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HAS

Economic and Social Council
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

17 - 19 June ·2015
Palais des Nations, Geneva

SYNTHESIS

United Nations

2015 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

1. Summary

This year's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) took place from 17 to 19 June at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC. The segment engaged the humanitarian community and Member States and built on lessons learned from previous years. The segment included two high-level panel discussions, a general debate, 25 high-level events, interactive dialogues and side events. The third Humanitarian Trade Fair showcased 25 projects in the halls of the Palais des Nations. The segment was a forum for Member States to take stock of humanitarian challenges and discuss how to adapt and better respond to the changing humanitarian landscape. The topics of the panels and side events were designed to align with the themes from the Secretary-General's annual report on *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations* and to contribute to preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

The segment concluded with the adoption of a consensus resolution, co-facilitated by Switzerland and Bangladesh, which will feed into the humanitarian omnibus resolution during the seventieth session of the General Assembly at the end of this year, leading into the WHS.

The discussions during the HAS focused on the following: 1) the factors that have stretched the humanitarian system to its limits, with needs at an all-time high (escalating, complex and protracted crises as the new norm; massive, forced displacement, with humanitarians as the default responders; increasing violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and lack of accountability; the impacts of mega trends such as climate change, urbanization and severe food insecurity; and new disease outbreaks testing fragile national systems), 2) a clear message emerged that business as usual will not work. Investment in new approaches is urgently needed to fundamentally shift the prevailing paradigm (including by improving the humanitarian-development nexus, effectiveness, innovation, risk management, multi-year planning approaches and interoperability; building resilience and empowering affected people; diversifying funding models and leveraging new sources from the private sector, diaspora, emerging economies and faith-based groups, while recognizing that increased funding alone will not provide the solutions).

Third, the WHS was a focus of discussions and is seen as a seminal platform for addressing key humanitarian challenges and driving change. A key message throughout was the need for stronger links with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people, and to ensure the international system is fit to respond to current and future challenges. The WHS was a prominent theme in the General Debate, as well as in a dedicated side event that included the participation of the Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Mr. Stephen O'Brien. In both forums, the WHS was recognized as an important initiative and contribution to making humanitarian assistance and the system more inclusive and effective. It was seen as coming at a crucial point for identifying ways to bridge the gap between growing needs and existing resources.

General Debate

During the General Debate, Member States held a general discussion on the theme of *The future of humanitarian affairs: Towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness*. Highlighting the increasing gap between humanitarian needs and resources, several States stressed that without further high-level political commitment to address the root causes of humanitarian crises, the system would not be able to cope with exponentially increasing demands. Numerous delegations emphasized that protracted crises had become the new norm and continued to call for stronger links between humanitarian and development work, noting that the humanitarian framework should not be divorced from the global development agenda.

Regarding natural disasters, several States highlighted the need to strengthen disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience, taking into account national and regional capacity-building needs, and voiced their support for the Sendai Framework. Many speakers also called for strengthened resilience-building measures and enhanced capacities to deal with natural disasters, stressing in particular the humanitarian impacts of climate change, increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, El Niño effect and related water and food scarcity.

In respect of conflict situations, several delegations continued to recall humanitarian principles, while some stressed the primacy of affected States in initiating and coordinating humanitarian assistance and the need to respect State sovereignty. Numerous speakers called on parties to conflict to fulfil their obligations under IHL and condemned attacks against civilians, humanitarian personnel, hospitals, schools, civilian objects and essential infrastructure.

High-level panels

Two high-level panels were held: *Addressing capacity and resource challenges through humanitarian financing*, and *Protecting civilians by upholding international humanitarian law*. The panels were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Khiari and moderated by USG and ERC Stephen O'Brien.

A key message from the humanitarian financing panel was that the funding gap will not be closed merely by increasing funding from more sources. Collective actions based on coordinated strategies are needed to not only save lives, but to also reduce and eliminate needs and bring about self-reliance. A move towards multi-year planning and financing will contribute to effectiveness. Prevention and resilience are needed, as is the use of a wider range of financing mechanisms, such as insurance, loans, budget support and guarantees. Bangladesh called for a paradigm shift from life saving to ensuring livelihoods and achieving national ownership. Algeria and Ethiopia called for humanitarian financing to include a broad-

er context with disaster risk reduction and building resilience. The United Kingdom said it was unsustainable that the majority of humanitarian funding is going to protracted crises, and it called for longer-term predictable instruments.

The panel on protecting civilians by upholding IHL stressed that IHL is more relevant than ever. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, highlighted the unacceptable duration of armed conflicts, and noted the lack of political engagement as the reason for this. He reminded delegates that the core objective of humanitarian work is to engage all parties in order to reach more people through dialogue and neutrality, and that this engagement should not be seen as legitimizing parties. Other panellists also noted the important link between human rights, IHL and the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to protect civilians. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the ICC, called for robust political commitment to ensure compliance and accountability, and she called on States to fully assume their primary responsibilities regarding IHL. She especially stressed the need for the Security Council to play a more consistent and constructive role. On the issue of immunity, she reminded participants that the Court was set up precisely to reach people who were deemed unreachable, and that while there is diplomatic immunity for official acts, there is no immunity for crimes outlined in the Rome Statute. ICRC reminded participants of their joint initiative with Switzerland, to improve compliance with IHL. This initiative was supported by the United States, Sweden and Norway. Algeria and South Africa, echoing some panellists, called for an end to the double standard of intervention and the application of IHL. Canada said that no one should be silent and passive, and it called on States to exercise accountability and cooperate with the ICC to enable it to fight impunity effectively.

High-level events, interactive dialogues and side events

Two high-level events took place on the eve of the segment (16 June). They gathered high-level representatives of UN agencies and Governments to discuss the future of humanitarian action and the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. For the first time, two interactive dialogues were organized on the topics of humanitarian financing and North and South NGO collaboration. Twenty-one side events, led by humanitarian partners and Member States, reviewed various topics, such as the strategic use of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); the future of humanitarian coordination; cash transfers in humanitarian response; migration and refugee flows in North Africa and the Mediterranean; gender and the role of affected people in humanitarian action; several aspects of protection and access; and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Humanitarian Trade Fair

The Humanitarian Trade Fair, now in its third year, received positive feedback for demonstrating that the advancement of the normative framework is really about enhancing the lives of millions of affected people throughout the world and not an abstract endeavour. Through the display of humanitarian materials, demonstrations, film and photos in the halls of the Palais des Nations, the exhibits showcased the real and difficult conditions faced in conflict and natural disaster settings and practical innovations responding to needs.

Voices of affected people

A primary objective of this year's segment was to ensure the voices of crisis-affected people were heard. This was particularly successful through the participation of two affected people from Chad: Ms. Fatime Abdoulaye Izam and Mr. Idriss Moussa Saleh. Both fled violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) and returned to their country of origin, Chad, where they are now living in refugee camps. Through their interventions in the opening of the segment, high-level panel discussions and side events, they underscored the centrality of protection, respect for IHL, and the need for local communities to be at the centre of humanitarian planning and response.

2. Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. The report is also submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 69/135 and ECOSOC resolution 2014/13. The report covers January to December 2014. The report describes major humanitarian trends and challenges, and it analyses a number of thematic issues, including meeting capacity-and-resource challenges through humanitarian effectiveness, risk management approaches, changes to humanitarian financing, adherence to IHL and principles, and addressing access and protection concerns. The report provides an overview of current efforts to improve humanitarian coordination and response.

The report featured a summary of the major humanitarian responses in 2014, including responses to Level 3 emergencies in CAR, Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and the continuation of other crises that caused tremendous suffering and dominated 2014. More than 76 million people were targeted to receive humanitarian assistance in 31 countries, and nearly US$11 billion in funding was received for inter-agency appeals. The continuing high level of demand for relief, the international community's collective inability to resolve protracted conflicts and the convergence of various global trends led to more frequent and intense humanitarian crises, and severely hindered the operational and financial capacity of Governments and humanitarian organizations to respond adequately.

By the end of 2014, 38 million people were internally displaced by armed conflict and generalized violence, as reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, by mid-2014 the global refugee population was 18.1 million.

The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters recorded 271 natural disasters, which claimed an estimated 6,400 lives, affected 102 million people and caused damage worth over $85 billion. Asia continued to be the most affected region, with almost half of the recorded natural disasters occurring in the region, accounting for 80 per cent of all deaths.

In 2014, Member States, observers and public entities contributed more than $479 million to CERF — the highest-ever annual total. The ERC allocated $461 million for life-saving humanitarian activities in 45 countries and territories. More than 90 per cent went to complex emergencies and 10 per cent was allocated in response to natural disasters. Country-based pooled funds received more than $500 million from 22 Member States and allocated $453 million to humanitarian actors in complex emergencies and natural disasters in 17 countries.

The report presented challenges including the continued lack of compliance with IHL and human rights law and accountability for violations. Nearly 80 per cent of humanitarian work takes place in conflict-affected countries and regions. On a daily basis, non-State actors and Governments directly attack civilians and deny assistance to people in need, in violation of IHL and with impunity. It has become increasingly difficult for humanitarians to gain access to people in need and to meet the protection needs of people.

The report called for continued and strengthened adherence to IHL and human rights law, while addressing the political and underlying conditions that cause and prolong humanitarian needs. More can be done by all actors to address humanitarian challenges. Improved humanitarian effectiveness, risk management with multi-year planning, and better leveraging of humanitarian financing could help meet increasing needs. However, without a substantially stronger political commitment to addressing the underlying causes of humanitarian crises, it will not be possible to cover constantly increasing needs.

The report recognized the unique opportunities presented by the WHS, the post-2015 development framework and the disaster risk reduction framework, a new climate agreement, and a new urban agenda to better address the global challenges common to development and humanitarian action.

3. Official Programme

3.1 Economic and Social Council Event to Discuss Transition from Relief to Development: Supporting the Transition from Relief to Development: Promoting Recovery and Resilience

17 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The ECOSOC joint informal event of the humanitarian and operational affairs segments on the transition from relief to development, titled *Supporting the transition from relief to development: Promoting recovery and resilience*, focused on progress, challenges and lessons learned based on the experiences from the resilience-based approach used for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's response to the Syrian refugee crisis, as well as to the recovery efforts in the countries affected by the Ebola crisis, with particular focus on the experience from Sierra Leone.

The panel was co-chaired by the Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador María Emma Mejía Vélez and H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari, and moderated by Ms. Flavia Pansieri, Vice Chair of the United Nations Development Group. The panel included H.E. Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Republic of Sierra Leone; Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sierra Leone; Dr. David Nabarro, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola; H.E. Mr. Imad Fakhoury, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; and Mr. Edward Kallon, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan. The panel presentations were followed by a discussion with Member States.

The panel highlighted the experience of Sierra Leone, which had been afflicted by an unprecedented health crisis in May 2014 due to the Ebola epidemic. Hard-won development gains were reversed, and the anticipated growth rates for 2014 and 2015 were reduced dramatically. Three-thousand people lost their lives out of 8,500 affected, including 200 health workers.

This required a radical rethink of how to rapidly transition a development programme into an emergency health response, and then how to put the country back on the road to sustainable development. For the UN, all regular programmes were redirected to fight Ebola, based on a programme-criticality exercise and a risk analysis and business-continuity plan. The UN Country Team (UNCT) had established thematic leads for joint work on the key components of the Ebola response in support of Government leadership. All parties recognized the need for strong national coordination of the emergency. The social mobilization led by the Government had shown community capacities to tap into, which had been underutilized before the crisis.

The crisis revealed chronic weaknesses in the country's systems. It was clear that recovery could not be put on hold but should be sequenced in tandem with recovery-and-development efforts. A national strategy with two phases had been developed: a phase focusing on meeting the immediate recovery needs to bring the country back towards the agenda for prosperity, and a phase for the longer-term building of systems for resilience in key areas.

An Ebola recovery assessment was undertaken, which combined the expertise of a broad cross section of experts from the UN, World Bank, European Union and African Development Bank. It had been instrumental in consolidating the range of Ebola-related assessments and analyses, and developing a synthesis of critical resilience-based recovery challenges and opportunities.

The panel stressed that the humanitarian crises in the Middle East could not be dealt with in isolation from other development and resilience concerns, since their impact had widespread effects over host communities, institutions and systems. Without a political solution to the Syria crisis, the crisis would be further exacerbated. In Jordan alone, there were over 620,000 refugees, 80 per cent of whom resided in host communities.

Recognizing that traditional humanitarian assistance was neither sustainable nor sufficient in a situation where the majority of refugees were living in urban areas and accessing services alongside Jordanians, the Government had spearheaded a resilience-based response that brought together humanitarian and development efforts in a single national framework to benefit refugee and host communities. The Jordan Response Plan was ground breaking in that it bridged the gap between humanitarian aid as a rapid-response measure and more medium- and long-term development action. The UNCT in Jordan had aligned its regular programming framework, moving from a traditional UN Development Assistance Framework to the UN Assistance Framework, UNAF 2015-17. This also constituted a milestone for the UNCT in implementing the standard operating procedures for countries adopting the Delivering as One approach.

The aim of the resilience-oriented approach was twofold: to ensure that shocks and stresses did not lead to a long-term deterioration in the well-being of a particular person, household, system or institution; and to build capacity to absorb future shocks and deal appropriately with related stresses. The Jordan Response Plan, however, was extremely underfunded, with only 12 per cent received for its refugee-and-resilience element. The international community had long called for greater coherence between the two spheres, and this initiative was a collective endeavour to which the international community held a joint responsibility to deliver. A flexible aid architecture had also been established,

including through the establishment of the Jordan Resilience Fund, a multi-partner trust fund launched by the Government and the UN. In addition, the possibility of accessing concessionary loans and grants from international financial institutions were being explored.

In the discussion that followed, there was appreciation that the approaches were not 'business as usual'. Each crisis should be managed on a case-by-case basis, but important lessons were being learned and should help guide future approaches to bridging humanitarian and development efforts.

