

Mission permanente
de l'État du Qatar
auprès de l'Office
des Nations-Unies à Genève



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
جنيف

Statement

Delivered by

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

At

**“High-level Meeting on Solidarity and Burden-Sharing with
Countries Hosting Syrian Refugees”**

**(64th Executive Committee of United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees)**

30.09.2013

Mr. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees , and extend my appreciation to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and its partners and all donors for tireless efforts to alleviate the suffering of the brotherly Syrian people, in the hope that they will all deliver a strong and honest message to the Syrian people to assure them that the international community and the human conscience will stand by them and that they will not leave Syria alone in its ordeal.

Mr. President,

The tragic humanitarian situation that the Syrian people have been experiencing is constantly worsening due to escalation of crimes and brutal massacres committed by the Syrian regime against its own people using all kinds of weapons. Consequently, more than one hundred thousand people have lost their lives, about six million have been displacement inside Syria and more than two million Syrian have fled the country, in addition to property destruction and threat to the Syrian territory integrity.

Although related figures, reports and facts that we learn every day do not reflect the misery and harsh conditions experienced by Syrians displaced and refugees, they however emphasize the fact that we are witnessing an unprecedented human tragedy which is

daily reflected in difficult living conditions in refugee camps. So, free human conscience cannot stand by helpless and silent about this tragedy.

This humanitarian catastrophe would no doubt raise risks and threats to international peace and security in the Middle East, and may extend far beyond this region, due to the continued escalation that has led to a rising death toll and displacement, and to the prevailing destruction in all Syrian cities. Moreover, instability and violence have spread to a number of neighboring countries.

While the international community has so far failed to reach peaceful, political solutions to the conflict to put a halt to violence and murders, it is thus necessary to combine all international efforts, share burdens and responsibilities, and mobilize the largest amount of humanitarian assistance and financial resources to provide needed humanitarian assistance to Syrian displaced persons and refugees and support neighboring countries and their host communities.

In this context, we call upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility and take all necessary and appropriate measures and actions to ensure humanitarian access without any restrictions or discrimination, to those in need in Syria, to ensure the protection of humanitarian organizations operating in the country, and to establish secure humanitarian areas and security corridors to protect Syrian people from genocide and displacement.

Although addressing the issue of displaced persons appears to imply a moral humanitarian duty, the international community should intensify diplomatic efforts and bear moral, humanitarian and legal responsibility to find a political solution to stop the bloodshed and to reflect the will and aspirations of the Syrian people.

Mr. President,

Proceeding from its sense of responsibility and its commitment to meet its humanitarian and moral obligations, the State of Qatar has been providing, since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, all forms of support and humanitarian aid. We have established contacts with our international and local partners to meet humanitarian needs for those affected and displaced inside Syria and the Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, especially Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Official and popular efforts have been combined in the State of Qatar to dispatch humanitarian relief convoys, including medicines, clothing, food, baby milk and fuel. We have also worked to provide shelter with necessary equipment, as well as medical, health care and education services and centers, social and psychological support, and we also have borne the expenses of Syrian wounded treatment, the issue that requires greater attention from the international community.

In this context, the humanitarian support provided by the State of Qatar to the Syrian people has exceeded the amount of 1.162 U.S. Dollars (one billion, one hundred and sixty-two million U.S. Dollars), including a government aid of more than 992 (nine hundred and ninety-two million U.S. Dollars), in addition to about 169 (one hundred and sixty nine million U.S. Dollars), as non-government aid.

Finally, I would like to stress that the State of Qatar will spare no effort to provide all kinds of support to the brotherly Syrian people to alleviate their human suffering and enable them to realize their legitimate demands.

Thank you Mr. President.