



Statement/Intervention by H.E. Sufian Ahemed Beker
at
The World Humanitarian Summit High-Level Leaders'
Roundtable on:
**Leave No One Behind: A Commitment to Address Forced
Displacement**

Core Responsibility #3 Leave No One Behind

23 May 2016
Istanbul

Co-Chairpersons,

I would like to start by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to be able to share my Governments' commitments and thoughts.

Currently Ethiopia is the 5th largest refugee-hosting country in the world and the largest in Africa, hosting around 750 thousand refugees. My Government is making a commitment here at this Summit to continue to adhere to our obligations under international or regional instruments to which we are party. We are similarly committed continuing to advocate the three durable solutions: voluntary repatriation, resettlement or local reintegration, with voluntary repatriation as the preferred option. We are also committing to support the establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency. Equally, for countries like Ethiopia to be able to continue to uphold our tradition of an open-door policy towards refugees, we believe a number of points need to be taken into account.

First, we have no doubt that international protection of refugees is best achieved through an integrated and global approach to protection, assistance, and durable solutions. In responding to situations of mass influx, due recognition must be given to the heavy responsibilities and burden borne by LDCs or developing countries that that continue to receive receiving large number of refugees. Any international cooperation framework or solution **must avoid adding any additional burden or responsibility on LDCs** that continue to host refugees despite their own meager resources.

Second, a sustainable voluntary repatriation and reintegration process for refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) requires humanitarian assistance to go beyond the initial phase of repatriation. This, in turn, necessitates strengthened collaboration between humanitarian actors and development actors, **either in the countries concerned or in the places of origin.** It is of vital importance for the international community to enhance its development assistance in the provision of basic services and building of the necessary infrastructure for repatriation. It is also important to engage actively in the design and implementation of reintegration projects that aim to provide livelihoods and self-reliance for returnees.

Third, in countries where endless violence has prevented the repatriation and sustainable reintegration of refugees, maintaining the capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies, without affecting the integrity of any return process, remains central. I would encourage developed countries in particular to expand opportunities for the resettlement of refugees. I would also emphasize that particular attention should be given to refugees from Africa. They also deserve a second chance to start a new life.

Fourthly, there are proposals to link humanitarian and development assistance in developing and **least-developed refugee-hosting countries. It requires countries to integrate refugees in their national economic planning and undertake financial obligations to implement economic projects in support of refugees.** The proposal has to be seen in the context of **the principle of burden and responsibility-sharing** and international cooperation. I believe it is **necessary to undertake an in-depth study** to identify the longer term financial, economic and social impact on host countries.

In conclusion, I would note in reference to IDPs, we have a good framework at the African level, the Kampala Convention. My Government is committing itself here at this Summit to ratify this Convention. I believe it offers a framework for the protection of IDPs that can be used as a benchmark that will effectively strengthen national, regional and international legal and policy frameworks on internal displacement.

I thank you.