people undernourished. And despite high levels of preparedness on paper, the world's biggest global economy failed to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The international community, and the US specifically, have systematically underinvested in preparedness for decades and delayed its response when the outbreak hit. A global reset is needed, in order to recognize that global response and preparedness is an obligatory investment, not a voluntary cost. The US can lead and galvanize the international response and vaccine rollout by:
    - **Securing $20 billion in additional funding for global COVID-19 response**. To beat the pandemic at home the US must ensure that COVID-19 is defeated among the most vulnerable, including in humanitarian settings. Wealthy nations have allocated over $11 trillion for domestic COVID-19 response. Less than 1% of that amount would stem and reverse the worst impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations and support equitable global vaccine distribution.
    - **Sharing the estimated 235 million excess US COVID-19 vaccine supplies with low-income countries.** COVID-19 will not be beaten anywhere until it is beaten everywhere. It's morally right and in the US interest to ensure all have access to a life-saving vaccine. The US has purchased vaccines in excess of what it needs for its own population - enough to fully immunize at least 235 million additional people globally, as estimated by the IRC. The US should share its excess purchases with the COVAX facility for distribution to low-income countries, and encourage other wealthy nations to do the same.
    - **Speeding resources to frontline humanitarian actors.** Press the UN to meet its commitment to direct at least 30% of Global Humanitarian Response Plan funding to NGOs, and fund NGOs directly, including through NGO consortia to streamline grant-making, coordinate response, and support community-based organizations.
    - **Securing global exceptions for humanitarian goods and travel through the UN Security Council.** Global coordination and cooperation, essential in a pandemic, has faltered, disrupting supply chains and limiting access to populations in need.
    - **Ensuring national COVID-19 response plans include the most vulnerable**, particularly refugees, IDPs, migrants and other marginalized populations, including women and girls, most often excluded from health and economic support. Analysis prior to COVID-19 found that of countries with UNHCR operations, only 10% include refugees in national or local development plans and just 50% include refugees in national health care systems. These exclusions present risks for COVID-19's defeat. With its own funding, and with its leverage in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the US should press national governments to expand national social safety net and vaccine distribution programs to include all vulnerable populations—and model inclusive policies in the US.
    - **Preventing the next pandemic.** The Biden-Harris Administration must commit to a "never again" approach to pandemics. Alongside rejoining the WHO and resourcing it to execute on reforms, the US should play a lead role in creating and funding a purpose-built facility combining predictable grants for preparedness and rapid response financing for the first 100 days of an outbreak; and establishing a global disease surveillance platform that aggregates anonymized patient data from health facilities to identify and sound the alarm on emerging infectious disease threats.

2. **Restore stability to the world's largest crisis zones before they get worse.** The world has yet to unlock what makes for effective development policy in fragile settings, where extreme poverty and crisis are increasingly concentrated and where sustained improvement will deliver humanitarian and strategic benefit. The top 10 countries alone on IRC's 2021 Watchlist account for 63% of all people in need, 54% of people displaced internally and 56% of refugees, despite being home to just 7% of the global population. Humanitarian appeals will have been organized for Watchlist countries for an average of eleven consecutive years in 2021, with some like Sudan (28 years), Somalia (23 years) and the DRC (22 years) much longer. With the number of people globally in need of assistance more than doubling between 2015 and 2020 and with the impetus of the Global Fragility Act, the US has an opportunity to modernize its internal practices to save lives, stabilize conflicts driving the bulk of destabilizing displacement crises, and promote peaceful development:
    - **Commit at least 50% of overseas development aid to fragile states.** The bulk of US foreign aid is dedicated to development contexts in which market economics is outpacing aid in helping stable settings make progress towards tackling poverty. As with the UK and others, dedicating 50% of humanitarian and development assistance to fragile states would re-order US priorities and bureaucracies to address needs in fragile states.

