

LONDON CONFERENCE – TURKEY STATEMENT

On behalf of the international community, the co-hosts commended the Republic of Turkey for the vital role it is playing in hosting over two and a half million Syrian refugees as well as a quarter of a million refugees of other nationalities.

The Republic of Turkey provides Syrian refugees with access to the full range of Turkish health services. Since the start of the crisis, 159 thousand Syrian children have been born in Turkey and over 173 thousand children have been vaccinated. Syrian refugees have received outpatient services 10.5 million times and 462 thousand Syrians have received treatment in Turkish hospitals including provision of over 316 thousand operations.

The international community also recognises the Republic of Turkey's continued support in facilitating aid across its borders in line with UN resolutions, enabling humanitarian relief to reach thousands of Syrians inside Syria.

Five years into the crisis, a generation of young Syrians is in danger of being lost to a cycle of violence. We firmly believe that there should be "no lost generation". These children will be a valuable resource to their country's reconstruction, recovery and stability when they return to their country in the aftermath of the crisis.

The Republic of Turkey and its international partners committed to the aim of providing education to every Syrian refugee child by the end of the school year 2016/17. The Republic of Turkey is already providing education to 310,000 Syrian children and has committed to enrolling 460,000 Syrian children by the end of this school year. In order to achieve this objective, stronger and urgent support for Syrian children's education is needed.

The Republic of Turkey recently passed legislation to enable Syrian refugees to access the labour market. This decision has the potential to help approximately one million working age Syrians to find jobs. In the next three months, Syrian teachers will be formally appointed by the Ministry of Education and Syrian health professionals appointed by the Ministry of Health. These teachers and health professionals will directly support the needs of Syrian refugees.

The co-hosts recognise the scale of the challenge faced by Turkey in hosting a large number of refugees, and the significant financial burden this continues to entail. The EU and Turkey have already agreed on a joint Action Plan and the need to share the burden within the framework of Turkey-EU cooperation.

The Action Plan is addressing the current crisis situation by tackling the root causes leading to the massive influx of Syrians; supporting Syrians under temporary protection and their host communities in Turkey and by strengthening cooperation to prevent irregular migration flows to the EU.

Resettlement forms an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to the Syrian crisis. Using established UNHCR process for identifying and resettling refugees constitutes another part of managing migration flows with Turkey.

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2016 – 2017 (3RP), prepared in coordination with the Government of Turkey reflects the common efforts of participating UN agencies in Turkey. The 3RP aims to capture the refugee-related humanitarian and development sectoral needs and is one part of the Government of Turkey's response to addressing the refugee related needs in Turkey. Participants at the Conference today have committed to a step change in assistance and raised significant new funds for those affected by the crisis.

In this context, we also welcome the Republic of Turkey and the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's hosting of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. The summit will take place in Istanbul on the 23-24 May 2016 and initiate a set of actions for effective humanitarian response.