Has the World Forgotten about Refugees? In UN post-2015 development framework.

This week, in early July, 2015, multiple historic refugee crises are all over the news. The number of refugees around the world is exploding, including over 4 million from Syria, over 4.6 million from Afghanistan, and over 1.3 million from Ukraine, among many other groups. Thousands of people, including many families, are fleeing from their homes and into neighboring countries every day.

This is the reality of what is happening in today's world: conflict, violence, and extremism creating a global humanitarian crisis, threatening the survival of many families, whole societies, and even the planet itself.

Women, children, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable, and are disproportionately impacted in the refugee crisis. As a mother and refugee myself, I strongly believe that the voices of the world's refugees must be heard, after being ignored for centuries. Now is the time to put our energy into finding innovative solutions, which are urgently needed by vulnerable refugees.

I would like to draw attention to the importance of preventing and reducing armed conflict and violence, and promoting the human security agenda within the post-2015 development framework. We have been working so hard to take bold steps to shift the world onto a sustainable path. Our collective journey must be based on a commitment to the credo, "No one left behind."

But a forgotten population of "refugees and internally displaced persons" remains a challenge for the post-MDG framework. This forgotten population must not be left behind. The phrase "We the peoples of the United Nations," which begin the charter that established the UN 70 years ago, should be understood to include "we the women," "we the children," and "we the refugees." The charter goes on to list as its first and greatest purpose, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Peace and global security must always remain the UN's highest calling.

Unfortunately, the institutions of the UN have largely been captured by governments that do not represent the diversity of the world's peoples. Most especially, the needs, rights and interests of women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples, and other minorities are severely underrepresented. This is particularly true of women, who make up more than half of the world's population, but continue to be underrepresented in the decisionmaking processes that shape their lives and influence whether war or peace will reign for their families and societies.

We need better collective solutions to one of our world's most challenging and urgent rising problems: the burgeoning refugee crisis. We want to heal and secure our planet for the present, and for the future.

Thank you.