- **Formalize joint State-USAID planning in protracted crises** as part of the annual budget and planning process, reaching across humanitarian and development portfolios and using joint plans to inform Country Development Cooperation Strategies. Make the integration and development of displaced populations a core objective of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the US State Department (PRM) in protracted displacement contexts, and pilot joint planning around this objective in 3-5 locations in FY2021.
- **Drive towards increased localization to improve speed and sustainability of responses**. USAID and PRM should reform burdensome, costly, and bureaucratic compliance requirements that hinder more and better partnerships with local actors in crisis contexts. Providing multi-year flexible financing paired with rigorous accountability for outcomes; and adopting a single grant and reporting format per award type, with simplified, consistent, harmonized and measurable outcomes as core progress indicators can save staff time, generate cost efficiencies, and amplify impact.
- **Adopt innovations to expand the reach and impact of aid in crisis contexts.** Needs in protracted humanitarian contexts are outpacing the provision of aid, especially due to the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. To reach those most vulnerable, the US government should rapidly scale-up innovative programming for nutrition, education and economic recovery.
    - **Commit to doubling the U.S.'s funding for nutrition at the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit and support the implementation of a simplified way to diagnose and treat acute malnutrition.** Food insecurity is on the rise, with loss of income and disruptions related to COVID-19 threatening to push millions more into food insecurity and malnourishment. This is compounded by overstretched health systems and a diversion of resources from essential health and nutrition services to respond to other aspects of the pandemic. Shifting to a simplified way to test for and treat acute malnutrition, including enabling care to be delivered at home and in communities, could double coverage of nutrition services.
    - **Prioritize education in crisis contexts and support novel early childhood and education solutions for informal settings, like the IRC's Ahlan Simsin program with Sesame Workshop.** Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, 250 million school-aged children and youth worldwide were out of school. These young people were overwhelmingly concentrated in fragile, conflict-affected contexts, where policies of exclusion and distance from formal education systems severely limit access to education. Refugee children were five times more likely to be out of school than their peers. Since the pandemic, even more children risk dropping out of school, with consequences more acute for girls: more than half of all refugee girls may not return when schools open. Despite these massive needs, and that more than half of all displaced populations are children, less than 3% of humanitarian aid is spent on their education.
    - **Adopt a cash-first approach to humanitarian response and expand early, multi-year cash assistance interventions.** Decimated livelihoods, food access challenges and compromised humanitarian access are forcing crisis affected populations to make impossible choices and compromise basic necessities. National social safety nets expanded to mitigate the threat of COVID-19 are not meeting the needs of all the newly impoverished and often exclude displaced populations. Humanitarian cash transfers are a proven and effective way to not only support food security and basic needs, but also improve local economies; IRC has shown that for every $1 spent on cash assistance, another $2 can be generated for the local economy.

3. **Move refugees from aid dependency to self-reliance** in the countries hosting the world's largest refugee crises. On average over the last decade, less than 1% of refugees have been resettled and less than 3% have been able to return home. Almost 90% of refugees are hosted, often for decades, in low- and middle-income countries creaking under the strain. Ten countries, with just 2.5% of the world's GDP, host over half the world's refugees. With no hope of return and humanitarian aid levels declining, the US Government has an opportunity to drive a new and different bargain with major refugee-hosting nations, leveraging US diplomatic leadership, humanitarian and development assistance, engagement with UN and multilateral financing institutions to transform refugee response from short-term, limited coverage of basic needs to sustained investments amplified by host government policy reforms that allow vulnerable refugee and host populations to thrive together.
    - **Incentivize policy reforms in major refugee-hosting nations to** enable refugees to work, go to school, and be integrated into national development plans and national social service systems. Of the 145 countries that have signed the Refugee Convention, which affords refugees the right to work, barely half actually grant refugees some rights to work—and nearly all have large de facto barriers to

work. Refugee children are 5 times less likely to attend school than other children in host countries. These are extraordinary barriers to refugee self-reliance and leave displaced populations vulnerable to abuse and exploitation and dependent on shrinking aid.

- **Provide more and better-quality funding for protracted displacement situations**, including by increasing multiyear, flexible financing to implementing partners and host governments, through direct US funding, UN agencies, and the multilateral development banks, to better align with trends in protracted displacement and the needs of refugees and hosts.
- **Support new and existing refugee compacts** for the largest refugee crises in the world. Refresh existing compacts in Jordan, Lebanon and Ethiopia and launch new compacts in places like Colombia and Bangladesh that codify multi-year funding, policy reforms and accountability for outcomes for displaced populations. Addressing the needs of vulnerable refugee and host populations in these countries could improve the lives of over 50 million people.
- **Agree on solutions and responsibility sharing for** Venezuelan refugees **at the Summit of the Americas.** Act as the regional convener, bringing donors, host states, and the UN system together to launch a refugee compact for the Venezuela region at the Summit of the Americas in 2021. Venezuela is poised to become the world's largest refugee crisis, placing undue burdens on countries like Colombia and threatening further instability and longtime US investments in the Western Hemisphere.