A number of commonalities emerged from the discussion:

First, the discussion stressed the need to sequence the relief, recovery and development efforts in a simultaneous manner, and to work as one in people-centred and joined-up approaches.

Second, the emphasis on national ownership and leadership of the response was repeatedly stressed as key, and the experiences in Sierra Leone and Jordan were strong examples. The need for multiple actors to engage in such multidimensional responses was recognized, but the need for discipline in how to work with Government leadership was key.

Also raised was the importance of community involvement and tapping into existing capacities, along with the need to focus on capacity-building, including of institutions.

Finally, financing was recognized as an area where the international community still needed to more consistently follow through in supporting the new innovative aid architectures, which were collectively being requested but not collectively delivered. Greater accountability and transparency were needed, and an increased use of multi-partner trust funds as a means to ensure strategic responses.

Maria Emma Mejia Velez, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, opened this informal, joint event and she stressed the need to include a development perspective when dealing with humanitarian crises and conflict situations. She encouraged panellists to use their previous experiences in the fight against Ebola and the humanitarian crisis in Syria when reflecting on the transition from relief to development.

Flavia Pansieri, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, moderated the discussion and stressed that relief and development need to be pursued simultaneously. Humanitarian and development actors need to work together, and development efforts must be integrated from the beginning of the planning of the humanitarian response.

Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, related how the Ebola disease had unprecedentedly reversed the development achieved over the years. This was despite remarkable economic growth and development efforts on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone, which had led to a 15.2 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product in 2012.

David McLachlan-Karr, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sierra Leone, explained the United Nations role in combatting the spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone, and he recognized the important role of the Government and its strong National Coordinative Mechanism. The cost of the Ebola recovery effort is enormous. Resources are still needed and the international community has to sustain this effort.

David Nabarro, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola, said that Ebola is a horror story and is still not over, especially in parts of Sierra Leone and Guinea. Such a type of public health crisis will occur again, and so it is important that we, as a global community, help nations build better resilience systems.

Imad Fakhoury, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan, said that the Syrian crisis is not only a refugee issue but a national resilience issue, particularly for Syria's neighbours who together have absorbed nearly 4 million refugees, in addition to other aspects of the spillover from the crisis that has wrought havoc on the entire region.

Edward Kallon, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Jordan, said that the lack of a political solution in the Syrian crisis will continue to exacerbate the situation. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, the Government and the international community continually discuss a number of politically sensitive issues. Business as usual will not suffice, and there is a requirement for a shift in assistance culture.

During the discussion, Ethiopia noted that most of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries without sufficient aid from developed countries. Turkey praised the movement to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development efforts, and it asked that existing capacity in the affected areas be used or, if needed, built up.

Concluding remarks

Kaifala Marah said that it is important to ensure that development partners align their aid with what is already on the ground. Capacity needs had to be mapped out in national emergency response plans, so that if a cholera outbreak happened tomorrow, countries would have the capacity to deal with it.

David McLachlan-Karr said that the current system is still in silos, and it is difficult to get funding to go from humanitarian to devel-

opment. Thus, the international community should explore the sequence in more depth, perhaps through a multi-partner trust fund. He added that sustainable development requires the private sector as a genuine partner in recovery.

David Nabarro made four concluding points. First, people-centred approaches that combine preparation, reparation, response and recovery are what Member States are asking for and what is needed. Second, when it comes to financing, greater accountability and transparency of funds are needed as a means to ensure strategic responses. Third, regarding responding to crises and supporting recovery, discipline is needed in a way in which different actors work, with a major emphasis on coordination at all times. Fourth, to advance coordination efforts, businesses have to be continuously involved.

Saleh Al-Kharabsheh, Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan, said that donors and agencies must come together and coordinate in the most efficient way in order to make use of limited financial resources. He called for efforts to mitigate the negative impact of hosting such a large number of refugees.

Edward Kallon called on Member States to work on new modalities to support mid-income countries, such as Jordan, to cope with the impact. He suggested that concessionary loans are needed to support the resilience of their work. There is also a need for common pooled funds, such as the one in Jordan, to support the transition to development. He urged Governments, donors and the United Nations system to work together to build resilience in the country. He noted that without investment in resilience, most of Jordan's infrastructure will reach its breaking point.

Flavia Pansieri stated that every crisis is unique and needs to be looked at as such. However, all crises require authorities to take ownership of the crisis and its response. Such leadership can facilitate the coming together of other partners in a more coordinated mater. It is equally important to break the silos and view humanitarian and development tasks as a contiguous, not a continuous, set of tasks. She said that communities could either be part of the problem or, if dialogue is there, part of the solution. Institutional support is essential. Within the United Nations, flexibility is key in order for different partners to reach a common objective. She noted the shortage of funding and thus the need for national and international efforts to ensure necessary resources.

3.2 **Opening Session**
17 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

ECOSOC opened the HAS and held a general discussion on the theme titled *The future of humanitarian affairs: Towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness*. During the general debate, delegations emphasized the importance of disaster risk reduction, prevention and building resilience. The nexus between humanitarian assistance and development activities was thoroughly discussed. There was a clear call to provide assistance to the most vulnerable people, for whom the importance of unimpeded humanitarian access is a necessary precondition. The WHS was seen as a crucial point for finding ways to bridge the gap between growing humanitarian needs and the existing resources.

Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, noted that the demand for humanitarian assistance has risen to record levels. Humanitarian actors are being asked to do more and for more people than ever before, and increased needs must be met with additional funding and flexibility. Via video message, Sam Kutesa, President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, recalled the crucial importance of economic, social and environmental factors in the upcoming sustainable development agenda. He reminded participants that the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized people must be properly addressed.

Fatime Abdoulaye Izam and Idris Moussa Saleh, Chadian returnees from CAR, shared their experiences, expressing appreciation for the humanitarian aid they receive in Chad, while emphasizing the importance of economic self-sufficiency. Ms. Izam stated that women like her are often the most affected by humanitarian crises, but their voices are frequently not heard. Born in Chad, she subsequently moved to CAR. In 2013, during the violence, she lost her husband and four brothers. After spending a year in a refugee area, she arrived in Chad with five children and five orphaned nephews. Without the food she received, she would not have been able to feed her children. As a mother and a president of a women's organization, Ms. Izam is worried about all the displaced young people in Chad. Thanks to humanitarian aid they survive, but remain in limbo. She stated that further support to gain employment, education and sustainable housing is needed. She noted that access to Chadian citizenship is vital to socioeconomic integration. People should be helped so that they can eventually be self-sufficient. She said that people do not want to remain dependent, but instead want to contribute to the economy.

Mr. Saleh recounted that he had spent almost all his life in CAR until the outbreak of violence in 2013. When violence first began in Bangui, he refused to leave because he was not guilty of anything. After experiencing a violent incident, he left the country and relocated to Chad with help from the Government of Chad. Like many others, Mr. Saleh lost everything in CAR and has no bearings in Chad. Despite the assistance provided in Chad, the family's living conditions are difficult. Their future is full of uncertainties; instead of being self-sufficient, he and his family now depend on humanitarian aid. He expressed gratefulness to the Chadian authorities and citizens for providing help.

The ERC, Stephen O'Brien, presented the Secretary-General's report, *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations*. He noted that humanitarian needs are at an all-time high: $18.8 billion is now needed to meet the needs of tens of millions of people around the world, but only about 26 per cent of that amount is funded thus far. Despite the collective efforts year after year, it is impossible to keep up with growing demands, especially with more protracted crises than ever before. Part of the answer l ay in reforming and diversifying the funding model, which is why the Secretary-General has established his high-level panel on humanitarian financing. Closer relationships with development actors, particularly in protracted crises, should be developed. Multi-year plans for protracted crises should be made and include the end-of-the-emergency phase. Governments and parties to conflict bear the primary responsibility to protect and provide for the needs of people under their control, but this is not always the case. He further remarked that there is a pervasive and widespread atmosphere of impunity. Global leadership is needed, and preparations are well under way for the WHS in Istanbul in May 2016. Mr. O'Brien highlighted that the summit will be a global rallying call for humanity, putting principles and affected people at the centre of the joint response.

3.3 **General Debate**
17 and 19 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

South Africa, speaking on behalf of Group 77 and China, said that it hoped the debates would enhance an integrated humanitarian response and provide new tools and effective ways to improve humanitarian assistance. Member States should continue to provide humanitarian assistance in full adherence to neutrality, impartiality and independence. Risks of forced environmental migration are real. It is therefore necessary to consider forced environmental migration place in the development and humanitarian assistance agenda.

Latvia, speaking on behalf of the European Union, stated that the European Union and its 28 Member States are deeply committed to saving lives and alleviating suffering through humanitarian aid. The European Union remains the world's biggest humanitarian donor. Humanitarian needs worldwide continue to grow, with further deterioration and protracted displacement situations. The current system is no longer adapted for challenges and is under attack by those who have no respect for humanitarian and human rights law. Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the Geneva-based African Group on

Humanitarian Affairs, said that the sobering statistics in the Secretary-General's report indicated that the number of people affected by humanitarian crises continues to grow exponentially. There is a multiplicity of humanitarian crises, both new and protracted, while funding is insufficient. The group views inclusiveness as a shared responsibility, and it called on countries to contribute in cash and in kind whenever possible. The group stressed that without further high-level political commitment to address the root causes of humanitarian crises, solving them remains impossible.

Canada, Chile, Ireland, Poland, Switzerland and the United States all highlighted the deterioration of protection and access to people in crisis situations and the erosion of respect for IHL. With some 59.5 million people living in displacement situations, the highest since the Second World War, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) called on the international community to be creative in its work and in how it worked together, notably in protection. Russia stated that the IHL regime has to be enhanced, a dialogue is needed and participants in conflict should be given a voice. Regarding access, Morocco called for aid to reach those who really need it and stated that blocking such aid is a reprehensible crime. Colombia said that States remain mainly responsible for actions on their territories. Cuba and Syria reminded participants that humanitarian actions must respect the sovereignty of independent States. Australia, Finland, Morocco and Sweden condemned the attacks on humanitarian workers and called for the protection of humanitarian and health-care personnel.

Ecuador and Ethiopia said that persistent poverty and hunger are huge challenges, and global humanitarian response requires synergies in responding to all those problems. Bangladesh stated that continuing natural and climate crises have accelerated underdevelopment and poverty and thus exacerbated the situation and the capacity of States to cope. Given the clear link between development and exacerbated humanitarian need, Mexico and the United States, among others, called for better coordination between relief and development efforts. As an example of the humanitarian and development link, using the example of the Ebola outbreak, Spain noted the importance of development, where structural weaknesses had exacerbated the spread of the disease. The Republic of Korea stressed that humanitarian assistance planning should be well linked to development planning from the initial stage. Sweden noted that with the current gap between resources and needs, development actors should help humanitarian actors.

Regarding protracted crises, Luxembourg said that prolonged crises have become the new norm, and today several major crises are juggled simultaneously. Given the duration of crises, capacity-building as well as strengthening the links of humanitarian and development work is required. Using the example of Syria, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that there is an entire generation of children who know nothing but the brutality of war, being deprived of their childhoods. Given the highly dynamic nature of humanitarian situations, UNICEF called for flexible and unearmarked funds, as more long-term, flexible financing will allow for the necessary flexibility to address longer-term needs. Thailand and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta stated that protracted conflicts must be addressed through political means.

Turkey said that hosting more than 1.8 million Syrian refugees is a huge humanitarian mission, and Iraq remains another humanitarian challenge that Turkey is facing at its borders. The influx of Syrian refugees is also affecting Jordan's socioeconomic situation, and Jordan noted that hosting millions of refugees is a heavy burden on host communities. Jordan highlighted that its response plan includes flexible financing modalities, but it remains severely underfunded. Jordan believes that humanitarian planning cycles needed to include predictability and flexibility of funding. Ethiopia asked the international community to help it deal with the Somalia refugee situation. Serbia stated that it is confronted with a series of humanitarian challenges and hosted the biggest number of refugees and IDPs in protracted displacement in Europe. Pakistan called for burden sharing with host countries while consulting with affected States.

Thailand stated that the situation of migrants around the world points to the need for numerous countries to cooperate while greater accountability and respect for human rights principles should be promoted. The International Organization for Migration stated that the world is facing an unparalleled level of human mobility – 1 billion, or one in every seven people – compounded by an unprecedented number of simultaneous crises, from armed conflicts, to political upheavals, to natural disasters, to abject poverty. The Holy See also highlighted these megatrends as leading to greater vulnerability and exposure to hazards.

On natural disasters, New Zealand stated that the Pacific was the region most likely to be affected by natural disasters globally. The long-term impact of recurrent natural disasters in the Pacific was significant, undoing hard-won development gains. Cuba, Japan and Spain stated their support for the Sendai principles. Japan stated that the Sendai Framework emphasized the importance of the guiding principles, including enhancement of investment in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and awareness for natural disasters and promotion of resilience at all levels. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said that the Sendai Framework requests countries to shift their focus from managing disasters to managing risks, and that such a shift requires a better understanding of risk in all of its dimensions of vulnerability and exposure. Argentina highlighted the essential need to build prevention tools and reduce risk factors. Bangladesh noted its continuing efforts to employ resilience-building measures and strengthen its capacities to cope with natural disasters.

Algeria emphasized that building local resilience and capacity was a key factor in securing the success of humanitarian assistance. Turkey added that putting people at the centre of all humanitarian action was important, and India reminded participants that closer attention must be paid to human dignity as a dimension of humanitarian assistance. IOM stressed that humanitarian assistance efforts should be needs driven, not mandate driven, involve people-centred approaches and be inclusive of all affected people, including migrants. The United Nations Population Fund called attention to the unique needs of women and children. It stated that women and children were up to 14 times more likely than men to die in a disaster, but that women and young people are typically both the first to respond to disaster and leading innovators of sustainable solutions for building resilience. Germany called for a better understanding of the role of local partners, while France highlighted the need for an inclusive system with the involvement of local actors. The Holy See said that to make humanitarian cooperation work, the particular context and related needs must be taken into account, as do the causes of emergencies and the available capacities to respond.

