



THE PRIME MINISTER

Oslo, 9 September 2015

Dear Secretary-General

The conflict in Syria is now in its fifth year. While it is of course imperative to find a political solution to the conflict, in the meantime the humanitarian cost of the conflict is rising every day. There is an urgent need for the international community to respond not only in words but also in deeds.

As you are well aware, we are facing the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Syria's neighbouring countries have shown tremendous solidarity and taken in more than 4 million refugees. The impact this has had on these societies, both politically and economically, is enormous – and it is increasing. We, the rest of the international community, must now intensify our efforts to respond to the humanitarian crisis.

At the same time, we are facing a situation in which UN appeals are gravely underfunded. Only 40 % of the funding needed for the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) has been forthcoming, while for the Syria Response Plan this figure is only 31 %. There is a need for an unprecedented effort to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees, assist the neighbouring countries, and reach all those in need inside Syria.

Norway would therefore like to offer to host a donor conference to raise humanitarian funds for Syria and Syria's neighbouring countries. I believe that the current momentum can and must be used to mobilise a broad range of donors.

If you are willing to support our initiative, we will contact the main donor governments and the governments of Syria's neighbouring countries, with a view to convening a donor conference in the near future. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erna Solberg'.

Erna Solberg

Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General United Nations  
New York