

**USAID Administrator Gayle Smith**  
**World Humanitarian Summit Plenary Statement**

**May 24, 2016**

**As Prepared**

Thank you.

As the world's leading donor, spending nearly \$26 billion in humanitarian assistance over the last five years, having deployed 23 Disaster Assistance Response Teams in the last seven years and responding to upwards of 50 other emergencies each year, the United States has come to the World Humanitarian Summit committed to humanitarian action. We are committed to continuing to lead as we move forward the five core responsibilities outlined in the Secretary General's report.

The United States supports the vast majority of underlying WHS core commitments, and considers them aspirational policy commitments; the challenge to all of us here at this Summit is now to turn them into action.

In order to achieve the goals we have set out for ourselves here, we are committed to the following.

We will continue to work with partners to prevent crises, which are sometimes development failures. As a leader in development, we will work with partner countries and organizations to expand efforts to build resilience of communities affected by crises. We will also continue to lead in the Global Health Security Agenda to build the capacity of countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases, such as Ebola.

The United States is also establishing a crisis review mechanism to ensure that we are using both our humanitarian and development tools to address chronic crises. We have been building the capacity of our partners, especially national and local responders, for the last 50 years. We will continue to support and train them, and we will initiate training for our humanitarian partners in access negotiation.

With the changing shape, nature, and scale of crises, we are also taking steps to address the sharp edges of violence. We intend to provide additional funding to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies. Yesterday we announced \$20 million in funding support for Education Cannot Wait to support education for refugees.

Today we delivered a statement, together with 47 other Member States to reaffirm our collective support for international humanitarian law, including the protection of Internally Displaced Persons, humanitarian personnel, and medical facilities. We intend to work with other Member States, the UN, and humanitarian organizations to identify concrete ways to address more systematically the challenges to humanitarian access to populations in need.

Going forward, we commit to acting on the deliberations that took place here at the Summit. We want to develop an action plan for the coming year to turn these commitments into real changes. We are also committed to ensuring that the world lives up to its obligations to people in need. In September, President Obama is hosting a Leaders' Summit on Refugees which will deliver new and significant pledges for refugee support. One of the goals of the Summit is to address the dramatic, dangerous, and even deadly shortfall in humanitarian funding by increasing global contributions by 30%.

Thank you.