Kenya noted that while it is important to use local actors, humanitarian response cannot exclude international partnerships. South Africa stated that coordination between stakeholders has to be aligned through Government structures and led by Governments. Drawing on lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan and other natural disasters, the Philippines demonstrated that the success of humanitarian action depends primarily on how Governments lead and muster the collective strength of stakeholders. Nepal expressed gratitude for the international community's help in response to the earthquakes earlier this year, and it stressed that the local needs of the population have to be taken into account with long-term recovery-and-development efforts while building resilience. On resilience and early warning mechanisms, Chile called for strengthened efforts, including political commitment. Highlighting the importance of resilience, IFRC asked all interested stakeholders to take part in the co-creation of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, which builds collective capacity and accountability in enabling people, households and communities to build their resilience.

Honduras noted that the discussion on the future of humanitarian affairs was extremely timely, when the post-2015 development agenda was being finalized and the framework for disaster risk reduction had just been adopted. Zimbabwe stressed that the international humanitarian framework should not be divorced from the global development agenda. Brazil stressed that the allocation of funds for humanitarian ends is essential, but humanitarian operations cannot be detached from the SDGs. Colombia stressed the importance of the post-2015 development agenda in overcoming and dealing with the aftermath of environmental disasters. Ecuador, Indonesia and Ireland await the WHS, which could be a

singular opportunity to tackle the humanitarian conflict in a comprehensive manner. Russia welcomed the WHS as a place for all participants to share views with reference to the conditions in the current humanitarian system. Cuba stated that the follow-up to the results of the WHS had to be ensured, and it asked that the focus should not move from the countries most affected by humanitarian disasters, namely those in the South.

3.4 **Closing Session**
19 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

During the closing session, the resolution on *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations* (E/RES/2015/14) was adopted by consensus. H.E. Ambassador Khiari introduced the resolution, which encourages United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations to continue working together in close coordination with national Governments; stresses that the United Nations system should continue to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions; encourages United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to improve the humanitarian programme cycle; welcomes the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and encourages Member States to continue supporting adaptation to the effects of climate change and strengthening their early warning systems.

The resolution further calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under IHL, human rights law and refugee law, recognizes that funding needs to be more flexible to allow for a complementary approach, and welcomes the holding of the first WHS in Istanbul in 2016. The resolution also requests Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response. It urges them to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies; stresses the importance of understanding and addressing the different protection needs of affected people; calls upon Member States, relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants; recognizes that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance; and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance.

In his closing remarks, Mr. O'Brien reiterated that the facts are staggering: more than 114 million people around the world are currently dependent on humanitarian organizations for assistance and protection; the number of forcibly displaced people around the world has more than doubled in the previous three years to nearly 60 million; and 20 million people are at risk of hunger in the Sahel – including 1.4 million children who suffered from severe

malnutrition. He reminded participants that behind every number there is a human face: a girl, a boy, a woman, a man. A week earlier, there was a funding shortfall of $18.8 billion to meet the needs of 78.9 million people in 37 countries. With the launch of the Yemen appeal on the morning of the ECOSOC HAS closing, the needs now stood at $19.66 billion to support 82.5 million people. In the face of these challenges, he called for change, as business as usual is not an option.

Mr. O'Brien summarized some key messages that had emerged out of the discussions. They included the importance of national authorities being at the centre of the response; breaking down silos so that humanitarian and development responsibilities can happen simultaneously, as opposed to sequentially; and the crucial need to mobilize local communities as part of an effective response strategy. The funding gap would not be closed merely by increasing funding from more sources, but that effectiveness must be continuously improved, and there must be more transparency and accountability while demonstrating greater flexibility and predictability. The moral imperative to provide humanitarian assistance extends all the way to reducing and eliminating needs and ultimately bringing about self-reliance.

H.E. Ambassador Khiari stated that during the previous three days, the opportunity to listen to experts on those issues was enriching and informative. Twenty-three informal side events had been held on a broad range of important humanitarian issues, including lessons from the Ebola outbreak, the future of humanitarian civilian-military dialogue, bridging the humanitarian development divide in urban crises and private sector engagement in emergencies.

3.5 High-level panel: Addressing capacity-and-resource challenges through humanitarian financing
18 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Tunisia Moderator: Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists
- *Mr. Bård Glad Pedersen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*
- *Mr. Michel Lies, CEO, Swiss Re*
- *Mr. Richard Wilcox, Interim Director General, African Risk Capacity*
- *Mr. Kevin Jenkins, CEO, World Vision International*

In opening the panel, Mr. O'Brien said that halfway through 2015, the inter-agency appeal for 2015 is just 26 per cent funded. He highlighted that some appeals are funded at even lower levels; the appeal for the Sahel, for example, is just 19 per cent funded. The underfunding had a pitiful impact. It is so serious in Iraq that 77 clinics have closed. He reported that in Nepal, aid workers are making harsh decisions about whom to help with the available funding. Increased funding alone, however, is not the answer. Instead, fundamental changes must be made in the way all aid workers work. People are displaced for an average of 17 years, while an appeal spans an average of seven years.

> **The average time that people are displaced is 17 years, while the average span of an appeal is seven years.**
> **Stephen O'Brien, OCHA**

Mr. O'Brien stressed that several strategies must be employed. First, the focus needs to be on building response capacity in local organizations. Second, the annual appeal model needs to be updated and moved towards multi-year planning and financing. Third, effectiveness ought to be improved. Finally, more funds need to be invested in research and development. Mr. O'Brien asked what the humanitarian community should be doing to make itself more attractive to donors, and what Governments and the private sector could do to adapt humanitarian financing to the current challenges.

Bård Glad Pedersen, State Secretary at Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that in the previous year in the Sahel, almost half a million children died due to malnutrition and common diseases. The fact that those children died of an easily preventable thing is a call to do more and to do better. The international humanitarian system is serving more needs than ever before, but

the global humanitarian appeal released this year experienced a record funding gap. Governments need to step up their financial response. It is not enough to mobilize traditional donors. More countries need to be included, including members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Increased participation from the private sector is also needed, and aid ought to be better coordinated. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also key partners, and local organizations are particularly important as they are present on the ground before and after crises. The best and most cost-efficient way to treat crises is to prevent them and find political resolutions and resilience measures to save lives. Funding procedures needed to be more flexible and fit the needs on the ground. There are many countries that are facing difficulties but are not qualified to receive humanitarian aid. He remarked that the United Nations could take a more coordinative role in this and break down existing silos.

> *There is a clear role for the insurance industry to contribute to a world where Governments and humanitarian organizations embrace a paradigm shift and use risk-financing instruments to leverage their own funds in the face of disasters.*
>
> **Michel Lies, Swiss Re**

Michel Lies, Chief Executive Officer of Swiss Re, said that until now only a few Governments have taken action to secure adequate financial protection. On average, 75 per cent of economic losses from natural catastrophes worldwide are not insured. That gap is even bigger in developing countries, which have neither established private insurances nor set up Government-led insurance solutions. There are some encouraging signs and a growing number of successful Government-led insurance programmes around the world in Mexico, Turkey, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands and across Africa. For example, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, established in 2007, provides catastrophe insurance to 16 Caribbean Governments. Since its inception, the facility has made 12 pay-outs for hurricanes, earthquakes and excess rainfall to eight member Governments, totalling more than $36 million. Mr. Lies stressed that there is a clear role for the insurance industry to contribute to a world where Governments and humanitarian organizations embrace a paradigm shift and use risk-financing instruments to leverage their own funds in the face of disasters. He reported that at the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2014, Swiss Re committed to advising 50 Governments on climate risk insurance and offered $10 billion of financial capacity by 2020.

Richard Wilcox, Interim Director-General of the African Risk Capacity and Member of the Secretary-General's Panel on Humanitarian Financing, said that his is a specialized agency that sets standards and reviews plans in case of risk. It provides coverage from droughts, cyclones and a number of diseases. The continent of Africa is diverse and affected by different weather systems, which is why there is a diversified risk portfolio and diverse agricultural systems that reduced the capital climate. African countries are aware of the need to pay for disaster management. The scale of coverage is huge: the cost of the total coverage is $6 billion a year for the entire continent. The proposal is for partners in the aid system to consider matching those funds. Senegal has paid $7 million for its policy, and Niger had paid out of its own national resources for its premium. However, there are limits to what can be achieved in the short term. If effectiveness is needed, aid partners have to match contributions. It would add incentives to countries and thus the international risk markets could be leveraged.

Kevin Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer of World Vision International, said that we were all individually and collectively responsible for a meaningful portion of the large and growing funding gap to humanitarian emergencies. NGOs have credibility with donors for many reasons, but there are also organizations that undermine this credibility. Donor fatigue is cited as a reason for the lack of funding, but there is no fatigue that could extinguish the passion for giving humanitarian aid. Whenever possible, increasingly scarce resources have to be channelled as efficiently as possible to those with the best capacity on the ground to use them, particularly to those with local relationships and credibility with affected people. He reported that World Vision has 24,000 staff locally, and thus works as a local and global actor. Different actors are in the donor field, and the growing importance of Turkey and Middle East partners needs to be recognized. He remarked that it is a time for brainstorming and innovation.

The panel presentations were followed by a discussion. Germany presented the conclusions of the interactive dialogue on humanitarian financing, held on the previous day as an ECOSOC HAS side event. Its conclusions included the need for a change in the national humanitarian architecture, the clarification of the role of international organizations, the organization of funding investments to create incentives for humanitarian development, the clarification of the remit of humanitarian actors, a better engagement of emerging donors, and building national, sub-national and regional mechanisms and capacities.

Mr. Pedersen said there is a need to recognize that the situation today is extraordinary compared with a few years earlier. There is no end in sight. Donor principles must be kept. He said that the impact of hosting refugees has to be recognized, not only in terms of required humanitarian funding, but also for development funding to ensure that the funding has a sustainable capacity. He stated that Norway is trying to increase flexibility in terms of development aid.

The World Bank reminded participants that more than 80 per cent of humanitarian disasters came from human beings and not from

> *The impact of hosting refugees has to be recognized, not only in terms of required humanitarian funding, but also for development funding to ensure that the funding has a sustainable capacity.*
>
> **Bård Pedersen, Norway**

natural disasters. What is missing in Governments' responsibilities was a Country Risk Officer position at the country level. Also, the World Bank identified social stability as preventing some conflict. It concluded that anticipation and prevention are key. Putting price tags on political decisions taken or not taken against climate change is also important. The bank highlighted that the annual cost of humanitarian response is more than the World Bank is able to invest in countries every year.

Bangladesh said that humanitarian assistance must be provided, but there is a paradigm shift from life saving to ensuring livelihoods and achieving national ownership. Therefore, transformation in the financial institutions at the national and global levels is required. Bangladesh asked how funding could best be channelled so that short- and long-term development needs are addressed without affecting development budgets. In response, Mr. Jenkins said that community members do not necessarily think in silos. NGOs, particularly World Vision, try to move as quickly as possible from relief to recovery and resilience, and try to build a relationship with donors over the years.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies asked how a trade-off between development and humanitarian funding could be avoided. It had to consider which funding would have the most impact. It reminded participants that it is important to move away from the one-size-fits-all solutions and to look into the specificities of conflict. The proximity of NGOs is crucial. It asked that donors demand transparency.

Algeria appealed for a more preventive approach, namely that peacebuilding, human rights and conflict prevention are important, noting that only 0.5 per cent of all international aid goes to preparedness activities. Algeria asked what priority actions could be taken in terms of funding to bridge the gap between relief-and-development efforts. In response, Mr. Wilcox said that national budgets are one place where humanitarian and development needs should be taken into consideration.

Switzerland said that development actors work in five-to-ten-year time frames, while humanitarians react immediately. Given this difference, Switzerland asked how that gap could be bridged, as those different dynamics and paces are not yet compatible. Switzerland asked the panellists to elaborate more on ways to work together.

Mr. Pedersen said that there are political, man-made catastrophes that last for years. Development actors cannot be expected to be there in one week, but they could definitely be present within one year. Better coordination is definitely needed among different actors.

Turkey said that the suffering and needs of people grow by the hour. Actors should not be left in the position of postponing life-saving operations, as people's most pressing needs must be met. Priority has to be given to the most vulnerable people. Turkey also asked how remittances could be used to help strengthen resilience.

The United Kingdom said that a majority of funding went to protracted crises, which is not sustainable, and it asked if there are longer-term predictable instruments that could be used. The United Kingdom stated that there is a need for coherence between humanitarian and development actors and offered that multi-sector cash transfers are one way to be more effective.

Mr. Jenkins concurred that cash transfers could be very effective. However, he noted that when the qualification of who should be eligible is not done well, there is room for unintended consequences, but in reality it is also a concrete way to show trust. He cautioned that in terms of participation by the population, actors like to talk about it, but it is difficult to involve populations. It requires some control to be given up and is thus complicated but certainly can give better results over time.

The EU said that new funding ideas are needed, such as tapping into new resources in the private sector. What is equally important is having trust in the system, so efficiency is also needed. The EU asked how impact could be measured in risk-based spaces. It remarked that cash-based solutions have been proposed, but there is also the question of tracking and all the different levels of financing flows.

Ethiopia said that the top five hosting countries of refugees are developing countries. Humanitarian financing has a broader context, when looked at from the aspect of disaster risk reduction and building resilience. When talking about humanitarian financing in conflict, there is still a lot of thinking to do, especially when talking about cash transfers.

