

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 fulfil obligations to protect civilians in conflict?**

Civilians are most vulnerable in war-torn societies; their protection is a strong moral, political and humanitarian obligation. Our number one priority should be to achieve durable peace in these societies. If there are UN peacekeepers, they must act when civilians are under threat. We must be prepared for the use of force to protect civilians if necessary and in accordance with the UN Security Council mandate. Also the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) report launched in June 2015 contains valuable recommendations to the UN and its Member States regarding Protection of Civilians. These recommendations should be taken into account.

We must also make a better use of non-military protection tools, promote peace and reconciliation. It is important to improve intelligence and early warning tools at the UN Secretariat. Also, it is important to strengthen cooperation with the local communities. I believe more discussion is needed on how to protect civilians in contexts in which the armed forces of the host governments are responsible for attacking civilians. As for Syria, protection of civilians and prevention of atrocities should remain the highest priority of the international community.

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 centres, 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?**

The international community as a whole has a role to play in addressing global migration challenges and refugee crises. Management of mixed migratory flows is a global problem and a global imperative. Closer coordination and cooperation is the best way forward. We must facilitate safe and legal channels for migrants and ensure access to a fair and efficient asylum procedure. But in my view we also have to address the issue of those who make profit on people's misery – refugee smugglers. Their dirty business is a part of a global phenomenon that currently makes almost \$26bn a year. It must be stopped or at least made unattractive. We must use the UN's tools more effectively to address the major drivers of migration in countries of origin and ensure adherence to international humanitarian law and accountability for violations. UN must help ensure a better protection of human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status.

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 per cent 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 per cent of refugees. **What is your vision for a global burden-sharing agreement for refugees, and how would you pursue it?**

The preamble to the United Nation's 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees states that granting asylum “may place unduly heavy burdens on certain countries,” implying the need for “international cooperation.”

By the end of 2015, more than 60 million people had been forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict, violence and persecution. The number of international migrants surpassed 240 million in 2015 and 60 million people were forcibly displaced (20 million of them are refugees). Humanitarian needs are at record levels, and more than 80 per cent of the United Nations humanitarian funding is directed at conflict response.

Presently the UN Member States are discussing a proposal concerning the global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees to be adopted at the UN General Assembly High-Level Plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants in September 2016. This compact should promote a genuine partnership for an equitable and balanced responsibility-sharing within the international community, based on international human rights and refugee law.

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 multi-sectorial partnerships? How will you measure its success?**

Commitment to Action signed at the WHS places focus from delivering aid to reducing need and vulnerability over time, which will be the best indicator of the overall success. The Secretary-General should ensure that the new way of working in crises agreed at the WHS will be running effectively and efficiently and reaching the most vulnerable and left behind ones. In order to narrow down the humanitarian and development divide as called for in the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity, the new Secretary-General should forge strong partnerships with the private sector, multilateral development banks and civil society. Besides generating new resources the Secretary-General should ensure that the existing resources are allocated even more strategically.

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?**

I agree that the humanitarian and development institutions should align their efforts around specific, measurable, practical and jointly shared goals. The next Secretary-General will have the task of making the UN humanitarian system more effective and more capable of delivering collective outcomes that help to increase the self-reliance of affected communities over the long-term. The United Nations has a central and unique role to play in providing leadership and coordinating the efforts of the international community to support the affected countries and people. The new Secretary-General will have to continue with the reform of the UN-led humanitarian system.

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?**

The inadequacy of resources has been one of the major constraints in the rapid and coherent response of the United Nations to emergencies. The idea of the Grand Bargain is that donor countries will commit to more flexible, multi-year funding, in exchange for major UN agencies committing to greater efficiency and transparency and reduced management costs. Very importantly, the deal should support better responses to needs on the ground by channelling funds to local organizations and scaling up cash-based humanitarian assistance, which is now only at 6 per cent. The new Secretary-General will have the task to build on this momentum and ensure these pledges will be turned into reality making sure the Grand Bargain succeeds.

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?**

I see prevention as a core task of the UN. We all agree that so far we have not been successful enough in preventing conflicts. Yet, it is well known that 1 dollar spent on preventive efforts can save up to 10 dollars in humanitarian aid alone. We need greater political and financial support for the UN preventive work (short-term and long-term.) I would champion prevention and push for further change in this area to enhance the preventive capacities of the Organization. There should be a much stronger culture of prevention at the UN. We need a much stronger investment by the UN system to prevention, mediation and support of political processes. We need to strengthen the UN Secretariat’s political, strategic and analytical capacities. We need to enhance the cooperation between the UN and its regional and sub-regional partners in the area of prevention. Furthermore, more women should be involved in mediation and conflict prevention efforts; it is not an optional feature. Last but not least, we have to strengthen the security-development nexus for there is no sustainable development without durable peace and security.