

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

encourage companies to contribute not just money but their unique expertise. And as you can see, some extraordinary companies and individuals have answered the call.

I want to thank Secretary Penny Pritzker, Ambassador Power, and my national senior—my Senior Adviser, Valerie Jarrett, for bringing these leaders together here today. I'm pleased to announce that 50 companies, large and small, have stepped up and committed more than \$650 million, including in-kind contributions that are all designed to help empower more than 6.3 million refugees across more than 20 countries.

Microsoft, TripAdvisor, HP, Google, something called the Clooney Foundation for Justice—I don't know what that is—[laughter]—among others. They're going to help children get an education, including in refugee camps: all together, educational opportunities for more than 80,000 refugees. You have companies like Accenture, Western Union, and LinkedIn that are going to help with internships, skills training and job placement. Newton Supply Company, a small business in Texas that makes handbags, is going to make 90 percent of their bags with local refugees.

So today's commitment means that we're going to be creating employment opportunities for more than 220,000 refugees.

Meanwhile, companies like Micro—MasterCard, Johnson & Johnson, Goldman Sachs, and Airbnb are going to help refugees become more self-sufficient by getting online, accessing aid, finding housing, health care, and financial services. And the private sector is also driving change through investment. For example, George Soros and the Soros Fund Management is making an extraordinary investment of up to \$500 million in companies that come up

with sustainable long-term solutions to help refugees.

So, for these companies to put themselves out there on behalf of the most vulnerable citizens in the world is not just an extraordinary gesture of compassion, but I think it's also a recognition that, for those of us who benefit from this increasingly integrated global society, we can only sustain what we do to the extent that we're making sure that the least of these, the most vulnerable among us, also have hope, also have opportunity.

And as a consequence, I want to thank them for doing good, but I want to emphasize that, from their perspective, this isn't charity, this is part of their overall mission and makes good business sense.

I suspect, as well, that there's some around this table who, themselves, were displaced, were immigrants, recall what it's like, maybe, leaving a place they called home in search of a better life. And as I said today, if there's one thing that I hope comes out of today, it is a shared understanding that the children we see in these refugee camps are as precious as our children. Somebody loves them just as much. And hopefully, we can begin to see through their eyes and imagine what it might be like to not be able to control the safety, the education, and the opportunity that we provide our kids and take for granted.

So thank you all for the extraordinary work, and thanks for helping to tell the story. All right? Thank you guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in Conference Room B at United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to George Soros, chairman, Soros Fund Management, LLC.

Remarks at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in New York City September 20, 2016

Thank you. Well, Yusra, we could not be prouder of you, not just for the great introduction, but more importantly, for your courage and your resilience and the great example that you're setting for children everywhere, includ-

ing your 8-year-old sister, who I know must look up to you.

Good afternoon. Mr. Secretary-General, Your Excellencies, we are here because, right now, in crowded camps and cities around the