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Press Briefing with Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and Special Adviser on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, Karen AbuZayd

The following is a near verbatim transcript of the briefing.

Spokesman Stephane Dujarric: Good afternoon again. We are happy to be joined by the Deputy Secretary General and Karen AbuZayd who is the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and they are here to talk about the report the Secretary-General just issued on the matter. Deputy Secretary-General, you have the floor, and welcome.

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: Thank you very much Steph, we are happy to meet with you. Today is the day when we have the report "In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants" already in six languages. It is being distributed to Member States. It has been available on the website of the PGA since it came out in English some weeks ago. We thought we would use this occasion to present the context in which this report has come about. It is no secret to anyone that the migration refugee issue is a growing element in the new global landscape, which is evolving. We have seen the movements vis-a-vis the direction of Europe from the Middle East and Africa and the debate, the political repercussions also I should say, from that movement. We have had almost equally important processes in the Southeast Asia with refugees, migrants on ships trying to land at different parts of that part of the world. We have as you know refugees in great numbers in countries like Iran, and Pakistan, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Millions are refugees. In fact, most of the refugees are in developing, in so-called developing countries. I think, by the way, we are all developing countries, but that is a side remark.

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: "Should be".

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: The subject is an important one and it is indeed global. The figures are probably well-known to you. We have approximately 20 million refugees in the world, and 40 million internally displaced people. So you have displaced people in the magnitude of 60 million people. Twenty [million] are refugees across borders and forty [million] are inside countries, displaced inside countries. When it comes to international migrants, the figure as you know of course, is much higher. The latest figure is 244 million migrants, which is people who work and live abroad in countries in which they are not born. We took the initiative, the Secretary-General gave a speech on the 20th November outlining a series of steps to be taken to bring this issue to high up on the UN Agenda. It started with a meeting in London on humanitarian needs for Syria and the surrounding countries around Syria. It continued with the discussions in Geneva at the UNHCR conference on resettlement, mainly still around Syria. The SG went there to that meeting and spoke. We have now at the end of this month the World Humanitarian Summit which will have a session on migration and also a session on internally displaced people, which is important because the internally displaced people are not formally on

the agenda for the 19th of September meeting. And, then we have, of course, from my perspective here and with Karen AbuZayd at my side, the important meeting on the 19th of September which will be a summit. This is the evening on the day before the opening of the General Debate when, as the Host Country is speaking and Brazil is speaking, and we encounter more than a 100 Heads of State and governments coming for this meeting on the 19th of September. By the way, there is going to be a side event on the 20th of September at the initiative of the United States on pledges to be made in the area of refugees. I want to mention that. We see that meeting as complementary to ours, to the UN meeting taking place. This is a General Assembly meeting and we are grateful for this to the President of the GA and to the Member States because they adopted unanimously a resolution on 22 December right before Christmas where they set up a framework for this meeting. And they named two facilitators, the Ambassadors of Jordan and the Ambassador of Ireland. And the Secretary-General named Karen AbuZayd as Special Adviser to plan for this meeting. And she and her team have done a great job in preparing the report which you now will have available for you. But also, this team has done tremendously important work in terms of consultations with the Member States, they have met with 80 Member States approximately. And there has been feedback from them and to them and also to civil society and others who follow this important [matter]. And, this is my last point before we turn to Karen, which is, I would say, of political nature. If you look at the debate around the world on migration and refugees, I would say that in many cases, that debate is taking place with a pretty negative narrative. You see discussions about migration and refugees polarizing countries in their political debates and there is an element of perhaps, this issue dividing public opinion, dividing political parties, and becoming an area where I think it is important for us, as an organization standing up for the principles of the United Nations and its Charter, to remind ourselves of what migration could actually mean. That at least we should want to see by this meeting and more neutral and even more positive narratives about migration and refugees. If you look at areas, issues like importance of migrants for economic growth, OECD and IMF had studies showing how positive migration is for economic growth. If you look at demographic trends, migration is an element which has meant that Europe and United States now have at least not minus growth in the demographic growth. And, if you look at the importance of remittances, they are almost three times as important in volume as all the official development assistance in the world. The migrants' remittances have a tremendously important role in development, apropos the SDGs also by the way. The Sustainable Development Goals have a goal related to migration, goal number 10. If I may say so, that is why I used the word intentionally "political." I think it is important to remind ourselves in today's world of diversity in societies. That this trend we see and identify people as "us" and "them" and not seeing the beauty of diversity of nation-states, of societies. It is an important area to pursue and that is why the conference has a wider political perspective. I will end at this and will ask Karen to talk about the report and whatever comments you may have.