Concluding remarks

Mr. Wilcox said that issues that cannot be anticipated in the long term had to be separated from those that had to be managed ad hoc. Mr. Lies stated that there are upcoming opportunities where all matters raised today could be discussed again. He added that there is room to add new donors, especially from the private sector. Mr. Pedersen said that there is a need to show what we are able to do with finances. Agendas are often affected by what was shown

on television, which is something to be reckoned with. Mr. Jenkins said that there are a number of great ideas on new sources of funding and insurance. Regarding the EU's comment on accountability, Mr. Jenkins said that if we can move from anecdotes to evidence, that could attract more reliable funding and more follow-up on funding, which could increase the size of the pie.

Mr. O'Brien closed the panel with a summary of the discussion. He recalled the enormous potential of insurance, the clear need for political actors to influence and pull development actors in, the need for humanitarian actors to focus on building capacity, and a desired move to multi-year planning in financing and investing in the long term. He stated that effectiveness needs to be improved, the whole process ought to be more accountable and predictable, and cash-based systems are good in that respect. Given the huge responsibility of hosting large numbers of refugees for many years, countries that host refugees must be heard. It is important to bear in mind that it is not a zero-sum game of humanitarian assistance versus development.

3.6 **High-level panel: Protecting civilians by upholdiing international humanitarian law**
19 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari,
Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Tunisia
Moderator: Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists
- *Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court*
- *Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General, United Nations*
- *Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*
- *Ms. Sima Samar, Chair, Afghanistan Human Rights Commission*
- *Mr. Jon Snow, Journalist, Channel 4 News*

In opening the panel discussion, Mr. O'Brien stressed that protecting civilians is one of the most pressing challenges faced by humanitarians. Across current conflicts, fundamental provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law are not just challenged but also blatantly disregarded. As a result, millions of lives are shattered around the world because of the climate of impunity. The Secretary-General's latest report on the protection of civilians makes it clear that the world continues to face immense challenges with respect to compliance. Attacks on civilians have become a method of warfare, and violence against humanitarian aid workers is growing. Over 1,800 incidents involving serious acts or threats of violence against health-care facilities or providers were documented in 2012 and 2013, and 270 humanitarian workers were killed, kidnapped or seriously wounded in 2014. Far from triggering mass international outrage, massacres of civilians and the displacement of entire communities have become a norm. Challenges to IHL compliance are not new, but what is new is the lack of will in the international

system to confront these challenges. A rule-based system aimed at collective action is clearly in the interest of all Governments, but there is little effective pressure on Governments and other parties to protect civilians and hold perpetrators accountable.

Mr. Saleh, who had fled from the violence in CAR to Chad in 2013, stated that his life would be much easier if IHL is respected. He recounted that after a violent incident in CAR, he began to feel unsafe. At home or on the street, one does not feel safe. It was only upon his arrival to Chad that he started to smile. He offered that what is needed is military humanitarian protection, which, according to him, remains the only hope. He said that it is crucial that IHL be taught to armed forces and groups, with the appropriate cultural references used to illustrate the universality of IHL. Mr. Saleh asked if we are losing empathy, individually and collectively. He also asked if perpetrators are becoming deaf to their crimes and the pain they cause. He called on each one of us to be indignant. Representatives of States and international organizations cannot remain silent or become deaf.

Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), highlighted the need to ensure accountability of perpetrators within the framework of the Rome Statute. The prosecution of those responsible, at international and national levels, serves as a stark reminder to would-be perpetrators that they too will be held to account. She stated that accountability contributes to prevention and enhanced protection. She posed the question: what role can the International Criminal Court play with regard to ensuring compliance and accountability? First, States should join the ICC to ensure universality. Second, States should adopt national legislation to implement the Rome Statute with integral parts in national penal codes and legal systems. Given that the ICC is a court of last instance, and that it is designed to investigate and try only those most responsible, it is the national systems that are the first line in the fight against impunity and in ensuring accountability. She called on institutions such as the United Nations Security Council to play a more consistent and constructive role. She stated that more attention must be dedicated to sexual and gender-based violence in situations of conflict, disaster and displacement, and perpetrators must be held accountable. It is also important to emphasize that the ICC's role is complementary to that of national jurisdictions, and that State parties have the primary responsibility to bring perpetrators to justice. As such, States need to fully assume their primary responsibilities and national justice systems need to be strengthened to do so.

Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), spoke of the most recent conflict in Gaza. He said that more than 2,000 Palestinians were killed, and many children will live with disabilities as a result of the conflict. Palestinians feel that the world has abandoned them, and that the expression "protec-

tion of civilians" is something they no longer want to hear. In a way, IHL is a benchmark system to measure the way war is waged, for example, through the number of civilians targeted and how they are targeted. States in the international community should prevent violations, and the international community has to avoid the use of double standards. The role of the United Nations community is key, and the work of UNRWA is a case in point. UNRWA called for investigations to be led, including by the Secretary-General and the Human Rights Council, and for other accountability mechanisms. Mr. Krähenbühl stressed that the length of armed conflicts, which last for two to three decades in some cases, should strike us all. There has been a wider debate that questions the relevance of IHL today, with conflicts dominated by groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram, but it must be remembered that military experts and diplomats who had negotiated the agreements following the Second World War saw the violence that man can inflict on man. States should respect IHL and work on its dissemination.

Sima Samar, Chair of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission, said that Afghanistan has already had 37 years of war. Over the years, the warring sides have changed, but the violations of IHL continue, and many groups with their own interests are involved, including Daesh and drug lords. Civilians continue to be casualties in Afghanistan. The main challenges are that IHL was established long ago, and it still has some weaknesses in terms of facing new types of attacks, such as drone attacks. Second, only the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is dealing with IHL, but the problem is much bigger and cannot be handled by only one agency. She noted that it is important to end impunity and therefore accountability is needed. She asked the international community to focus on poverty reduction, conflict prevention, human rights, promotion of social justice and reform of the judiciary systems.

Jon Snow, journalist for Channel 4 News referred to President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan. Mr. Snow said he deplored that a person who is a notorious perpetrator of crimes against humanity and on the most-wanted list was able to fly to South Africa and leave the country without being caught and held accountable for his crimes. He expressed that this marked a devastating failure for those who believe in IHL. He recalled that those who had reported the foundation of the ICC in Rome in 1998 had rejoiced, believing that a great institution was established, but nowadays many regard the ICC as a failure. He reported that some of the most devastating attacks on civilians have occurred since the ICC was established. Mr. Snow, who worked as a journalist in Iraq, said that he did not deny the Saddam Hussein dictatorship, but he believes a viable life of complexity and civilization was destroyed by the international community's intervention in Iraq. He remarked that ISIS was born because the delicate societal infrastructure was smashed and people have been radicalized, not by a preacher but with bombs. He said that those who perpetrated such actions are as guilty as anyone else that the ICC is looking at. He deplored the toll the

recent conflict in Gaza took on children. He stated that he believes that war involves taking a decision to kill civilians and children. Regarding claims by some that children in Gaza were used as human shields, Mr. Snow stated that he never witnessed children being used as human shields. He stressed that humanity was behind the ICC, people want to see criminals prosecuted for maiming, killing or wounding civilians. He closed by saying that we have no option but to make the court work.

During the discussion following the panel, ICRC said that in every armed conflict the basic needs of the civilian population, which include the provision of water, food and health care, are not met. In many cases, the warring parties are unable to provide these basic things to civilians. ICRC stressed that the main problem is not the lack of norms but the disregard of the existing ones. ICRC noted that it is working with Switzerland on a new system to improve compliance with IHL.

South Africa noted its constitution was underpinned by a bill of rights, which was one of the best in the world. It recounted that it had recently hosted the Summit of the African Union, whose attendees enjoyed diplomatic immunity, as in accordance with the Vienna Convention. South Africa further remarked that no Head of State had ever been arrested while attending a General Assembly session in New York, for example.

Ms. Bensouda stressed that the court could only work with the full support of States, as it has no enforcement arm. She added that States needed to respect the Statute of the ICC; that a sitting Head of State can be prosecuted; and the ICC was set up precisely to reach those who are deemed unreachable. She noted there is immunity for performing legitimate State functions, but there is no immunity for crimes outlined by the Rome Statute.

The United States stressed that IHL was highly relevant, and it stressed that more needs to be done to ensure compliance with IHL. This is why the United States is engaged in the consultation process led by ICRC aimed at improving compliance with IHL. Norway and Sweden also noted their support for this initiative of ICRC and Switzerland. Canada said that no one should be silent and passive; States must exercise accountability. This week, the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs urged all parties to the ICC to cooperate with the court in order to enable it to fight impunity effectively. UNICEF deplored that more children's rights have been violated than ever before, and targeting children has become the norm.

Angola stressed the socioeconomic consequences of war, and Cuba emphasized that more attention has to be paid to the root causes of conflict, which includes the lack of development, new forms of colonization, intervention and aggression against specific peoples.

Morocco said that the deadly nature of conflicts and the protection of civilians had to go hand in hand with combatting the proliferation of weapons and arms trafficking. It asked the international community to do more to get access to civilians.

Noting the double standard to intervene in some areas while not in others, and citing the 2014 conflict in Gaza as an example, Algeria asked how the international community can better protect civilians while at the same time respecting neutrality, impartiality and independence, as well as sovereignty and territorial integrity. In a related question, Canada asked how the Prosecutor saw the link between protection and advocacy on the one hand and the principle of impartiality on the other. Algeria and South Africa questioned what they perceived as the court's unfair targeting of Africa.

Norway stressed that institutional space is needed in order to have a regular dialogue on accountability and strengthening compliance with IHL. Norway asked how terrorist groups could be circumvented in order to reach civilians. New Zealand said that groups such as Al Qaeda, Daesh and Boko Haram are oblivious to IHL and asked what could be done to make those groups accountable. The United Kingdom asked panellists to comment on how compliance by non-state actors in the twenty-first century could be achieved.

Concluding remarks

Mr. Krähenbühl reminded participants that the core objective of engagement with all parties is not to legitimize parties but to reach more people through dialogue and neutrality. In Syria, UNRWA was able to reach all areas except those controlled by ISIS. UNRWA is, nonetheless, ready to engage in discussion with ISIS if it results in access to more civilians. He remarked that the lack of political engagement is why so many conflicts have continued for so long. The international community is engaged with humanitarian and military action, but neither addresses the root causes. The credibility and universality of IHL start at home. No matter how much a State or an actor preaches about IHL, the test is whether one is applying IHL to oneself.

> *The core objective of engagement with all parties is not to legitimize parties but to reach more people through dialogue and neutrality.*
>
> **Pierre Krähenbühl, UNRWA**

Ms. Samar said that IHL is relevant when applied fully, but there are new attacks that have to be looked at, including attacks by drones. She noted that access is getting more difficult everywhere, even for ICRC. She concluded that access to education, reduction of poverty, promotion of human rights, the fight against discrimination and the promotion of good governance would all help much more than providing bombs and guns.

> *Like the International Criminal Court, humanitarian actors are frequently wrongly accused of being politicized, and thus the impartial and independent nature of both institutions has to be emphasized.*
>
> **Fatou Bensouda, ICC**

Mr. Snow concurred that human rights begins at home. He noted that the ICC could never work fully unless it is comprehensively supported. However, there is a problem getting all States to sign the Rome Statute of the ICC. He stated that not signing the Rome Statute meant non-cooperation with IHL.

In response to the question raised on collaboration between Commissions of Inquiries and the Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Bensouda underlined the independence and impartiality of the office, even though it collaborates with other actors. She reported that it is not uncommon for the office to use reports published by other commissions. On the comment that most cases were coming from Africa, Ms. Bensouda stressed that such criticism was misplaced. She said that of the eight cases being looked at by the ICC, five were at the request of African States: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CAR, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. If a State is a party to the Rome Statute and does not investigate crimes on its own territory, the Prosecutor is mandated to step in and investigate. She said there are other cases that the court is currently looking at, including Georgia, Honduras and Palestine. She noted that it is also important to emphasize that, like the ICC, humanitarian actors are frequently wrongly accused of being politicized, and thus the impartial and independent nature of both institutions has to be emphasized. She recalled that the court has been criticized for not intervening in cases such as ISIS, but she reminded participants that neither Iraq nor Syria are parties to the ICC, and therefore the court has no jurisdiction in their territories.

> *Concepts of international humanitarian law need to be taught at home, at school and at times of peace.*
>
> **Mr. Saleh, Chadian returnee**

Mr. Saleh said that a challenge in terms of accountability is clearly emphasized. He called on all not to wait until a war has broken out, but that institutions need to be built in times of peace, when there is cohesion. He remarked that concepts of IHL needed to be taught at home, at school and at times of peace.

4. High-level events, interactive dialogues and side events

1. High-level event on South Sudan: the humanitarian crisis and its impact on the region
2. High-level event on the future of humanitarian action
3. Building a coalition for resilience
4. Engaging communities affected by conflict
5. Understanding the humanitarian dimension of refugee and migrant flows in North Africa and in the Mediterranean.
6. Learning the lessons from the West Africa Ebola Virus Disease outbreak
7. Principles in action: How do neutrality and independence contribute to humanitarian effectiveness?
8. Bridging the humanitarian-development divide in urban crises: Area-based approaches and disaster recovery frameworks - the way forward?
9. Scaling-up humanitarian cash transfers for the future
10. The power of business in emergencies - working together in preparedness and response
11. Interactive dialogue on humanitarian financing
12. Interactive dialogue on North and South NGO collaboration
13. The future of humanitarian affairs: the evolving role of CERF
14. Chad: A country on the cusp. Invest today, or pay the price of underfunding?
15. Shaping the future of humanitarian civil-military dialogue
16. Aid effectiveness: saving lives together
17. The role of crisis-affected women and girls in shaping an effective, inclusive and coordinated future of humanitarian affairs
18. Strengthening protection in humanitarian settings
19. Preparedness in a changing climate: Integrating climate risk into emergency preparedness
20. Devastating consequences – The use of explosive weapons in populated areas
21. Casualty recording for humanitarian action
22. The World Humanitarian Summit: Countdown to Istanbul
23. Counter-terrorism measures and principled humanitarian action
24. Protracted internal displacement: Rethinking the humanitarian response
25. The future of humanitarian coordination

4.1 **High-level event on South Sudan: the humanitarian crisis and its impact on the region**
16 June, European Union Delegation in Geneva

Sponsors: ECHO and OCHA

Objectives: enhance awareness of the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, including its impact on the region; address critical shortfalls in humanitarian funding requirements; and underscore the importance of finding a political solution to the conflict.

