



13 October 2017

Excellencies,

On behalf of the co-hosts and co-organizers of the Pledging Conference for the Rohingya Refugee Crisis, I have the honour to invite your Minister of Foreign Affairs or another representative of your Government to the Conference, which will take place on Monday, 23 October, 0930 – 1600 hours in Room XIX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Conference is co-hosted by the European Union and the Government of Kuwait, and is co organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The aim of the Conference is to support the response to the influx Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and find ways to comprehensively address the evolving humanitarian situation in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Since 25 August, 526,000 refugees have crossed into Bangladesh – joining an estimated 300,000 already in the country. It is now the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world.

The speed and scale of the influx has resulted in a critical refugee emergency: without a rapid, comprehensive and protection-centred response, there will be drastic consequences for the lives of refugees, many of whom are women and children. The settlements and other areas where refugees are located are highly congested with inadequate facilities to deal with the scale of the influx, and face shortages of food, water, sanitation, shelter, and medical services.

The Conference aims to mobilize and increase much needed financial contributions to address the urgent life-saving humanitarian needs. The response plan calls for US\$434 million for the six-month period from September 2017 to February 2018. We must use this platform to avert a longer-term protracted crisis and seek sustainable solutions for these refugees.

Confirmation of attendance is kindly requested by 17 October 2017 to the contacts specified on the attached registration form. A concept note including a programme outline and a pledge form is annexed to this invitation, together with a link to a webpage with all relevant information.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mark Lowcock
Emergency Relief Coordinator and
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

All Permanent Representative and Observer Missions
to the United Nations Office and
International Organizations at Geneva and New York