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: Thank you DSG and I will focus on three sets of commitments it calls upon Member States to make with the goal of creating and ensuring a fair and comprehensive response to today's global challenge of the title of our report: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in Safety and Dignity. The first commitment speaks of upholding the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants. Both groups face challenges in their home countries, on the journey and on arrival at their destination. Despite some fleeing

persecution and conflict and others seeking opportunities for a better life both are often forced, for lack of other means, to undertake perilous journeys. Both often encounter discrimination and rejection in their first country of arrival. The report recommends full implementation of international human rights and humanitarian legal obligations, and acting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that the DSG just mentioned. It proposes intensifying efforts to prosecute criminal smugglers and traffickers and initiating a better review of border management and detention policies to ensure that the human rights of refugees and migrants, and especially those of children, are upheld at borders and en route. A particular focus is on the acceptance and the inclusion of refugees and migrants. The increasingly negative tone of public discourse that, again as DSG mentioned on both migrants and refugees, will become the subject of a UN-lead global campaign to counter xenophobia emphasizing direct personal contacts among refugees, migrants and the communities that receive them. Member States are asked to develop comprehensive national plans for the social and economic inclusion of refugees and migrants. They need to be associated with the receiving society as soon as possible after arrival in a country, for example, offered language training, education, access to health, skills training and employment. National development strategy should take account of the presence of migrants and refugees. States who implement such policies are a model for others to emulate.

Secondly, there is an appeal for the adoption of a Global Compact on responsibility sharing for refugees, which requires States to contribute to a comprehensive refugee response plan developed by UNHCR immediately at the onset of a major inflow of refugees. The plan will extend to working toward solutions and allow for variety of such solutions. Financial resettlement, offers of employment and scholarships, development aid for host countries and particularly support for local host communities would be part of the plan. New financing arrangements in cooperation with International Financial Institutions are beginning to be initiated and showing results, for example, in Jordan. These could be replicated.

The third commitment focuses on protecting the rights of migrants and improving the governance of migration generally. The report proposes the adoption of a Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration, and an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018. It sets forth a list of elements that can be initiated immediately while working toward international cooperation framework on migrants and human mobility. A specific recommendation in this regard is to forge a closer relationship between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN, a goal, towards which both organizations have begun to work. The Secretary-General's recommendations provide elements of an improved response to large movements of refugees and migrants asking States to cooperate with one another in accordance with their capacities and with widely accepted norms and practices. They cover [inaudible] which will give refugees and migrants hope and support countries of first asylum, usually the neighbours of the countries in crisis. If implemented, lives of people in transit will be saved, people will be treated with dignity at borders, refugees and migrants will be welcomed and societies will benefit from the social and economic contributions as the DSG has mentioned and the enriching diversity offered by the newcomers. States will share responsibility for refugees. Host countries will receive immediate support for their development needs. International migration will be governed better with channels of safe and regular migration so fewer migrants resort to dangerous routes. This is the vision for the high-level meeting in

September. It is an opportunity for governments and citizens around the world together to make practical commitments in the spirit of the UN's Charter, if I can quote that "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith and dignity in the worth of the human person," end of quote, and I may add, regardless of where that human person comes from and how and why she arrives on our shores. Thank you.

Spokesman Stephane Dujarric: Thank you very much Karen.

Question: Yes, thank you very much Mr. Deputy Secretary-General and Madame. I, on behalf of United Nations correspondents, welcome this press conference. My question is related to this 250,000 euros that was proposed in exchange of assisting or accepting refugees in a country that cannot afford that. And, when we asked to the spokesperson at the UN it was not said that a country or European Union decide what to do. I wonder if you have an opinion about that?

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: I do not know anything about this. What is this, 250,000 euros, for what?

Journalist: Yes, for each refugee. Instead of taking them in, there was a proposal of paying this to avoid the hospitality or something because they cannot afford the [inaudible].

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: I do not know anything about that, I cannot comment on that. Is this a part of the EU-Turkey agreement, or what?

Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric: We will try to find out more.