Panel: Christos Stylianides, European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management; Stephen O'Brien, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Nuur Mohamud Sheekh, IGAD, Senior Conflict and Humanitarian Advisor; Toby Lanzer, United Nations Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General/Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator; Yves Daccord, ICRC Director General; Jerome Oberreit, MSF President; and Emmanuel Douglas, Health Link

Discussion:
The panel expressed alarm at the unprecedented, intensifying and expanding consequences of the conflict and the worsening economic situation in South Sudan. They emphasized the urgent need for all parties to find a solution to the conflict. They noted with particular concern the fate of 750,000 civilians in southern Unity and Upper Nile states, who had been subject to egregious violence in recent months and to whom the humanitarian community has almost no access. Panellists appreciated the $800 million provided to support humanitarian operations in South Sudan so far this year.

Against a nationwide crisis of food insecurity affecting 7.9 million people, some 4.6 million people face severe food insecurity, more than at any time since the crisis began. Children are among the most vulnerable people. In half of the states, one third of the children are malnourished while hundreds of thousands are missing out on an education. Economic stress has rendered an estimated 610,000 people in urban areas, away from the conflict zones, at increasing risk of destitution, hunger and public-health threats. Panellists emphasized the regional dimensions to the crisis, with 570,000 refugees in neighbouring countries who urgently need assistance, while services and resources available to host communities are under increasing strain.

The discussion highlighted that humanitarian needs are increasing while aid operations are under threat. Participants expressed a deep sense of shock at the 13 humanitarians killed since the conflict began in December 2013. Humanitarian workers have also been abducted, harassed, detained and arrested. Humanitarian compounds, assets, convoys and supplies have been looted or destroyed. The Humanitarian Coordinator has been expelled. Grave violations of IHL have continued with impunity. Participants called for a fundamental shift towards upholding humanitarian principles and facilitating protection and assistance to those in need.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Resources are urgently needed to address high levels of food insecurity, disease epidemics and the needs of people rendered destitute by the recent fighting.
- Donors pledged $215 million in new funding.

4.2 **High-level event on the future of humanitarian action**
16 June, Maison de la Paix, Geneva

Sponsors: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Tunisia and OCHA

Chairs: Manuel Sager, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; and M. Belgacem Sabri, State Secretary, Migration Affairs and Social Integration, Tunisia

Moderator: Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panel: Peter Maurer, President, International Committee of the Red Cross; António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Michael Møller, Acting Director-General, United Nations Office in Geneva; and Kate Halff, Executive Secretary, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response

Discussion:

Given the current humanitarian challenges faced, the panel discussed the need to be more outcome-driven while keeping people's needs at the centre. In this regard, the panel noted the importance of understanding the drivers of need and working together to achieve better results, not just to meet short-term needs. The current approach is shaped by the perspective of States, and not sufficiently by the perspective of affected people. There is a lot of focus on systems and processes, rather than what we are trying to achieve. Acceptance of humanitarian workers and organizations in the field requires community support, which can only be obtained through open dialogue. It is often said that engaging women in needs assessments and response is not a life-saving priority, but given that crises are protracted and people live in these conditions for years and years – and the most vulnerable are women and children – it is imperative to include their needs assessments from the beginning in a strategic and systematic way. Community feedback is fundamental: a standard operating procedure is urgently needed. There is a need to continue investment in technology solutions and tools to communicate with people in remote areas in a two-way manner. Further, NGOs must delink communications with the public from fundraising efforts. The panel reminded participants

that we are accountable to people who, according to humanitarian principles, have a right to demand that we serve them.

The increasing interconnectedness of humanitarian, development, and peace and security issues was underscored. The panel remarked that while humanitarians must remain engaged and connected with other actors in order to meet the needs of affected people, the distinction of humanitarian principles and the autonomy of humanitarian space must be maintained. They highlighted that humanitarian crises are now systemic, long term and structural. Therefore, humanitarian and development strategies in protracted crises should be based on common, multi-factor risk analysis and priority areas most at risk of catastrophic shock. Over the last three years, humanitarian assistance has been seen as low-hanging fruit for political actors to 'do something' while not being able to address underlying political challenges. This has led to a mixing of political and humanitarian discourse and to challenges to neutral and impartial humanitarian space.

Regarding resources, the panel remarked that the system must diversify donors and actors in order to access the necessary resources to meet needs. The panel noted that it is necessary to increase sources of investment in humanitarian action and bring in a more diverse group of capacitated actors to meet those needs.

The international humanitarian community is not broken, but it is financially broke and no longer able to respond to the needs of people or provide a minimum level of protection. Needs are growing exponentially while budgets are growing slowly and perhaps decreasing. Even with increased inefficiency and innovation, the cost reductions gained will be marginal compared with the gap. The panel remarked that the system currently makes the most of available funds by narrowing the target recipients. As a result, only the most vulnerable people are reached. A fundamental revisit of resource allocation in the system is needed, as the current system does not deal with fragile contexts adequately and spends a considerable portion of resources with adequate consideration of where the biggest impact could be achieved.

In closing, the panel remarked that the future of humanitarian action will not result from a single reform, but from adopting a more flexible, nimble system and complimentary tools. Rather than talking about being fit for purpose, the system needs to be able to look ahead and adapt as the world evolves. It was noted that one of the main constraints is that very different settings are being tackled with a single set of tools when it is necessary to adapt to different contexts and capacities. Ultimately, political leadership is needed to look at the drivers of need and address the root causes of instability and conflict, not just meet short term needs.

4.3 **Building a coalition for resilience**
17 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: IFRC and Mexico

Objectives: highlight the pressing needs for building community resilience; identify key challenges in effective partner-ships at all levels and ways to overcome them; and consider ways to build partnerships to enhance resil-ience in order to promote sustainable development.

Panel: Alfonso Molina Romo, Mexico; Stephen Omollo, IFRC; Hugh Macleman, OECD; Linda Freiner, Zurich Insur-ance; Mary Power, World Meteorological Organiza-tion; and Tala Ali Atieh, Lebanese Red Cross

Discussion:
Mexico presented its various tools for protection, preparedness and resilience. These include:

- Mexico's national system for civil protection (SINAPROC), a comprehensive tool for coordination;
- The Government's natural disaster fund (FONDEN), which can be used at the time of the declaration of an emergency and during a disaster response;
- Mexico's disaster preparedness fund (FORPREDEN) for more preventive work;
- A variety of international resources, such as OECD, UN, IFRC and the Guerrero Special Reserve Fund;
- Mexico is engaged at the international level through its recent membership to the Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR);
- Mexico recently purchased a MultiCat bond that provides insurance against natural hazards.

Mexico highlighted that building resilience is not easy. It is trying to change the culture of resilience through a variety of efforts, not least through its National School of Civil Protection.

The panel noted the system's evolution to providing multi-haz-ard early warning systems and impact-based forecasts. This is especially important, as disasters are causing less casualties but significantly more damage, particularly in urban areas. In these cases there is a need for community engagement through a variety of media to educate on the potential impact of hazards, especially outreach to women and children, as they often have less access to information and are less engaged in the community.

The panel explained that given the nature of floods, there is also a greater need for partnership and community-level engagement between a wide variety of actors with complementary skills – from academia to humanitarian to private sector to Governments. The importance of having a good base knowledge of the current level of community resilience and a focus on risk reduction with the sup-port of local and national authorities was highlighted. To have the greatest impact in increasing community resilience, it was noted that the private sector needs to be a full member at the table in the short and longer term.

Three main lessons learned from current resilience-building efforts were:

1. It is vital to have a common understanding of how risk will affect the community's assets (natural, Government, people, physical, etc.).
2. It is important to know how risk affects the different layers of society (individual, community, State, etc).
3. There is a need to take a multi-hazard approach and build a platform that brings multiple actors around the table.

Citing practical examples from Lebanon, the panel stressed the importance of volunteers, particularly women, in building community resilience. It highlighted that there is no "one size fits all" for building community resilience; rather a tailored effort is required in most cases.

Conclusions and recommendations:
Overall the panellists agreed that community resilience has to be multi-stakeholder in nature, bringing together Government, humanitarian, development, and private sector actors and the community. For this to happen there needs to be an enhanced understanding of the base level of multi-hazard risk and resilience, and a practical platform for dialogue and action.

4.4 **Engaging communities affected by conflict**
17 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Canada, World Vision International and OCHA

Objectives: explore the challenges of communicating with communities in conflict-affected settings; draw on the implementation of programmes in northern Iraq, Yemen and Chad; and build a better understanding among humanitarian actors of the importance of information for life-saving assistance, and of collating and effectively responding to feedback from affected communities.

Chairs: Christian Clark, OCHA; and Joshua Tabah, Counsellor, Humanitarian Affairs, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

Panel: Idriss Moussa Saleh, Chad (Chadian returnee from CAR); Umelto Labetubun, Humanitarian Policy Advisor, World Vision Iraq; and Cédric Schweizer, ICRC head of delegation in Yemen, April 2013 to May 2015

Discussion:
The panel noted that in recent years, humanitarian organizations have increasingly set up initiatives and mechanisms to ensure two-way communications with and among communities affected by natural disasters. Fatime Abdoulaye Izam and Idriss Moussa Saleh, Chadian returnees from CAR, highlighted the impact of displacement. They said displaced families worry for their children's education, employment opportunities, citizenship in countries of refuge and the risk of exploitation, especially for young girls. They also said affected people want to take care of themselves, their families and their communities and not to be dependent on humanitarian assistance. But they need the tools to become self-sufficient again. It is essential to strengthen dialogue with affected people. For people living with daily uncertainties, it is important to help them find self-sufficiency.

80 per cent of humanitarian responses are in conflict settings, and the implications and possibilities of communicating with communities in conflict settings are less well known. Humanitarian organizations are setting up initiatives for two-way communication, but many challenges still exist. In the rush to provide assistance, communicating with communities is often not considered a priority, although this is slowly changing in natural disasters while much more work is needed in conflict situations. Challenges in conflict settings include fluidity of context, frequent

levels of volatility, high mobility of the affected population, and hard-to-track communities resulting in shorter-term approaches and disruptions in communication.

However, community acceptance requires time, consistent contact, dialogue and proximity. Technology is a very useful tool for communicating with communities in conflict settings, but it is not sufficient. It is critical to have face-to-face communication with affected people to enable trust building, as trust is critical for access and aid workers' security. The panel remarked that the decades-old challenges of how to sit with communities and understand their needs remain.

The session highlighted the importance of managing expectations of communities and other engaged actors regarding what is possible in a conflict context; establishing feedback mechanisms; participation in design, monitoring and evaluation; and effective representation was identified as important. The panel noted that acceptance starts when operations become visible, and that with security guidelines, the space to access communities and engage is shrinking. Local actors have a big role to play.

Conclusions:
- People's needs must be at the centre of humanitarian work and more outcome-driven in delivering on those needs.
- Humanitarians are accountable to people who, according to humanitarian principles, have a right to demand that we serve them.
- Engaging communities must therefore be at the heart of conflict response. To be successful, humanitarian actors must first and foremost ensure transparency, which is critical in conflict settings.
- Effective and safe operations in conflict come through proximity to communities. But proximity comes from community acceptance, and acceptance comes from engagement and transparency.
- Better communication with communities in conflict requires out-of-the-box thinking, much better organizational risk acceptance and good context analysis.

- Ensure communication with communities is mainstreamed throughout sectoral programmes.
- Donors need to invest in communicating with communities as a core programme approach and to help agencies strengthen early warning mechanisms through community trust and acceptance, as well as better predict changes in a highly volatile situation.
- Working with all parties is critical.
- Need to account for perceptions in various local contexts, especially when choosing who to work and partner with.
- As communities are not a homogeneous group, make sure women are consulted and included. Tailor communications with communities in a conflict context to specifically reach women. This may require more targeted strategies, as exclusion of women and vulnerable groups tends to increase in these settings.
- Humanitarians need to pay attention to how community representatives are selected, group dynamics, cultural sensitivities, diversity and exclusion issues.
- Ensure community participation in design, monitoring and evaluation.
- Need to allow communities to participate in a response and give them more responsibility for running sites, which builds more self-sufficiency.
- Ensure follow-up on community feedback.

4.5 Understanding the humanitarian dimension of refugee and migrant flows in North Africa and in the Mediterranean

17 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Tunisia, Norway and Italy

Objective: Highlight the current humanitarian assistance and protection needs of those on the move in North Africa and the Mediterranean and some of the responses by States, the United Nations, international organizations and civil-society actors.

Panel: M. Belgacem Sabri, State Secretary, Migration Affairs and Social Integration, Tunisia; Bård Glad Pedersen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway; William Lacy Swing, Director-General, International Organization for Migration; and Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Discussion:

The opening of the event presented the case of Tunisia: the heavy financial burden of hosting 1.5 million refugees, especially at a time of political transition, including the adoption of a new constitution. It was pointed out that migration flows to Tunisia are mainly from Libya, where the lack of central Government has pushed people to flee, and from Syria, where the situation is worsened by human trafficking. It was recommended that new tools be implemented to address migration, such as migration forecasts and the development of strategies to address migration pressures, and for legal support to better handle migration.

> *A few thousand migrants is not a threat to Europe. This is not even a drop in the bucket when a country like Lebanon is hosting over 1 million refugees.*

Using the example of the Norwegian parliament's recent vote to welcome more migrants, the panel stressed that everyone has to be involved in solving this crisis. It was reported that the Norwegian parliament did not debate the need to contribute, but discussions were focused on the extent to which Norway should receive more migrants and increase its help.

