

## 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

### Agenda Item 3: High-Level Segment on Solidarity and Burden-Sharing with Countries Hosting Syrian Refugees

#### Outline of opening remarks by António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*(Geneva, 30 September 2013)*

In his opening remarks to the High-Level Segment, the High Commissioner will provide a brief general overview of the challenges facing refugee hosting countries and outline the Segment's objective of mobilizing more international solidarity and burden-sharing with these States.

- Situation of Syrian refugees in the region: overview of refugee numbers in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt; praise for the generosity of hosting countries.
- Impact of the refugee presence on hosting countries: proportional share of refugees in Lebanese population; refugee presence further compounds economic and security impact of the Syria crisis; pressure on local authorities and host communities in all services; budgetary impact on host governments.
- Appeal for a political solution to the conflict
- Humanitarian and non-political focus of the High-Level Segment
- Appeal for international solidarity with host countries: humanitarian and development assistance supporting refugee hosting communities; call to action for bilateral development programmes and international financial institutions; appeal to grant all Syrians access to protection at international borders; outline of burden-sharing mechanisms such as resettlement and humanitarian admission in third countries.

*24 September 2013*