Question: Yes, thank you very much, Deputy Secretary-General, Mrs. AbuZayd. Just a quick remark, with a question of course, with regard to prosecution of criminal smugglers, we all know what is happening in Libya, which is a failed state, according to the situation, and it is an open source for migration to Europe from Africa due to the proximity of the geographic location. How can you prosecute those who are criminally responsible in a failed state, and especially taken into consideration, that organized crime is starting to tap into this new source of illicit activities? Whether in continental Europe, we have seen the trucks cross to the German borders and just deserting them in the middle of the way, and leaving some who even have [come to their demise]. What can be done, especially where there is a failed state situation? Thank you.

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: "Well, this is a huge problem. This is one of the reasons why we took this initiative to this conference. We have. Very much the Vienna office is involved. They were dealing with crime and drugs. And, there is of course a need for us to move in the direction of more legal pathways to arrive in the countries of asylum. And then of course there is a need also for Member States to pursue this. And, that we also do everything to reduce the flow of money to these people. But it is a huge problem. And it is cropping up because we have such difficulty in defining those legal pathways. So, you are identifying one of the main problems. And, one of the problems that Karen has just expounded upon. We will deal with this in particular at the [high level meeting]. And, it is a part of the report; there is a very good section on this in the report that I advise you to read.

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: Yes, these are recommendations that we hope will come and commitments that will be made by the States. And, while they are discussing this and coming out

with how they will define it in the resolution, I think they will tell--we hope that they will come to some ideas already. But, I think that everybody is particularly concerned about the Libya route for this coming summer when other routes are being closed down, so I think everybody will be interested in trying to discuss and come up with some ideas.

Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric: Maggie

Question: One clarification, one question. Ms. AbuZaid, the Global Compact, I think I saw reference in the report to it not coming into effect until 2018, being adopted in 2018. If you could clarify that, and also there was a reference to a UN Global Campaign to counter xenophobia, if you could talk a little more about that. And what countries in particular are you most concerned about with this rise and this trend?

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: It is the Global Compact for Migration, for the governance of Migration. And we put in 2018 with some discussions with some of the champions of migration and others who were interested more in this than the migration side of this because the refugee side has the legal instruments already in place. ...[inaudible] there is a convention, and we are asking anyone who has not signed it to remove reservations, if they have it, but it is more straight forward in that sense. But, then for the migrants there is time to work out more ideas about how to govern migration. And, that is why there are a lot of ideas in the report as you see and please take these out, please look at those because those are the things that we want people to begin to affirm or reaffirm now as we move toward the Global Compact that will then have a more legally binding framework at the end or at the beginning, whenever we can do it, perhaps early in 2018. Xenophobia, as a UN-lead [campaign] and we hope probably the Secretary-General led campaign. And, I think perhaps the targets of it are fairly obvious. The SG spoke at length about the negative narrative. Because that is one of the first things that we thought is behind what we were doing since this January is to try to help change the narrative, the negative narrative to one that is more positive about refugees and migrants.

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: I want to say that, unfortunately, is a global phenomenon right now.

Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric: James.

Question: Deputy Secretary-General, if I could ask you about one of the stories of the day, that relates to this, which is the situation in Aleppo. How concerned are you about the situation in Aleppo and the fact that if an all-out battle was to break out there, what would be the implications in terms of loss of life and refugees?

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: I will tell you a story about Aleppo which is related to refugees. I talked to the Norwegian Foreign Minister about three months ago. He had met a family that had fled from Aleppo: five children, mother and father. And, the Norwegian Foreign Minister met this family in Balbec, Lebanon. He said to the family: 'I understand you had to leave Aleppo because of the horrible bombings going on.' The father and mother said 'Yes, but that was not the main reason. It was the fact that none of our five children was going to school for about a year. It was unbearable for us to see our own children not getting an education, a generation growing up without an education.' Here comes the sad part of the continuation of

