

I would like to thank the US, the UK, the EU and the UNHCR for convening this conference.

Bangladesh and other countries have hosted Rohingya refugees when they needed it most. We are deeply appreciative of that humanitarian act and of the commendable work of all humanitarian actors.

The international community must sustain its generous support to both forcibly displaced Rohingya and host communities to ensure their protection and well-being.

This morning I spoke with Rohingya representatives. They spoke of the acute challenges the Rohingya face, including gender-based violence, disenfranchisement and an increasing sense of despair. It was well-illustrated by the film of Omar's film school, in which one refugee said: *"one year feels like 10 years"*. The Netherlands is trying to help through our continued commitment to accountability and humanitarian and development support. I will shortly elaborate.

Justice is a crucial precondition for durable peace and national reconciliation. The international community has a responsibility towards the victims of the most serious crimes to fight impunity and hold those responsible to account.

That is why the Netherlands, together with Canada, has expressed its intention to intervene in the case brought by The Gambia against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, as part of which we intend to pay special attention to crimes related to sexual and gender based violence.

That is also why the Netherlands supports other initiatives aimed at accountability, specifically the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the International Criminal Court investigation.

Turning to our humanitarian efforts, allow me to highlight that refugees and host communities are not only beneficiaries who receive assistance and services, they are actively involved in making this massive humanitarian operation possible. Support to host communities should remain an essential element of the humanitarian response.

The Netherlands is particularly committed to the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Women, girls and vulnerable groups should be safe at all times, especially in the already precarious circumstances of the camps.

Being sensitive to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) strengthens the resilience of affected individuals, families and communities. We welcome the multi-sectoral working group on MHPSS in Bangladesh and Myanmar as well as the efforts of IOM, UNHCR and others in integrating MHPSS into their programs in Cox's Bazar.

Finally, we have listened to the Rohingya and to the host communities, and seen what tremendous work has already been done. But more is needed for the Rohingya to be able to go home safely. And so our response should be to uphold our humanitarian commitments and urge Myanmar to create a conducive environment for return.

Thank you.