The panel reminded participants that short-term responses are needed to save lives, for instance with shipping boats in the Mediterranean Sea, but also long-term solutions supporting human rights principles and international conventions. To better protect migrants fleeing from failed States, political solutions towards peace have to be negotiated. Moreover, sustainable solutions to integrate migrants and provide them with job opportunities should be considered. Protecting and assisting people is a humanitarian imperative. The UN needs to establish and live up to clear values for the protection of the most vulnerable people. Migration is a reality that will not end. The number of arrivals on Greece's shores has increased six-fold during the past year. This needs to be managed, but in too many countries discussions around migration have become quite toxic. Greater political leadership is needed to change the migration narrative and stress the urgency to manage migration in a rational and responsible way.

During the discussion, migration was compared with a storm in three different levels:

- The perfect storm: States are facing an unprecedented global phenomenon with the largest movement of people since the Second World War, with well over 50 million people displaced. Additionally, there is an unprecedented number of humanitarian emergencies and anti-migrant laws motivated, in particular, by the fear of terrorists.
- Weather the storm: States' attitudes towards migrants must change. Migration is inevitable. It should not be considered as a problem to be solved but as a human reality and inevitable. Migration is necessary for economic growth and desirable for filling jobs. There is a shared responsibility to address migra-

tion and to save lives. In order to do that national legislation has to be adapted.

- Establish calm after the storm: in addition to a response from Europe, there must be a global approach to protect lives.

The session highlighted that ongoing unresolved crises are creating a sense of hopelessness, while financing is not commensurate with needs. A total of 48,000 people have moved in the last few months, 85 per cent from refugee countries and 60 per cent from Syria. Receiving islands are overwhelmed, with 22,000 refugees received in Lesbos (Greece) in one month. The panel reminded participants that the diversity of the people migrating should be considered, especially the needs of unaccompanied children and the troubling reports of exploitation and violence faced by those en route.

It was stated that the main problem is the decrease in possibilities to be granted asylum. In particular, in Europe there is no agreement on relocation and resettlement. The root causes of mass refugee and migration movements have to be addressed. The SDGs must take sufficient account of forced displacement and migration. Collective action is needed for the SDGs to take up displacement effectively. It was also noted that refugees and migrants are fleeing because of a lack of education opportunities for their children. The lack of political leadership to better integrate migrants was also regretted.

The EU/African Summit in November to address a comprehensive approach to the root causes of migration was announced. It was reported that since 2014, Italy has faced an escalating humanitarian emergency in the Mediterranean Sea. Individual countries are dedicated to protecting human rights, but greater commitment from the EU and the international community is needed. It was noted that there is a need to build a stronger evaluation of migration flows.

Participants raised concern over human rights violations. Calls were made for stepping up search-and-rescue operations, and for the fight against human trafficking to be implemented through

international cooperation. In concluding remarks, it was stressed that migration is not a regional problem but a global matter.

The panel noted that in Europe we are seeing racist attitudes, even though many countries were created by migrants. There is a strong relationship between how the media portrays migrants and how the population views migrants. As a result, the term 'illegal' should not be used when referring to migrants, as they are human beings and reason must prevail over fear and emotion.

A global response is needed for this global issue, including increased cooperation between countries of origin, transit and arrival. Greater efforts and leadership are needed to address the root causes, including development, instability and conflict. Most migrants in the Mediterranean are fleeing violence and protracted conflicts, and leadership is required to address those crises. Additionally, legal options are needed for people to move from country to country. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework and the WHS must address displacement and migration-related issues.

4.6 **Learning the lessons from the West Africa Ebola virus disease outbreak**
17 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Sierra Leone, USA and WHO

Objectives: review the strengths and weaknesses of the Ebola virus disease outbreak response; discuss priorities for getting to zero; and review lessons to inform ongoing reform processes.

Chair: Bruce Aylward, Special Representative of the Director-General for Ebola and Assistant-Director General, Emergencies, World Health Organization

Panel: Jeremy Konyndyk, Director of USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA); Brice de la Vigne, Director of Operations, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) ; Gianfranco Rotigliano, UNICEF Regional Emergency Coordinator for Ebola; Yvette Stevens, Sierra Leone Ambassador to the UN Geneva; and Claus Sørensen, Director-General of the European Commission Directorate-General of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

Discussion:
The panel outlined a set of issues that are a requirement for success: building trust; listening to people; understanding the needs of patients and families; ensuring constructive two-way communications; and building a sensitive and appropriate community-centred response. In "lessons learned", the panel remarked that it is necessary to know how to avoid counter-productive communications and false information and build enough trust to tackle denial. Community trust-building has been a major issue since the crisis began. It remains unsolved, even if progress has been made. Despite a year's awareness-raising, many people are still actively avoiding disease-monitoring systems, e.g., registering and tracking patients' relatives and contacts, and they are not seeking medical assistance.

It was recognized that there has been a lot of progress during the response, but there is still a need to improve on a range of operational response issues: better local coordination, especially in Guinea; quarantine and containment measures need to be more acceptable and monitored; predictable and prepared rapid-response capacities; improved surveillance; and targeted preparedness. During the outbreak the humanitarian community was compelled to experiment with new methods and new roles. Adaptability and flexibility were critical. Boundaries between global health, humanitarian and development communities need to be redefined, and better coordination needs to be achieved.

The panel repeatedly mentioned that UNMEER should never have been needed. The panel also noted OCHA could have played an earlier role on given existing geographical and cluster approaches and practices. The panel recognized that a large number of new players came into the response, existing groups took on new roles and these new players will be important to the future of health action in crises. Lessons learned showed that trust, dialogue, partnerships, and protocols that leverage assets to ensure we can connect policy and dialogue with the grass roots are essential.

The panel noted that there is a need for a stronger international emergency health response capacity with improved alignment between the global health (health security) community and the global humanitarian community. To this end, several panellists stressed that WHO needs to rapidly show progress.

The session concluded that to get to zero, complacency must be prevented. With UNMEER drawing down, the need for clarity on how development mechanisms are coming together was stressed. It was highlighted that more financing is still needed to keep people in place, as treatment centres should be on the ground for 42 days post-Ebola.

4.7 Principles in action: How do neutrality and independence contribute to humanitarian effectiveness?

17 June, ICRC Humanitarium, Geneva

Sponsors: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), hosted at the ICRC Humanitarium.

Objectives: Engage in a focused discussion on how neutrality and independence contribute to humanitarian effectiveness; reflect on the relevance and implications of the principles of neutrality and independence against the wide range of concepts embedded in the term 'humanitarian effectiveness'; and hear the perspectives of actors coming from countries or regions directly affected by humanitarian crises but playing different roles in humanitarian action

Host: Jean-Christophe Sandoz, Deputy Director of International Law and Policy, ICRC

Chair: Joelle Tanguy, Under Secretary General, Humanitarian Values and Diplomacy, IFRC

Panel: Jorge Lomónaco, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; Georges Kettaneh, Secretary General of the Lebanese Red Cross; and Antonio Donini, Senior Researcher, Tufts University

Discussion:
In opening remarks, it was emphasized that the principles of neutrality and independence, developed over more than a century and a half of humanitarian action, are crucial to gain acceptance and access to affected communities and allow ICRC to work in places others cannot. The panel reflected that 2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC), and it will culminate with the thirty-second international RCRC conference from 8 to 10 December. This event will be followed by the WHS in

> *Humanitarian effectiveness means the ability to offer the best possible assistance and protection to people in conflicts and in disasters, whereas humanitarian efficiency refers to the use of funds, reaching the right people and delivering aid when it is needed, all of which contribute to reducing the overall cost of humanitarian response.*

2016. Hence questions regarding how to measure humanitarian effectiveness, and how neutrality and independence contribute to them, are timely and pertinent.

The panel noted the distinction between "effectiveness' and 'efficiency': humanitarian effectiveness means the ability to offer the best possible assistance and protection to people in conflicts and in disasters, whereas humanitarian efficiency refers to the use of funds, reaching the right people and delivering aid when it is needed, all of which contribute to reducing the overall cost of humanitarian response. In this sense, the use of an appropriate humanitarian architecture that can handle the current multiplicity of actors—both humanitarians and other responders, such as States, militaries or private companies—is crucial. These different actors are not all equally bound by the principles, and each has their own comparative advantage, depending on the circumstances in which they operate. For instance, the neutrality of humanitarian actors is crucial to develop trust and acceptance in conflict situations, which in turn are necessary to gain access and deliver impartial aid. While claiming that neutrality is absolutely essential to be effective and efficient, when misinterpreted or misapplied, neutrality might hamper the resolution of an armed conflict that requires a political solution.

During the session, it was reflected that while independence also remains an essential operational principle at all times, it may create challenges when operating in complex situations with a multiplicity of actors. Referring to natural disasters in particular, it was argued that principled action can make efficiency harder to achieve if a multiplicity of independent humanitarian actors requires an increased burden in terms of human and financial resources in order to be appropriately coordinated. The principles of neutrality and independence have a relevance that is relative to the context, and therefore require a nuanced application and understanding.

Using the example of Lebanon, with recurring tensions between communities, the panel stressed that acceptance and trust are fundamentally important in order to ensure safe access to affected people. Maintaining dialogue with the Government, local authorities and non-state actors is critical to ensure that aid workers can cross checkpoints and evacuate civilians to hospitals. Maintaining this dialogue and trust is made possible by being seen as neutral and independent. Being perceived as 'principled actors' therefore contributes to humanitarian effectiveness, as it allows the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) to fulfil its humanitarian mission. Upholding these principles requires more than declarations of intent: LRC actively strives to 'walk its talk', notably through a careful recruitment of volunteers, for which specific policies have been developed. Though volunteers often come from affected communities themselves, they must be seen as neutral in their actions, which is why the recruitment and induction process can take between 9 and 12 months. This is to make sure that the volunteers can act

and be perceived as being neutral. It is important to not just read the Fundamental Principles but to practice those principles.

Panellists underscored that for LRC and the RCRC Movement, the Fundamental Principles are important in peace and in wartime, for reasons of consistency. It is not possible to be seen as partisan one day, and then try to appear neutral the next. Hence maintaining neutrality and independence is a continuous endeavour that requires perseverance. The panel outlined that these two principles are key to building trust and working in proximity to a population; enabling humanitarian organizations to address needs in a relevant manner; and being accountable to populations, which is key to humanitarian effectiveness.

Accountability also means transparency. One community will always feel they are more vulnerable than another, which is why priorities have to be discussed and explained in a transparent manner to all the affected parties. On the issue of accountability, the panel added that international humanitarians need to consider their exit strategy and legacy, considering the adverse consequences that may occur after they leave. In this respect, neutrality and independence should not be construed as a blank cheque to evade this responsibility.

The panel underlined that there are different understandings of 'humanitarian effectiveness' within the humanitarian sector. Some focus on the effectiveness of the act itself (deontologists), while others focus more on longer-term consequences (consequentialists). This explains why the latter are tempted to conflate humanitarian action with, for example, human rights, justice, development and peacebuilding. These actors, who come to a situation with the intention of transforming the society in which they operate, can contradict the principles of neutrality and independence, or be perceived as doing so. This situation leads to unintended consequences when one still claims to be 'principled' despite having moved beyond the realm of neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. Invocation of the principles not matched by acts can fuel accusations of hypocrisy.

Parties to conflict do monitor how humanitarian organizations operate and work. The concrete example of a rebel group in Afghanistan was presented, one that makes an elaborate use of telecommunications technology to monitor where the funding of different NGOs comes from. These fighters tend to see organizations receiving the bulk of their money from belligerent States as lacking independence and neutrality. This is why there needs to be clarity on objectives and transparency regarding the rhetoric on the ground. In a response to the audience, it was emphasized that far from belonging to the realm of the abstract, these principles are pragmatic tools that allow humanitarian organizations to navigate through the political complexities of conflict.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Neutrality and independence are eminently pragmatic tools that enable humanitarian actors to effectively adapt to circumstances.
- An appreciation that the application of neutrality and independence will be relative to context is crucial to achieve effective action. They should not be applied dogmatically.
- Maintaining dialogue with all parties ensures humanitarian effectiveness; it builds trust and permits access to people in need, therefore enabling the humanitarian mission to be fulfilled.
- Neutrality and independence require consistency, perseverance and transparency. This is why these principles remain essential in all circumstances for the RCRC Movement, including in peacetime.
- Some actors claim to abide by humanitarian principles while also supporting an approach that aims to transform societies. These different approaches may be complementary, but the latter cannot be conflated with humanitarian principles, as the political involvement required in transforming societies hampers neutral and independent action.
- Any lack of transparency or clarity about an agency's stance towards humanitarian principles can provoke unintended consequences, including problems of perceptions towards other actors on the ground. Humanitarians should be more open and aware when communicating what they are and what they are not.

4.8 **Bridging the humanitarian-development divide in urban crises: Area-based approaches and disaster recovery frameworks – the way forward?**
17 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: UK, UN-Habitat

Objective: Discuss the potential of area-based approaches and disaster recovery frameworks in order to improve the relevance and efficiency of humanitarian interventions in urban areas.

Panel: Lucy Earle, Urban Adviser, DFID; Alyoscia D'Onofrio, IRC; Jean-Christophe Adrian, Director of Liaison Office for European Institutions, UN-Habitat; Nicolas Wit, Assistant General Manager, Cites Unies France and United Cities and Local Government (UCLG): and Priscilla Phelps, Consultant, World Bank

Discussion:
The panel discussed area-based approaches that are being trialled in response to urban crises in order to manage the complex social, institutional and economic environment in towns and cities. These approaches take a geographical area as the starting point for targeting, and they involve multisectoral programming based on participatory needs assessments. The question is whether they help bridge the humanitarian-development divide or accelerate recovery.

It was noted that the success of area-based approaches depends on how they are applied, particularly with regard to how response to neighbourhood needs is balanced with interventions that bolster or restore city-wide systems, and the extent to which coordination is also area based and involves municipal authorities. For example, area-based approaches to reconstruction can either create isolated islands of improvement or set up positive patterns for urban expansion and rehabilitation.

