

Thank you to the UK, the US, the European Union, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for hosting this Conference. Even with our focus on the global pandemic and the health of our citizens at the forefront of all our minds in recent months, today is a very important opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment, collectively, to the Rohingya. The Rohingya are one of the world's most persecuted minorities, and this is a crisis that has gone on for far too long. This has galvanized us in the past and today is an opportunity for us to demonstrate that it still does.

We are all agreed that the Rohingya deserve to live in dignity, without fear, and with hope. Improving their daily lives through access to essential services, water, sanitation, basic education, and the opportunity to earn a livelihood, is crucial and a matter of human rights.

I would like to take a moment to thank Canada's Special Envoy Bob Rae for his work in this area, and to acknowledge that even as he has gone to be our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the Government of Canada's commitment is no less than it was in the past. We renew our message to the Rohingya people that Canada will stand with you, today and tomorrow.

We remain deeply concerned and condemn the continued gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in Myanmar. We reiterate our call to Myanmar to ensure unhindered humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations and to address the root causes of this conflict to create the conditions for the voluntary, dignified, safe, and sustainable return of refugees.

Canada will be pursuing accountability as part of our work as we intervene with the Netherlands in The Gambia's case at the International Court of Justice against Myanmar.

We remain a dedicated partner, and we continue to deliver on our Strategy to Respond to the Rohingya Crisis announced in 2018, which commits \$300M CAD over three years to address humanitarian, development, and peace and stabilization needs.

In 2020, Canada is providing more than US \$19 million to support life-saving, gender-responsive humanitarian assistance to improve living conditions for Rohingya in Cox's Bazar. Canada is currently the sixth largest single-country donor to the Bangladesh 2020 Joint Response Plan.

We commend partners, multilateral agencies and NGOs. Most importantly, we commend the Rohingya people for their tenaciousness and courage, as we saw during Omar's film school presentation.

Lastly, I would very much like to commend Bangladesh for its continued generosity in hosting the Rohingya, particularly as Bangladesh is now also responding to its own economic crisis from the global pandemic. We remain fully committed to helping them in responding to both these situations.

We commend the people of Aceh and Bangladesh for their actions to save the lives of people stranded at sea. We encourage Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia to accept Rohingya arriving on their shores and to ensure that their critical needs are met.

Moving forward, Canada will continue our multi-year strategy, upholding human rights and providing for basic needs.

In closing, we rededicate ourselves to working with Rohingya and the international community towards durable solutions, and respecting the rights and dignity of the Rohingya people.