



of need, offering solace and support as they all seek and await just, peaceful solutions for their plights.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Summit today must transcend the statements made in this august chamber. We are duty bound politically, legally and morally to remedy the plight of the world refugees and migrants and provide them with the humanitarian assistance they need to live safe, dignified and productive lives. At the same time, we must exert every possible effort to uphold, respect and restore their rights, in accordance with international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law as applicable, and to address the root causes of their plights, from wars and armed conflicts, including foreign occupation; to oppression and persecution, discrimination and human rights violations; poverty, unemployment and food insecurity; terrorism; and the natural disasters and climate change, which are plaguing our world and have forced millions of people to leave the security and sanctity of their homes and devastated so many lives.

Based on this abiding obligation, this General Assembly has rightly persisted in its calls and efforts for a just solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees, including respect for their right

Of course, the presence of the Agency for more than 65 years is also testament to the far-reaching consequences of the failure to secure just and lasting solutions. It underscores the need for a reinforced commitment by the international community to engage proactively in conflict resolution and prevention, in conformity with international law, and to tackle the root causes of forced and protracted displacement. The solutions are not only humanitarian and developmental; conflict resolution must be a top priority and require political will and courage. Otherwise we will face the continued and growing plight of refugees, many languishing in camps for decades, as has been the tragedy of Palestine refugees and other refugees in protracted situations around the world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion, we renew our appreciation for UNRWA to the Agency -Generals and all staff, international and national, for their extraordinary efforts in support of the well-being of our refugees and in assisting to preserve their dignity and hopes across the decades. We must pay tribute here to the 30,000 national staff of UNRWA, Palestine refugees themselves who have been serving their brethren as humanitarians, teachers, doctors, nurses, administrators, counselors, therapists, emergency workers, and more. They are testament to the fact that refugees are not necessarily a burden, but rather can be agents for good in the societies and countries hosting them, pending achievement of just solutions, and also testament to the power of education, a fundamental right and necessity for all refugees and migrants.

Today, we must also recognize the central roles of the Host Countries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, and express our abiding gratitude for their support to the large Palestine refugee communities they have hosted for nearly seven decades and for their facilitation of UNRWA cooperation.

We are grateful as well to all donor countries and organizations from around the world, large and small, for their generous support to UNRWA over the long years, ensuring the continuity and quality of the Agency donor community for sustained and predictable support that is commensurate with growing refugee needs and remedies critical funding gaps to allow the Agency to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

We stress the importance of such principled international support, in line with abiding political

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The State of Palestine pledges to uphold the commitments made today in the Political Declaration, as well the commitments set forth in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. We highlight in this regard the urgent need to achieve a just solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees that guarantees their right of return in accordance with UNGA resolution 194 (III).

We also pledge our support for the document Towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Palestine is proud to have been among the initial States to join the Group of Friends of Migration and reaffirms its solidarity here today.

We will continue to cooperate with all international partners in the search for just, peaceful and sustainable solutions for the injustices and challenges we all face, including a solution for the plight of our Palestine refugees, which remains among the highest priorities for the Palestinian leadership. In closing, we reaffirm our empathy and solidarity with refugees and migrants around the world and our hopes for fulfillment of their rights for better, safer, more dignified futures for themselves, their children, their countries, and our global family.