Developing recovery frameworks for the post-disaster period that take into consideration the realities of urban populations, their environment and the structures that govern them was discussed as a necessary step in planning recovery. Disasters often accelerate urban population growth and the spread of urban areas. Aligning neighbourhood-level recovery programming with an urban-development strategy can help ensure urban interventions support a more ordered urbanization process.

Engaging with municipal actors through area-based programming and coordination, and by working with them to develop municipal and city-wide recovery frameworks, was posited as a way to disrupt 'one size fits all' humanitarian response and encourage better tailoring of interventions to local conditions. The panel remarked that there is an imperative to engage with a much broader range of actors in urban crisis response and recovery. The important role of

municipal actors, including mayors, municipal officials and community leaders, was highlighted. They are frequently key players in first response, understand the population in their area, have knowledge of local service provision and infrastructure systems, and will have insights on how best to speed the transition from response to recovery. The panel also discussed the role and positive contribution of other development actors, including development banks.

The session highlighted some of the barriers to better collaboration and coordination with different types of urban actors, particularly with municipal authorities. These barriers include a presumptuous attitude on the part of humanitarians, the current sector (as opposed to geographic or area-based) focus of needs assessments and coordination, the siloed nature of specialists, limited understanding of how municipal governments operate and a lack of incentives to change behaviour.

Panellists said that humanitarians often fail to engage effectively with municipal actors because they assume their presence in the area will be short-lived. This sets up a dynamic of exclusion of local decision makers and a disregard of local governance systems that reconstruction partners then have to overcome. Excluding local officials, even during the emergency phase, is a missed opportunity and ignores the increasingly protracted nature of urban displacement and humanitarian involvement after a crisis. Engaging with municipal actors and the local community more broadly is particularly critical in a displacement setting, where advocacy is needed to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for IDPs and refugees.

The session discussed urban-housing reconstruction, with particular reference to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The informal sector is the big player in the production of urban housing in low-income countries, and it generates the bulk of reconstruction after a crisis. Safe reconstruction requires engagement by humanitarian agencies with the informal sector and support for Governments so that information on disaster risk reduction becomes a public good, accessible to all.

Conclusions and recommendations:
During an urban crisis, it is necessary to:

- Work with municipal actors from day one.
- Ensure that humanitarian interventions are contributing in positive ways to the city's longer-term development.
- Help the Government envision the reconstructed city and establish policies that guide the inevitable post-disaster expansion of the urban population and urban areas.
- Adopt approaches to coordination that are based on geographical areas as well as sectors.
- Avoid creating islands of redevelopment while leaving the majority of the affected population with no support.
- Ensure all interventions reflect the vision of people who live in the city, and an understanding of the economic system and the coping strategies that residents rely on.

4.9 **Scaling-up humanitarian cash transfers for the future**
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: DFID, OCHA

Objective: Provide a vision for humanitarian cash programming in 2030 and what needs to be done to achieve this vision.

Chair: Claus Sorenson, Director General, ECHO

Panel: Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA); Tim Waites, DFID Livelihoods Advisor; Degan Ali, Executive Director, African Development Solutions (Adeso); Kenn Crossley, WFP Chief of Programme Innovation Service; Paul Musser, Vice President, International Development, MasterCard; Satwick Seshasai, Founding Team Member, Segovia; and Paul Spiegel, UNHCR Deputy Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management

Discussion:
The panel discussion highlighted that there is evidence that cash-based interventions achieve many benefits, while having the potential to be cost-efficient and effective and lead to a more contextualized and agile response. But there are challenges within the humanitarian system that prevent it from being scaled up where appropriate. The session developed a vision for humanitarian cash transfers in 2030. It identified blocks that should be overcome for cash to be the default form of humanitarian assistance.

The panel stated that cash is about being close to the beneficiary, as it gives crisis-affected people the choice to prioritize their own household's critical needs. By giving people cash, the humanitarian community is acknowledging that these people are better placed to decide what their families need more than anybody else. Cash is a vehicle to ensure people in crisis do not lose their dignity and right to make decisions for themselves.

Cash programming has a substantial multiplier effect that goes beyond the direct delivery of cash. Cash spent post-crisis has a direct impact on the recovery of markets, schools, health centres and the larger community. It has important links to resilience and development. Partnering with local traders, financial service providers and retailers could be a long-term investment in the markets' resilience to shocks. The strength or weakness of local markets affects communities' ability to recover.

The panel discussed the need for cash programming to be integrated into preparedness and contingency planning, ensuring that the right conversations are taking place with Government and private sector partners before the outbreak of a crisis. An increase in cash programming will affect how humanitarians do preparedness. The future of humanitarian response lies not in the ability to pre-position food but more on the ability to pre-position data. How much do we know about the people and their needs and how they want to meet those needs? How much do we know about the communities we're trying to help, the local authorities, the markets and NGOs we need to partner with?

The increasing use of cash programming provides opportunities to set standards and rules of engagement, and to promote interoperability for better coordinated and more harmonized interventions. But there are potential risks, which were discussed in the session. Cash programmes, especially when scaled up or linked to social-safety nets, would involve high volumes of sensitive data that needs to be well managed and protected. It was noted that the private sector has experience we can leverage to support the humanitarian community to handle data responsibly.

The session explored the risks associated with cash-transfer programming, recognizing that there is evidence that it is not inherently more risky than in-kind contributions, providing programmes are well designed and managed. In Somalia—an environment rife with suspicions of cash flowing to terrorism, or of putting women in danger—cash programming was used at scale to deliver assistance to famine-stricken families in 2011. External evaluations of emergency cash programming in Somalia over the years have shown that such fears and protection concerns around cash are unfounded. Aside from presenting empirical evidence showing cash is not a riskier modality than in-kind contributions, risk aversion could also be mitigated by technology. Cash usually leaves an electronic footprint and technology offers ways to track where the money went and how it was spent.

There is a need for UN leadership to recognize that cash programming could be a powerful vehicle to uphold humanitarian principles, while making humanitarian action more meaningful from the standpoint of people in crisis. The panel recounted that the humanitarian community has been responding to different contexts using the same (in-kind) tools over the years, while cash provides a range of programming options that allows the delivery of a more context-specific assistance. It was recommended that the UN must periodically examine how its system, as well as the knowledge and skills of its field staff, could be enhanced to be fit for purpose, noting that while the UN may not be flexible, the way by which mandates are fulfilled must be flexible.

The panel concluded that the transformational nature of cash programming needs to receive adequate attention within the WHS deliberations, and that more advocacy may be required to elevate the issue in the consultations and final WHS summit.

4.10 The power of business in emergencies - Working together in preparedness and response
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor: OCHA

Objectives: Discuss how to engage the private sector at operational levels; and review how to create networks and platforms as well as the broad principles, charters and regulatory environments necessary for an improved future humanitarian model.

Chair: Gwi-Yeop Son, Director, Corporate Programmes Division

Panel: Jesus R.S. Domingo, Assistant Secretary for the United Nations and International Organizations, and Head of the DFA Office of United Nations and Other International Organizations Affairs in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Philippines; Claire Esbenshade, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Investment Specialist at ArcelorMittal; and Martin Harris, Director of Technology for GSMA Mobile for Development

Discussion:
The panel discussion centred on three questions:

1. What are the main challenges for private sector engagement in humanitarian action?
2. What are the main challenges for businesses affected by emergencies?
3. What can Governments do to create an enabling environment for private sector engagement in their countries?

The key emerging themes included the need to build trust, confidence and networks in preparedness to emergencies and to engage in a sustained dialogue between Government, business and civil society; the need to better understand the legal and regulatory frameworks of each country to facilitate relief operations; the need to consider and engage with the private sector not as a 'problem to be fixed' but as a partner with specific skills, expertise and capacities to be leveraged and engaged with; the private sector is not 'a problem to be fixed' but a partner to engage with; the private sector needs to build trust and confidence with communities before disaster strikes and engage in a sustained dialogue with Government, business and civil society; the private sector also needs to better use the competencies and skills of each humanitarian actor; companies do not want to be perceived as a donor; and NOREPS, the Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System, is a good model of how a network of the Norwegian Government, the Norwegian Red Cross, major Norwegian humanitarian NGOs and more than 50 selected Norwegian suppliers of relief goods and services can work together.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Engage political champions, such as the Philippines and Norway, to further the discussions around creating enabling environments for improved partnerships with the private sector.
- Flesh out the incentives and the business case for the private sector to engage in humanitarian affairs.
- Include the private sector in national and international disaster relief simulation exercises.
- Pursue this conversation further at the WHS Global Consultation in October 2015 and translate this into action and momentum at the WHS.

4.11 **Interactive dialogue on humanitarian financing**
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Germany

Objectives: Identify barriers, opportunities and practical steps necessary to implement reforms to the humanitarian financing architecture that: prioritize nationally led response; address the humanitarian and development nexus; embrace diversity to ensure sufficient humanitarian funding; move towards proactive ways of working to better meet peak demand; and upgrade the humanitarian architecture to address inefficiencies and strengthen needs-based funding.

Chair: Anke Reiffenstuel, Deputy Head Task Force Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany

Panel: Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA); Sophia Swithern, Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Programme Leader; Lydia Poole, Independent Consultant, Future Humanitarian Financing Initiative; Robert Piper, Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt); Claus Sorenson, Director General, ECHO; Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in UN DESA; and Fatou Diagne Zaouini, Risk Management Advisor, Africa Risk Capacity

Discussion:
The session opened with an emphasis on the widening gap between humanitarian needs and available resources. Currently, global appeals for 2015 were just 24 per cent funded. More funding is needed and it is imperative that the funding currently available is used effectively. Together, the 2015 Global Humanitarian Assistance report and the Future Humanitarian Financing (FHF) report, *Looking Beyond the Crisis*, starkly illustrate the challenges faced today and what could be the solutions of tomorrow.

New solutions to old problems are needed in order to secure resources to provide life-saving assistance by:

- Scaling up multi-year planning and increased coordination with development partners.
- Diversifying funding to include the private sector and Islamic financing.
- Promoting risk financing and improving the efficiency of current business practices, including the increased use of cash- and voucher-based programming and investment in emergency preparedness.

- Improving the modelling of future demands to be better financially prepared to respond when crises hit.

The panel called for a different approach to the funding response, highlighting the role and potential of local funding. The panel noted the relevance of other processes, including the WHS, the new Sendai framework and the discussion around the SDGs to the current debate around new models of humanitarian financing.

Current trends in humanitarian financing were presented, drawing on the findings from the 2015 Global Humanitarian Assistance report, including:

- For the second year running, funding increased to record levels – an estimated $24.5 billion, which is an increase of almost one fifth from the previous year (19 per cent). About three quarters of funding came from Government donors and a quarter from private donors, including individuals, trusts and foundations and corporations.
- Despite a rise in funding, resourcing is not keeping pace with demand. UN appeal requirements rose at a greater rate (nearly 50 per cent more than the previous year) and reached $17.5 billion in 2014. But there was an unprecedented shortfall of $7.5 billion (38 per cent).
- A key challenge is managing peak demand. There has been a clear growth in the proportion of funding to large-scale high-profile crises: well over half of all humanitarian assistance reported to OCHA's FTS went to the Ebola crisis and the five Level 3 (L3) emergencies, i.e., Syria, Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and CAR (57 per cent). This compares with 36 per cent of humanitarian assistance to L3 emergencies the previous year.
- Different types and locations of crisis attract very different donor profiles. Rapid-onset emergencies, such as Typhoon Haiyan, attract more diverse funding groups, including more private funding.
- Sufficiency of funding is one part, but efficiency and effectiveness of how it gets there are also key. The issue is not just diversity in who gives humanitarian assistance; it's about enabling diversity in who accesses it, and support to local and national actors is central to this. In 2014, national and local NGOs directly received 0.2 per cent of funding reported by FTS, or 1.1 per cent of all funding received by NGOs.
- International humanitarian assistance is only needed when other local, national, regional or international resources (or solutions) cannot cope. Domestic response and capacities often play an important role in best meeting needs and reducing the need for international finance, as case studies of Turkey and Mexico show.
- Two thirds (66 per cent) of international humanitarian assistance continues to go to long-term recipients, such as Syria, Somalia and Pakistan, as crises are protracted or disasters

recur in the same places year on year. Ninety-three per cent of people living in extreme poverty are in countries that are politically fragile, environmentally vulnerable or both. This emphasizes the need to build resilience, address the underlying causes of crisis and meet the long-term needs of crisis-affected people. This is not just a question of better mobilizing or linking relief to development funding - the post-2015 financing agenda recognizes the potential of multiple sources of finance, including public and private, domestic and international finance.

The FHF report *Looking Beyond the Crisis*, drawing on the outcomes of dialogues held across the world, was presented during the session. The report outlined a vision for the future of humanitarian action:

- The majority of humanitarian response will be nationally led and nationally financed.
- International actors will be required to provide a more complementary and supportive role except in highly contested settings, where we will continue to see classic humanitarian response.
- People will receive a bundle of assistance from a variety of different sources.
- Technical and new types of responses, for example cash-based programming, will provide greater opportunities for crisis-affected people to have greater influence on the type of assistance they are receiving.

It was highlighted that many of the changes described in the FHF report would occur regardless of discussions within the humanitarian community, and that current humanitarian business practices are inefficient and predominantly supply driven, giving end users very little say in the products and services they receive. It was stated that despite this optimistic vision of the future, the humanitarian system is struggling to adapt to these change processes and needs to navigate out of survival mode by:

- Making transformative changes to the culture and behaviour.
- Negotiating a more effective division of labour and learning to work with a greater diversity of responding actors.
- Being disciplined in communicating the limits of humanitarian action and playing a more assertive role in Government and development policy.