4. **Rebuild and reform the US refugee resettlement program and galvanize global commitments.** Amidst the greatest refugee crisis in history, the US should do its part by restoring its role as a leader in resettlement and galvanizing other wealthy nations to do more. 1.4 million of the most vulnerable refugees are in need of resettlement globally; last year, just 4.5% of them were resettled, as global resettlement slots have dropped by 50% over the last four years. Alongside President Biden's commitment to **set an annual global refugee target of 125,000** in his first year in office, the Biden-Harris Administration can usher in needed reforms to improve refugee outcomes and build and sustain community support. In addition to immediately increasing US resettlement slots for FY21, restarting referrals from UNHCR, and revising refugee admissions categories to admit refugees arbitrarily excluded by the Trump Administration, the Biden-Harris Administration should:
   - **Expand family reunification, NGO, and P-2 referral pathways** so that families can be reunited, NGOs can identify vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement, and additional populations of concern, including Uighurs, the people of Hong Kong, and Central Americans, can be resettled.
   - **Design university, community, and employer sponsorship programs** to create additional pathways to resettlement and expand constituencies supporting resettlement.
   - **Unlock funds for resettlement agencies to rebuild rapidly**—over 100 offices have closed over the last four years, hampering efforts to meet the Administration's bold commitments—by allocating 100% of administrative expenses up front.
   - **Launch a high-level leaders' summit** alongside the Global Refugee Forum mid-term review to drive global resettlement, aid, and inclusion commitments for refugees.

5. **Reverse inhumane asylum policies and develop an asylum system that protects people fleeing violence and persecution.** The Trump Administration's attacks on the US asylum system have left vulnerable populations in grave danger and at the mercy of human traffickers, exacerbated humanitarian crises in Mexico and Northern Central America, and, with policies such as family separation and the Migration Protection Protocols, demonstrated an inhumanity that the Biden-Harris Administration has pledged to reverse. The US needs a fair approach grounded in its values and domestic and international legal commitments to treat migrants humanely and ensure protection for those fleeing violence, gender-based violence, and persecution. In addition to aid and engagement with Central American countries to address migration drivers, the Biden-Harris Administration can demonstrate US ideals by restoring humanitarian leadership at home:
   - **Reverse policies and rules that have dismantled the US asylum system**, left over 60,000 people at risk at the US Mexico border, put families in detention and separated over 5,000 children from their parents
   - **Surge humanitarian assistance to both sides of the US-Mexico border**, deploying emergency assistance to NGOs and international organizations in Mexico, formalizing and expanding the existing network of border shelters in the US, launching a major information campaign across the region to counter misinformation and ramping up COVID-19 prevention and response strategies.
   - **Create and implement a credible, humane, and efficient asylum process** by restoring protections to asylum seekers through executive action, adopting policies that keep families together while ensuring all minors are processed in accordance with US child protection laws, and constructing short-term reception centers to expedite registration and meet the acute challenge of increased arrivals during COVID-19.

- **Scale up alternatives to detention and legal services** for asylum seekers through case management programs and community co-sponsorship, including by leveraging refugee resettlement offices and support services.
- **Expand processing from the region, protect migrants in transit, and create alternative migration pathways** by increasing refugee resettlement from the region, funding emergency transit and information centers in the region, developing the protection capacity of sending, transit, and receiving countries, and providing distinct pathways for fair and efficient adjudication processing for those seeking asylum and those seeking better economic opportunities in the US.

