

bank accounts around the world, as he continues to work to make sure that the security forces inside of Nigeria are abiding by professional and human rights standards, what we've pledged is, is that we will partner in any ways that we can to be helpful.

And in the meantime, I also want to thank the President for having been a great partner with us on a range of international challenges of great importance, including around issues like climate change and dealing with pollutants like hydrofluorocarbons, where Nigeria has actually been an excellent partner.

So we wish President Buhari well. He's going to be President longer than I am. [Laughter] But that gives us a sense of urgency to make sure that we've done everything we can to put in place the framework for cooperation and partnership for many years to come.

Mr. President.

*President Buhari.* Thank you very much, Mr. President.

We have—when I say we, I mean Nigeria—benefited tremendously from the United States understanding and cooperation and backing politically and security-wise. Politically, after 16 years and 8 successive government of the other party, it is the United States and Europe that made it absolutely clear that elections should be held according to Nigerian Constitution. That really stabilized the polity in Nigeria and help changing in Government.

And when we came back, a major problem we identified and we mentioned during our campaign is about security, economy, and corruption. And in each of the three identified objectives, the United States help us: training our military, helping with hard- and software.

That's why we are very successful in the northeast, where Boko Haram was holding clearly 14 out of 770—[inaudible]—and they declared a caliphate. Now they are not holding a single one, and they are reduced to—what do you call—using improvised explosive devices and attacking soft targets. And then the training team we received from the United States and the hard- and software help has helped to stabilize it. And in the south, the militants there, we are being helped again with intelligence and advice and training, and we believe soon it will be okay.

Developing the economy, we made the mistake of being a monoconomy. Until now, we find out footing the bills on food importation will be difficult. So we want into agriculture. We are very grateful for the advice we have been receiving.

So I don't think Nigeria can thank the United States enough, in terms of helping us in the security and the economy. So we are really very grateful, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

*Minister of Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Onyema of Nigeria.* And you wish him well in his retirement.

*President Buhari.* And I wish you a peaceful retirement. [Laughter]

*President Obama.* Thank you so much. Appreciate it, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:09 p.m. in Conference Room C at United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

## Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations in New York City September 20, 2016

Well, good afternoon, everyone. And thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, as always, for your kind words and your welcome. For 8 years, this luncheon has followed a long speech by me. For 8 years, it's forced me to be

brief and not subject you to a second long speech. And after 8 years, I finally figured out the Secretary-General's plan. It keeps me brief to—and I will follow that plan here today.

My role is very simple. As President of the host country of the United Nations, it is my pleasure to welcome each and every one of you. The presence of so many world leaders in one place is always an enormous undertaking. New York City always rises to the occasion. And over the last few days, this city has been tested again. And on behalf of all of us, I want to salute our police officers, our law enforcement officials, our first responders for hosting us, but also showing the world the true meaning of grit and resolve. So thank you again, New York City and the New York-New Jersey area.

As I said earlier today, even as we work to uphold our international system, it is the choices of individuals that decides whether our world is defined by confrontation or cooperation. And so, again, today I want to pay special tribute to those individuals who devote their lives to sustaining the system: the men and women who staff the United Nations and its organizations, those in Syria and elsewhere who risk their lives to deliver aid to people in dire need, those who give their lives as peacekeepers. The entire world is in their debt.

And I would note, just as this morning was my last speech to the General Assembly as President, this will be my last toast at this luncheon. It will be the Secretary-General's as well. So I want to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to say thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your outstanding leadership of this institution and the example of your life.

You've traveled a remarkable journey: born in a village in South Korea, rising to the highest levels of global leadership. And it is a testimony to your courage and your optimism, your imagination and your will.

We see your legacy in the new sustainable development goals, your courageous defense of human rights, a reinvigorated peacekeeping structure, and the most ambitious agreement in history to fight climate change.

I should point out, we're not the only ones who are grateful for the Secretary-General's leadership. A village on the island of Samoa declared him officially a crown chief and prince—[laughter]—which I believe is a title that you can keep for life. There's no term limit to that. [Laughter]

So let me propose a toast: To the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, who in his seventh decade still embodies what Robert Kennedy famously called the "qualities of youth; not a time of life, but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, and a predominance of courage over timidity." That aptly describes our Secretary-General. We are grateful for his service. We are grateful to his team. The world is better for him. Cheers.

[At this point, President Obama offered a toast.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. in the North Delegates' Lounge at United Nations Headquarters.

## Remarks at a Roundtable Discussion on Refugees With Business Leaders in New York City September 20, 2016

As I discussed in my speech earlier today before the General Assembly, our international system is facing a number of challenges, none of which can be solved by a single country. And for that matter, none of which can be solved solely by governments. Obviously, we expect governments to take the lead on major transnational challenges, but for us to be able to mobilize the private sector,

NGOs, and others is absolutely vital to maximize our impact.

And that's why we're convening today a summit of 50 nations to make new commitments to address a growing refugee crisis, not just in Europe, which has received the most attention, but around the world. And what we have represented here is the results of what we launched—what we call "A Call to Action"—to