

Dr. Gerd Müller

German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

“Solidarity, responsibility and joint action”

German Statement during the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants

19 September 2016, UN, New York

Check against delivery

Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen,

In the last ten years, the number of refugees across the world has almost doubled. And in the last fifteen years, the number of migrants has also doubled. Wars and violence, hunger and natural disasters are at the root of refugee movements. And a lack of opportunities or hope for the future are at the root of migration.

I want to thank the Secretary-General for organising this summit because it sends a clear message.

We all share the responsibility. At the moment, almost 90 per cent of refugees have been taken in by 10 developing countries and emerging economies. That is a lot for those countries to manage. 10 rich industrialised countries are funding 80 per cent of all refugee aid. - That must change.

We need more solidarity. More countries must take in refugees. And more countries must provide financial support. 20 billion US dollars are required to cover the refugees' basic needs. But only 8 billion have been made available.

The situation in Syria and Iraq is particularly difficult. 8 billion US dollars are needed there, but only 3.5 billion have been made available. We need to meet refugees' basic needs! We need reliable funding. The international community must make that possible. Funding pledges must be translated into projects. Payments must be made transparent and verifiable for all.

We need to work more on prevention. That is why we want to look at the proposal to create a UN refugee fund of 10 billion euros. We need global burden-sharing in our refugee policy.

We support the UN Secretary-General and the proposals that have been made.