6. **Put women and girls at the center**. Women and girls bear the greatest brunt of humanitarian crises, and are critical to resolving them and rebuilding their communities. Progress toward gender equality, including in fragile and crisis contexts, was significantly hampered under the Trump Administration, with women and girls around the world losing access to comprehensive healthcare. COVID-19 is exacerbating these impacts. Experts warn that an additional 15 million cases of GBV will occur every three months that lockdowns continue, while more than half of refugee girls who were attending school before the pandemic are not expected to return. For decades, humanitarian response plans have failed to prioritize the needs of women and girls, with less than 1% of global humanitarian funding going to GBV prevention and response and basic guidelines to protect their safety ignored. The Biden-Harriss Administration has already committed to rescinding the Mexico City Policy, funding UNFPA and confronting GBV globally. But the Administration should go further to ensure that initiatives reach the most marginalized and that change is sustained:
   - **Increase by three-fold funding to prevent and respond to gender-based violence** in fragile and refugee contexts**.** IRC's evaluation of funding between 2016 and 2018 demonstrated that just 0.12% of global humanitarian funding was allocated to GBV prevention and response, and two-thirds of GBV funding requests in humanitarian response plans remain unfunded, A three-fold increase in funding to prevent and respond to GBV in humanitarian settings sends a strong signal that the Biden-Harris Administration will lead the world in ending violence against women.
   - **Demand implementing partners adopt industry-standard GBV programming and risk mitigation strategies,** including common-sense measures such as adequate lighting, locks on latrines, and basic safeguarding measures. At the same time, ensure GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response are included in all humanitarian response plans (HRPs), and that humanitarians are held accountable to GBV commitments, such as the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies and those in HRPs. To do this, the Biden-Harris Administration should push for consistent monitoring, by engaging with women and girls themselves, on whether GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse, is being adequately addressed in humanitarian settings.
   - **Disaggregate program and financing data by gender and age and conduct gender analysis across all sectoral plans**—such as for health, education and livelihoods**—**to ensure that the needs of women and girls are appropriately assessed and addressed; and that GBV funding can be accurately reflected in the Financial Tracking Service and the International Aid Transparency Initiative databases to improve financial accountability and transparency.
   - **Adopt a sector-wide Gender Equality Scorecard** to drive changes in the inclusion of and responsiveness to women, with common targets, metrics, and data disaggregation, developed with INGOs and local women-led and women-focused organizations. This could be led and overseen by the new White House Gender Policy Council.
   - Work with Congress and civil-society organizations to **update and re-authorize the Violence Against Women Act and pass the International Violence Against Women Act.**

7. **Lead the world in fighting impunity for attacks on civilians, aid workers, and blocking access to humanitarian aid.** When war crimes go unpunished and the laws of war become optional, conflict and its consequences proliferate and autocrats are empowered. Civilian deaths now account for 75 to 95% of all conflict-related casualties. The shrinking space for humanitarian access is one of the biggest threats to humanitarian action, exacerbating vulnerability and humanitarian need. 2019 recorded the highest number of attacks on aid workers in the past decade (ALNAP). In the absence of accountability, perpetrators of violence and their autocratic enablers have defined a new and dangerous roadmap for civil conflicts, with indiscriminate and often purposeful attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, food and medicine withheld as weapons of war, and access to populations in need blocked. By **championing accountability for international humanitarian law (IHL)**, the US can stem violent conflict and its consequences, and create stark contrasts with the world's autocrats. The Biden-Harris Administration should:
   - **Reset the US response in Yemen.** Take immediate action to reverse the Trump Administration's terrorist designations against the Houthis that will make effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian

aid all but impossible and risk driving starvation and death among the over 24 million Yemenis in need of urgent assistance. Lift the current US aid suspension in Northern Yemen to facilitate response at necessary scale and speed. Use all diplomatic leverage – including halting all military and intelligence support as well as arms sales and transfers to the Saudi-led Coalition – to push for a nationwide ceasefire and bring the parties to the conflict to the table to reach a political settlement to a conflict that is driving the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet.

- **Condition security assistance and arms sales and transfers on compliance with and progress on IHL and human rights norms**, with standards for minimizing and responding to civilian harm and accountability for abuses, and **get its own house in order,** by adopting policies of prevention, accountability and transparency for civilian protection in the conduct of US military operations.
- **Put humanitarian action at the center of the response to Syria and the region.** Protect and expand cross-border humanitarian access and press for accountability for attacks on civilians, aid workers, health facilities, and other civilian infrastructure with independent investigations and public reporting of violations and violators at the UN.
- **Conduct a review of US policies that affect humanitarian response**, including sanctions regimes and counter-terror regulations and repeal harmful policies that restrict humanitarian programming or, at minimum, put in place explicit, effective humanitarian exemptions and lift any restrictions on humanitarians' ability to negotiate access with all parties to the conflict. USAID, State and Treasury should conduct this review in consultation with humanitarian organizations.
- **Ensure unfettered humanitarian access through UN Security Council (UNSC) actions** and engagement with UN agencies for stronger monitoring, reporting, and advocacy on access constraints in crisis contexts, supported by elevated US bilateral diplomacy to **press authorities in crisis-affected countries to remove bureaucratic obstacles** that impede humanitarian responses.
- **Rally other democratic countries to stand together against impunity** by pushing UN member states and the UNSC to publicly condemn IHL violations by all parties to conflicts and press for independent investigations into breaches of IHL, with full public reporting of investigations into attacks that kill civilians or destroy civilian infrastructure.