this story: None of these children, according to the Norwegian Foreign Minister, was getting into school in Balbec because Lebanon was already overflowing with Syrian students in school, so evidently none of the five children could be placed in the school in Balbec in Lebanon. He thought that that family then went on to Greece, Macedonia, whatever, at that time. This is only to tell you that there is both a dimension of leaving because of the fighting and because also of unbearable conditions for a whole new generation. As to your more concrete question, we follow this of course extremely closely. We do everything we can. Now in contact with all of the actors involved both on the ground and the members of the Security Council and the important regional actors, in order to make sure that we save this cessation of hostilities that we worked so hard for. It was very important that we on the 18th of December finally got a resolution. For the first time in over four years, we had a resolution to build on. And, in my view, it is absolutely crucial to show respect for a binding Security Council resolution. And, we expect all the parties now to do everything to avoid that we fall back into the pattern of two months ago. We have used this time as well as possible. I am very grateful to both our own organization but also NGOs, ICRC, who during this period of relative lull. Of course, everything is relative. You know we have seen a period of breaches, of cessation of hostilities, still we have reached almost a half a million people and sieges have been lifted. And, people in starvation are lifted out of starvation. And, if we go back to the situation as it was two months ago, that work will be made even more difficult--or even impossible. So we hope very much that this meeting that takes place today in Paris, with key foreign ministers, will be fruitful. I hope everybody realizes the seriousness of this situation. We simply must not fall back into the war that we have seen, the nightmare that we have seen in the past.

Question: I want to ask you about the situation in Kenya where the Government has announced, it has announced it before, but it seems pretty serious, to close the Dadaab and Kakuma camps, which will displace 600,000 people, some of them to South Sudan, and some to Somalia. What is the UN System doing? Seems like they have written orders to the effect that they have to do this. Do you view this as a part of what you are working on? And, then just on the report itself, I saw where it says 'Strengthen legal relationship with IOM', what are you envisioning? Are you envisioning it somehow becoming a part of the UN System? Or changing its governance structure? Just what specifically are you proposing?

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: On IOM, we have had a very positive development both inside IOM and its member states, and the United Nations, about the need for us to get closer together. And, I have briefed the Member States, the General Assembly, about this process, we have had discussions with Member States about the IOM possibly coming into the UN System as a related organization, not as a specialized agency but as a related organization. You can, for instance, look at IAEA in Vienna, which has a similar status. But that would mean that we would have a closer relationship with IOM which we already have in the field. I have just come back from Vietnam and Nepal over the weekend. I have been there last week, and IOM is active on practically all country teams. But now we will probably also have a relationship hopefully where we will get closer together and we hope very much that we will be moving in this direction so that we can report progress even decisions by the meeting on 19th of September. As to the question on Kenya, I just received something this morning. I do not think there is something about sending back the refugees. I understood from the information we got this morning, but

rather an organizational change inside the Kenyan Government, which is interpreted in that negative way. But I think we need to get more information about that. Maybe you already answered the question.

Question: I have a question related to both refugees and migration. As you know, the UN Charter contains provisions recognizing the importance of maintaining national sovereignty, territorial integrity and so forth. So, I'd like to know to what extent particularly in the area of migration you believe that a country can still maintain its borders, maintain its own policies with respect to whether to admit a migrant or not; the refugees are covered by, as you said, the '51 Convention, but I hear you sometimes lumping the two together. And, secondly, on refugees, Mr. Grandee has proposed in remarks earlier this year that there be alternatives to the current resettlement vetting process, that work visas be used, that student visas, medical health visas, be used. I'd like to know to what extent that is being more actively pursued within the UN system? Thank you.

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: This was what the DSG was speaking about earlier, the legal pathways. And, that is what we are hearing more about. And that is what the conference in March was about in Geneva, and it is what is being called for now, some of which we are calling for too. And, yes, you can examine all the other ways that people can move as refugees-- humanitarian visas, scholarships, family reunification, and so on. That is what we are also asking, just more generally, because we view this whole process and this whole appeal that we are making to member states, but also as a Global Compact, it is a global effort. We are not just talking about Europe or Syria or those sorts of things, Middle East and Africa, we are talking about, generally, refugees and migrants and ways that they can move legally and safely and in an orderly manner. That is the words we are using [to speak about]the migrants. But, [for] refugees, there are many other ways. When we are talking about to all these ambassadors and so on we have talked about the possibility of offerings [from] small countries; small countries can offer scholarships, can offer jobs, a few jobs, and you can see how these things can work much better. And, we have examples. For example, how Canada that has taken twenty five thousand people from this group that in the Mediterranean and so on, settled them immediately through IOM in cooperation with UNHCR. And, they have a family sponsorship proposal that's not just a proposal, a programme, and in fact, it has so many families that they had more families who wanted to have refugees in their homes or help them resettle than they do the refugees coming. They are a good example of ways, of some of the things that can be done by more than one country, by many countries in smaller or larger ways.

