



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

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Statement by the delegation of Belgium
H.E. Sibille de Cartier, designate Ambassador of Belgium
for Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia

Belgium thanks the US, the EU, the UK and UNHCR for the organization of this timely conference. Belgium remains concerned by the situation of the Rohingya refugees and hopes that a solution can be found without delay – allowing the refugees to return home in a safe and sustainable environment. The Advisory Committee on Rahine State Report provides important recommendations that need to be implemented to allow communities to return home and live side by side peacefully. Meanwhile unhindered access of humanitarian workers to the refugees and IDP's is essential. My country praises the incredible solidarity and humanitarian support given by Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries and thanks them for providing a safe haven to the refugees.

As non-permanent member of the Security Council, Belgium continues to insist to keep this important issue on the multilateral agenda. Belgium would like to draw the attention to the fate of Rohingya women and girls and the importance of humanitarian assistance to take into account their gender-specific needs, including their protection against gender based violence and trafficking. Moreover, women need to be actively involved in the decision making.

Belgium is and will remain a strong supporter of the international humanitarian organisations. In this context, Belgium has allocated nearly 200 million euros in 2020 for humanitarian organisations, including the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNHCR, ICRC, WFP, OCHA and IOM. To ensure a quick and efficient humanitarian response to the various crises, an important share of Belgium's support to these organisations is allocated as core-funding. This allows humanitarian actors to use these funds in a flexible way where it is urgently needed, including to deal with the Rohingya refugee crisis. Belgium intends to continue its strong humanitarian commitment in 2021.

Thank you