8. **Modernize the global humanitarian *system***: The international humanitarian system is decades out of date with trends in humanitarian crises and for the past four years has grown only more overstretched. The gap between financing and requirements is now widening again due to COVID-19. On average, humanitarian response plans are just 40% funded, with some of the world's largest crises, such as Yemen and Venezuela, less than 30% funded. With need vastly outpacing aid provision, even before COVID-19, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, responsiveness to needs on the ground and rapid innovation to expand reach and scale must be the hallmarks of a new approach. The US has an opportunity not only to modernize its internal practices, but to use its leverage to modernize the humanitarian system more broadly:
    - **Increase multiyear, flexible financing** to UN agencies and require UN partners to disburse multi-year awards commensurate to the multi-year financing they receive. The average length of conflicts today is more than 20 years, yet UN agencies typically provide funding in grants ranging from three months to one year, introducing tremendous disruptions in program planning and implementation. Evidence has shown that longer-term funding can lead to more cost-efficient delivery of assistance.
    - **Adopt joint USAID-State Department objectives for UN reforms and a shared standard for financial and results reporting by all UN humanitarian partners.** These should include clear and measurable outcomes related to well-being; rigorous and transparent financial data indicating where, to whom, how much, and for what funds were allocated; and cost-effectiveness indicators to help drive greater efficiency over time. UN agencies should also be evaluated on the proportion of funds allocated to frontline implementers and the speed of disbursements. Months into the COVID-19 response, for example, less than 20% of funds for the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan had been disbursed to frontline implementers.
    - **Leverage and expand financing to UN agencies, including WFP, UNICEF and the WHO, to accelerate progress on treating acute malnutrition.** At least 54 million children are estimated to be suffering from acute malnutrition currently due to prolonged conflicts and displacement, and secondary impacts of COVID-19 could double that number. While acute malnutrition is highly treatable, the current health facility-based model for treating it is not practical or cost-effective, especially in humanitarian contexts, and especially during a pandemic. Shifting to a simplified protocol for the testing and treatment of acute malnutrition and the scale-up of services with the help of community health workers could double malnutrition coverage from 25% of children in need to 50% and sustain gains in treating acute malnutrition.

9. **Address the consequences of the climate crisis for the world's poorest.** The triple threat of conflict, COVID-19 and climate change are dramatically worsening an already dire situation for people living in conflict-affected countries. Climate change is a threat multiplier, estimated to displace an additional 140 million by 2050. IRC's teams around the world have seen how the climate crisis multiplying impacts when it comes to conflict, hunger and the forced movement of people. Last year, more than half of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change were also humanitarian crisis contexts, and climate change is a core factor in increasing displacement and migration from Central America. With millions of lives and livelihoods on the line, the cost of failure in protecting and regenerating nature is already too high. In this context, the following three responses are crucial:
    - **Support an integrated response to protracted crises**, both responding urgently to crises to prevent hunger and hardship while simultaneously building resilience to climate change and conflict, combining humanitarian and development approaches.
    - **Address the specific barriers for women and girls** to access essential resources, finances and leadership roles in mitigation. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and climate change, but grow as much as 70% of the food in some low-income countries. Gender equality and equity in access and decision-making is critical to addressing the climate crisis.
    - **Target investments in local, sustainable food security**, and bring together indigenous knowledge with big data and climate modelling for risk mitigation and crisis response planning to build resilience to climate shocks while conserving and regenerating essential biodiversity.

With these 9 actions, President Biden can reset US engagement abroad, reverse devastating trends impacting the world's most vulnerable, and galvanize global action to save lives and restore stability in some of the world's most volatile regions. In doing so, President Biden can re-establish the US as a global problem-solver, in its own as well as others' interests. The International Rescue Committee calls on the Biden Administration to take bold and concerted action, and on elected representatives of all parties to join in rejecting short-sighted neglect of global challenges in order to restore American prosperity and ensure long-term security at home.