Question: I would like to follow up on a national sovereignty question I had asked. In terms of where do you draw the line particularly in the area of migration? You know, you used the term "xenophobia," but some countries who want to create some mechanism of processes for controlling the flood of migrants into their countries destabilizing their own economies and so forth we call it the exercise of national sovereignty, so I would like you to comment on where the proper line is. Thank you.

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: Of course there is a stronger element of international law in terms of refugees. We have the Refugee Convention of 1951, we have the Additional Protocol of 1967. When it comes to migrants, of course, we don't have the same firm basis, legal basis,

but I think we have in a way, firm basis in the form of the Human Rights, the Declaration of Human Rights. And, there are also conventions which are entering into force, unfortunately not signed by sufficient number of countries. There is a Convention on Migrant Workers, for instance, which has entered in force, which should be, once you have an international convention. Then, of course, the issue of sovereignty comes in different light. But, of course we understand that this has to build on the priorities of the Member States. But, I think the main thing is that we realize that the migration, if you look at the figures for migration, they have grown, I can't give you the exact figures, but I think 40 per cent in ten years, something like that. It is a trend, which is going in the direction of increase. I would hope that the future will see an acceptance of migration being part of globalization. We may see more of migration. But, I would hope that the trend for refugees and displaced persons and internally displaced persons will be reduced. That should be our political goal: acceptance of migration as a fact as a result of globalization. And, seen in the more neutral or even positive light that I think it deserves to be seen. It is actually in the national interest of a good international solution. Let me say that, by the way, this is what I would hope would be realised more and more. Look at areas like climate or migration. The good international formula, the good international solution, is in the national interest. You simply cannot have a national solution for migration or climate change. We are this organization that is supposed to negotiate, come out with formulas and with compromises, even compromises on sovereignty, perhaps. I don't know. Come to a resolution that yes, this agreement we need. And it is in our national interest because we live in an inter-dependent world where developments of this nature affect both international relations and the health of a nation at home.

Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric: Well Pablo we need to let the DSG go?

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: Well I have five minutes.

Question: You know there is a debate going on in Europe, concerning the future of Schengen. And, Austria expressed the intention to re-establish the border with Italy, the Brenner pass, I would like to ask you to comment on that.

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: Well, I can only hope, as a former Foreign Minister of a European Union country, that the European Union would come to some collective solutions to this issue. The absence of such collective solutions is the reason why you have seen these phenomena that you just mentioned. So, we would very much hope that we will go in that direction. And, we--UNHCR in particular--is very practically involved in this type of work. We will be as helpful as possible. We have some questions about some of the agreements made. But, we will certainly be there as society of European countries to deal with this issue. But, the basic problem is to have a European System, which makes it less probable to have a situation where borders are being protected by people and fences are being put up.

Question: Well, you mentioned xenophobia being a big problem. Poland just announced that they will not be accepting a single refugee because there is not a mechanism that will ensure safety. Which other countries have taken this trend? And, going back to the first question, basically the European Union is starting the possibility to try either accept refugees or pay a fee

to those countries that are taking the refugees. How the UN sees those possibilities as a possible option? Now that countries like Poland and other countries are completely closing their borders to any refugees?

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: Well I don't think we can go into the details of the internal European debate, but one word that is permeating this report is "shared responsibility". I think that is an aspect that has to be taken to mind and into consideration both by European scene and Global scene.

Question: Just following up on that issue, countries paying other countries to take their refugees, as is the case in Australia, the third party resettlement. It seems that this is an area that this Compact or this Summit should be really addressing greater regulations of the refugees that are being settled in third countries considering, in light of, in recent weeks we have seen two refugees self-immolate in Nauru who have been settled there by Australia. We are seeing Papua New Guinea saying that they are no longer going to continue to host these refugees, that are also being resettled there by Australia. So, is there greater need for UN oversight for this concept of third party resettlement?

Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson: I can only remind of the need to accept greater degree of shared responsibility but actually your questions are a perfect example of the urgency of this work, the importance of this work. This report will be now handed over to Member States and I am sure that practically all Member States have vital issues of this nature that you brought up and you earlier brought up, and you also brought up. They are now going to discuss, and that shows the relevance of this initiative, of this global meeting on migration [and] refugees. We knew that it was difficult to bring in together migration and refugees. But, we thought that that what we are seeing now--we live in a day and age of global of human mobility. And, we need to analyse that in the perspective where we come out hopefully with an acceptance of this as a part of globalization. But, also recognizing the difficulties, we don't say this is an easy thing. The reason why we have this conference is that we need to have an international debate and put it in the global perspective.

