

## **Rohingya donor conference 2020**

### **Opening remarks by EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič**

*Thank you, Ms. O'Connell,*

*Excellencies,*

*Honourable Guests,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a pleasure to be with you here today and to host this conference together with the United States, the United Kingdom and UNHCR.

This event is acutely necessary, even in a virtual format.

Because the Rohingya crisis is a humanitarian tragedy that requires the world's sustained attention.

The entire Rohingya population remains fully dependent on humanitarian assistance.

And Covid-19 has exacerbated their already difficult plight and put an additional burden on host communities

Yet, as things stand today, our global response remains severely underfunded.

Less than half of our joint plan for Bangladesh has been covered.

And with three months left until the end of this year, only 41 per cent of the Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020 has been funded.

This crisis requires stepped-up support.

The European Union remains firmly committed to the Rohingya people, as well as to refugee-hosting communities.

Since 2017, the EU and its Member States have contributed over 226 million euros in emergency and early recovery assistance.

Through our humanitarian response strategy, we have supported local initiatives in the areas of health care, food, nutrition, education, protection and shelter. I especially wish to highlight the importance of access to education for all children affected by this crisis.

By providing assistance, we seek to help those most in need, when and where they need it most.

**That is why I am honoured to announce that the EU is pledging an amount of 96 million euros in support of the Rohingya crisis in 2020.**

All our contributions are essential. So I urge all members of the international community to renew their commitments.

Of course, humanitarian aid is not enough on its own.

Our efforts must be accompanied by meaningful political commitments on the ground.

First, we must pursue sustainable solutions to address this crisis.

Only a just and comprehensive solution, based on the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission (RAC), can address the Rakhine State crisis and end the suffering of the Rohingya people.

Secondly, we must safeguard unhindered humanitarian access to all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) inside Myanmar by our international partners.

The unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to all communities is essential if we are to find a path forward.

Thirdly, we must seek a peaceful resolution, which facilitates the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to their places of origin.

And fourthly, we must ensure that this crisis does not become a forgotten tragedy.

At this point, I wish to acknowledge the role of our regional partners throughout Asia.

I commend Bangladesh and other countries in the region for their ongoing and generous support to the Rohingya people.

Your dedication is an example to all our international partners.

That is why I invite all countries to implement the Bali Process Consultative Mechanism and adhere to the Bali Declaration.

This declaration provides a meaningful foundation for co-ordinated regional action to help manage and protect refugees and migrants at sea.

To conclude,

I would like to commend the role played by the humanitarian partners present here today. And I would like to reiterate that the EU's commitment to a durable solution to this crisis remains resolute.

Thank you.