

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you for being here today, and for gathering to address the challenges of migration

This is not an issue countries can deal with in isolation. It must be tackled collectively, and—crucially—humanely.

We are shocked by the scale of the violence and suffering inflicted upon people: those trapped in legal limbo by state restrictions, those trapped in arbitrary detention, those abused by traffickers

These official policies are deepening the suffering of millions

We must face reality: inhumane policies designed to deter migration do not stop people on the move. These policies strengthen the corrupt officials and criminal gangs who profit from vulnerable people. These policies criminalize and throw vulnerable people into the hands of those who ruthlessly exploit them

Whether these policies are simply ill-informed, or are the manifestation of deliberate collusion with corruption and criminality, the result is the same: they fail to stop migration - and they kill people

As international president of Médecins Sans Frontières, I've witnessed harrowing scenes. Some of them were in detention

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consultations for migrants and refugees in Mexico are related to physical injuries or intentional trauma

It's the same story everywhere that people are on the move. Extreme violence or desperation at home makes the inherent, horrible risks that accompany fleeing worthwhile. It is the

Lives depend on it

Thank you

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