Question: In the report, it mentions the shared responsibility that comes that countries would accept at least 10 per cent of refugees. And that figures is a little. Is this 10 per cent of all the refugees? a year? so that in 10 years, if the number stayed stable there would be no more refugees? I do not understand how the 10 per cent worked in this situation and why this is not a bigger element of the report since it actually has a commitment in there?

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: This is the goal of UNHCR. With a supplement of 10 per cent of refugees every year so once, to answer a lot of the questions, once [as the] DSG has said, the shared responsibility, but you are able to manage these issues we talk about, these large flows that have happened in the past where we were less able even to manage them. In difficult places in the world it was done so. We are talking about this—safe, orderly, regular migration and we are talking about that for the refugees as well. This has to be managed. All the countries together in terms of whatever they are able to do, either being there or offering money or offering places [where] everybody pitches in and what we are really hoping for is, again as DSG has said, this negotiated outcome, expecting the outcome to come by consensus which means whatever comes

out of the summit in September will be things that all of the countries have agreed upon to one extent or another. And, we hope all of them will fulfil their commitments to the extent that they can.

Question: So, it is each country resettles 10 per cent?

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: No, no. We are talking about 10 per cent of the number of refugees.

Journalist: One point nine or two million.

Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric: We have to let the DSG go but Karen can handle the balance of the questions.

Question: Going to the Middle East: of course, the Palestinian refugees saga is one of the longest and what we see is that there is increasing in refugees and the situation of course in Gaza is worse than any other place. The richest countries of the region, which are Saudi Arabia the Gulf States and Israel, have been reluctant to receive any refugees. How are you addressing such an issue? Also, there are generations of refugees in many ways.

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: Well, of course, you are bringing up something close to my heart. You know that. In our report, we are not talking about any particular countries. We don't talk about, we don't mention countries or names of either receiving countries or sending countries. We do talk about-- again it is something that is very difficult as you mentioned--the protracted refugee situations, which is one of the places where you would put the Palestinians, I think with others. But, when you think of those that are mentioned elsewhere, in Pakistan in Kenya, that is why you get what you heard from Kenya this morning about refugees, and we have to see what it really means. What are they going to do? The Gulf Countries, of course, are very good at paying for what the humanitarian activities are in Palestine. It is a question also of where the refugees would want to go if they are resettled or repatriated. The Palestinians really don't want to go anywhere else but Palestine. So, we have to deal with it there and help what we can and try to move some kinds of negotiations on. It is a very difficult and frustrating area to work on, of course.

Question: As you know, Mrs. AbuZayd, that the vast majority of the refugees and migrants are in the developing nations and not in the developed nations. So this...

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: Almost 90 per cent, 86 per cent.

Question: So, we are talking about 10 per cent. But, these recommendations, I assume, are addressed to those countries who are reluctant to take them. Now, my question is, if every country, every Member State were to put their signature on a Convention, why they don't respect it? If they respect it, do you think we need this kind of convention and new convention for example the Charter of the UN and the Refugee Convention of 1951, 1990, the Convention on the rights of the child, and 2003, the Convention on the rights of migrants, if they respected their signature once they put their signature? Why they don't respect it? Thank you.

Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd: That is why we have come to this point, why we need to have another summit about this and remind people of their previous commitments, and get them to sign up again to those that maybe were not so clear in the past. Or, that they have been neglecting over time. It is, as we say, an opportunity that has come up mainly because of what happened last year and everyone is focused on these issues. And, so let's take advantage of it and see what we can do to move some of these things along, to a better result. Not just for the refugees, for the migrants who are moving, but also for the countries that are going to be benefitting from this, and every country that has taken refugees or migrants tells you that they have seen an upsurge in their economy. They see the more diversity, as we say, as they are happy about that the cultural differences that are brought in most of them. We have other issues of course that we are seeing in this country right now about these things. It is something that we hope that having a summit like this, and having a consensus of 193 countries, is going to move the envelope and move that narrative toward one of accepting, if you 'd have safe regulation, regular, orderly movement of people, of any kind of people, then you have more countries willing, being able to accept them. You do have to share. That is what we say and if you can't accept people then help with some money or help with a few kinds of places, that everyone has to pitch in and do their thing, every country.

Spokesman Stephane Dujarric: Thank you very much.