The panel discussed widespread system failures and frequent slow responses, despite noticing warning signs. It was raised that the debate around demand outstripping supply should focus on reducing demand in the first place by finding new ways to influence development and political actors rather than raising more money. The panel discussed the responsibility of Governments for their populations, with Government budgets being one of the largest

resources available when facing crises. It was noted that financial resources are available sooner, but political factors delay the deployment of such assistance.

Regarding prioritizing a nationally led response, the panel stated that coordination with national actors and the development community must start before crises. Therefore, it is critical to understand national systems and address structural vulnerabilities and causes of crises before crises hit. It was also highlighted that while multi-year financing strengthens efficiency and effectiveness, incentives need to be created to change humanitarian thinking in order to move beyond multiple annual plans to strategic multi-year planning.

The panel focused on the current discussions around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the complementarity between many of the new goals and targets in the SDG framework and the recommendations listed in the FHF report. The panel explained that unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs start from the 'leaving no-one behind' principle, ensuring that analysis and investments place the most vulnerable people at the very centre of the process. It was noted that humanitarians have largely been absent from these discussions, yet there is a role for humanitarians to own the post-2015 agenda and play a stronger role in ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable people are effectively considered.

The panel closed with a discussion of a key challenge faced by the humanitarian system: an attitude problem. Humanitarians were urged to "get out of their holes" and engage more with political and development communities to instil notions of addressing fragility and vulnerability into country development plans and practices. It was emphasized that while humanitarian principles are important, they should not prevent the humanitarian community from working with political actors. The panel noted that if donors feel that the humanitarian system is sub-optimal, then funding could be held back, particularly highlighting convoluted transaction chains where funding received by front-line implementers and beneficiaries is significantly less than that provided to first-level recipients, highlighting the need to cut out the middle level of the transaction chain.

Conclusions and recommendations from group work:
1. Nationally led response

- A change in the humanitarian architecture is needed to ensure local and national actors' strategic involvement in context-appropriate coordination mechanisms. This needs to be accompanied by placing a far greater proportion of international humanitarian assistance directly at a national level.
- Clarify the role of international organizations to identify and understand where and how they add value, and where their role could be fulfilled by national actors.

2. The development and humanitarian nexus

- Donors and wider actors should organize funding investments to create incentives for humanitarian, development, climate change and other concerned actors to work in complementarity to address longer-term needs of vulnerable and crisis-affected people. This means shifting from assessments to joint analysis, from planning to programming, and from funding to financing.
- Clarify the remit of humanitarian actors, recognizing that they must work better with national Governments and development actors where appropriate. At the same time, development actors must prioritize risk management, preparedness and resilience in order to 'leave no one behind'.

3. Embrace diversity to ensure sufficient humanitarian funding:

- To better engage emerging donors, build trust and engage in mutually beneficially dialogue.
- To increase the diversity in the funding base for humanitarian action, illustrate transparency, improved efficiency and performance.

4. Move towards proactive ways of working to better meet peak demands:

- Build national, sub-national and regional mechanisms and capacities for countries to manage their own crisis risks and financial preparedness before establishing a new global contingency fund as a default for managing risk.
- To develop ways of working that better meet peak demand, not only invest in institutions that better manage risk, but also invest in behavioural change within the sector towards more anticipatory ways of working, as well as sustainable technical capacity at a local and national level.

5. Upgrade the humanitarian architecture to address inefficiencies and strengthen needs-based funding

- Recognize that the current system perpetuates competition over resources; strengthen understanding of donor preferences and behaviour, as well as incentives for coordinated decision-making between donors. Underpinning this, the development of a shared understanding of global needs is vital to prioritizing funding to particular crises.
- Move towards results-based funding through multi-year funding and collaboration with development actors. The measurement of outcomes should be undertaken on the basis of beneficiary feedback in addition to donor perspectives.

4.12 **Interactive dialogue on North and South NGO collaboration**

18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and OCHA

Objective: Discuss the way forward between the NGOs consortia of OIC, international NGOs from the North, donors and United Nations on enhanced and inclusive coordination for better response.

Chair: Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary-General of OIC

Panel: Rashid Khalikov, Director, OCHA Geneva; Jeremy Konyndyk, Director, OFDA; and Claus Sorensen, Director General of the Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection ECHO

Discussion:
Panel members highlighted the importance of working together and the value of an inclusive coordinated system for humanitarian support. The discussion revolved around four themes: humanitarian policy, trust, capacity-building and humanitarian financing. The participants shared views on the absence of clear policies supporting the inclusiveness of South-based NGOs into the humanitarian response mechanisms, or that these policies/regulations, where they exist, are complicated for local NGOs to adhere to. Further, many of the current anti-terrorism laws may hinder and limit humanitarian operations. The discussion also tackled the issue of capacity-building. The current approach to capacity-building is mostly done as a top-bottom exercise.

Some of the key points emerging were that; traditional sub-contracting model is outdated and a new paradigm based on substantive and real partnerships is needed; trust deficit, mutual respect and dealing on an equal footing are significant challenges for the INGOs/donors and local partners regarding collaborative work; a different approach to capacity-building is needed - not patronizing or limited training-based methods, but a move towards capacity-sharing and twinning; a realistic understanding and acceptance of donor or INGO standards, rules and regulations are needed as the norms, especially around financial engagement, are unlikely to change; and there is no consensus on whether a separate dedicated platform for North-South interaction needs to be implemented, or existing ones with different institutional affiliations need to be strengthened.

The group noted that for trust to be built between Northern and Southern NGOs, there needs to be an understanding of the language, culture and local context so that southern NGOs can build international actors' capacity. It is important to empower the national/indigenous NGOs also at the decision-making level. It was noted that the donors' requirements should be linked to the amount of funding and a risk analysis.

Conclusions and recommendations:
The discussion was seen as an important step to enhance the collaboration between various actors and enable an inclusive coordinated system. OIC and OCHA will continue organizing focused discussions on the topics raised during the session.

4.13 The future of humanitarian affairs: the evolving role of CERF

18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor: CERF

Objective: Explore how CERF might build on its strengths and successes and, if necessary, adapt to remain an effective, well-resourced global mechanism to support timely and reliable humanitarian responses.

Chair: Stephen O'Brien, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panel: Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); Carsten Staur, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations; Robert Piper, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process/UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; Barbara Noseworthy, Assistant Executive Director a.i., Partnership, Governance and Advocacy Department, World Food Programme; Robert Filipp, President of the Innovative Finance Foundation; and Barnaby Willitts-King, independent consultant and author of the CERF for the Future study

Discussion:

The session opened with a reflection that while CERF is a success story, the emergence of new global challenges and a rapidly evolving humanitarian landscape raises the question of how the fund can build on its core strengths and ensure it is well placed to support global humanitarian action in the future. The timeliness of the conversation was emphasized, particularly in light of the fund's upcoming 10-year anniversary (15 December), and crucial global discussions around the future of aid, such as the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, the sustainable development goals and the WHS.

The recent scoping study on the added value of a reformed CERF was presented, noting that an increase in CERF's $450 million annual funding target would ensure greater flexibility for funding decisions in emergencies and allow for larger grants for mega-crises. It was suggested that a larger CERF would be in line with growth in global humanitarian spending and would allow the fund to continue to serve its intended strategic purpose. Caution was raised that an expanded CERF should strive to remain as focused, well managed, flexible and quick as it is now. The possibility of funding CERF (partially or fully) through assessed contributions

was suggested. However, according to the study, there is limited support for this option among Member States consulted. Increased funding through CERF would need an expansion of CERF's core donor group.

CERF was praised for its effectiveness, particularly in support of underfunded crises, but it was suggested that CERF should consider direct funding for NGOs instead of only through UN agencies, funds, programmes and IOM. However, some panellists remarked that CERF should not expand direct recipients beyond UN agencies and IOM, as the current setup is efficient, transparent and helps keep transaction costs low. It was noted that this view should not preclude the option of direct funding to NGOs through other funding modalities.

The panel suggested that since speed is critical, direct funding to implementing partners would improve effectiveness and the speed of response while strengthening complementarity with local organizations. Preparedness activities should be considered as life saving according to CERF guidelines, as investments in early action help minimize the scale and magnitude of crises.

The panel emphasized that CERF's speed, targeted approach and lean operation made it attractive to donors. CERF should remain UN-focused, as it has a strong role in strengthening leadership and coordination within the UN system and helps link different parts of the UN humanitarian system. Referencing trends that suggest that responses to natural disasters attract funds more easily than other types of emergencies, it was proposed that CERF should focus on complex and conflict-related emergencies.

Based on the regional Sahel response, it was remarked that CERF was the "biggest game changer" of the last decade in strengthening humanitarian leadership. Its processes put Humanitarian Coordinators in the centre of coordination mechanisms that promoted timely and effective action. CERF was praised for strengthening coordination at country and regional levels, and for bringing decisions around humanitarian action closer to affected people through Humanitarian Country Teams.

The session noted that strategic CERF allocations based on regional considerations had helped address needs more effectively. A bigger role for CERF in supporting prevention activities could include: a CERF prevention window, an early action/response window, and an annual review process of the largest CERF-recipient countries to determine if earlier funding would have been more effective.

CERF accounts for only a small percentage of WFP's emergency funding, but CERF's strategic importance to the organization was highlighted. For example, CERF acts a guarantor, allowing agencies to access their internal financing mechanisms in the knowledge

that CERF funds are on the way. In the case of WFP, this allows WFP to respond immediately, adding to the predictability of response. Additionally, CERF often funds critical activities that other donors will not, as has often been the case for common services such as logistics and emergency telecommunications. WFP stressed the need for CERF to better communicate its success and value, and that the ideal CERF of the future would be bigger but remain flexible and nimble.

Suggesting that CERF's $450 million annual target was "ridiculously small" for the only global UN fund for emergencies, it was remarked that CERF's proven track record made it an attractive option for innovative financing initiatives. Leveraging opportunities could include mobilizing capital into an endowment that would generate further revenues, possible limitations linked to UN Secretariat rules. Crowdfunding combined with campaigns for specific humanitarian issues were acknowledged.

4.14 Chad: A country on the cusp. Invest today, or pay the price of underfunding?

18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: ECHO and OCHA

Objective: Explore tangible steps that can be taken to enhance the international community's support for Chad at this crucial moment in its history.

Chair: Thomas Gurtner, Humanitarian Coordinator and UN Resident Coordinator for Chad

Moderator: Kyung-wha Kang, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panel: Mahamat Moussa Faki, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Chad; Claus Sorenson, Director General, European Commission for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management; and Rachel Scott, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Discussion:

Chad has become a critical partner of the international community in the Sahel region. Over the last decade, Chad has been a key contributor to the peace and stability of the Sahel and Central Africa, acting as an "island of stability" in a turbulent region. Chad has been internationally recognized for its diplomatic and peacekeeping involvement abroad, particularly in Mali (2013), as well as for its military involvement in the fight against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin (2015). However, Chad is facing significant external and internal pressures, which add to its fragility and warrant the attention of the international community.

Panellists said that Chad remains an aid orphan. It continues to suffer from historically low levels of international assistance relative to humanitarian and development requirements. Over the last five years, humanitarian appeals have been funded, on average, to 55 per cent. Despite increased humanitarian requirements, aid levels continue to fall. Of the $527 million requested for humanitarian operations in 2015, less than 20 per cent is funded as of June 2015.

The panel explored ways to improve donor support for Chad, recognizing that this support is required in humanitarian and development assistance. The need to widen the donor base for Chad,

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as well as to ensure that Chad receives the right type of assistance, was highlighted. For example, it was noted that direct support for the Government budget by OECD countries was terminated in 2007/2008 and replaced by bilateral aid. Loans are also a big part of the portfolio, indicating that "debt swaps" in favour of further investment in social services could be promoted as a viable way of increasing support.

The discussion highlighted that more development and humanitarian partners are needed for Chad. In an underfunded context, it is all the more important that they work together towards preventive action. This is not only more efficient, it is also better value for money than spending on response. Humanitarians need to bring development actors on board to address the structural vulnerabilities that cause recurrent humanitarian needs. Chronic vulnerabilities should, as much as possible, be addressed through sustainable development solutions. The use of social-safety nets to address poverty is one such example. Development action should not be limited to the central level – economic growth and development must be reinforced in rural areas.

An anticipatory approach is also being piloted: prevention, risk analysis in natural disaster and risk mapping are taking place, bringing together humanitarian actors, development partners and authorities.

The panel encouraged donors to seek innovative ways to bridge humanitarian and development funding, and to take on complementary roles in supporting different actions. Chad was seen as a strong testing ground for establishing complementary funding and coordination mechanisms.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- A strong investment is required in Chad to save lives today and tomorrow. This may not require additional funds: the use of debt swaps and technology transfers could be considered. An analysis of the type of ODA received is recommended.
- MakinEfforts will be made to broaden and build donor engagement in Chad. OIC and AU members are encouraged to strengthen their engagement.
- MakinA well-articulated initiative to build resilience, which clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment and contribution, will also help attract international support. The example of Niger's "les Nigériens nourissent les Nigériens" was cited in that scope.
- MakinConsider Chad as a testing ground for resilience initiatives, in which new methods for linking relief and development can be tried.

4.15 **Shaping the future of humanitarian civil-military dialogue**
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor: Switzerland

Objective: Explore new models and approaches to meet future challenges in humanitarian civil-military coordination.

Chair: Urs Schmid, Deputy Permanent Representative – Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Moderator: Catherine Fiankan-Bokonga, Vice-President – Foreign Press Association of Switzerland & Lichtenstein

Panel: Anthony Craig, Senior Preparedness & Response Adviser – United Nations World Food Programme; Peter Essens, Principal Scientist, Dept. of Human Behaviour & Organisational Innovations – Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research; Jules Frost, Senior Advisor, Civil-Military Relations – World Vision International; David Maizlish, Adviser, Unit for Relations with Arms Carriers – International Committee of the Red Cross; and Anke Reiffenstuel, Deputy Head, Humanitarian Division – Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Discussion:
In terms of natural disasters, the discussions highlighted that there is a need to address the entry, employment and exit of foreign military assets (FMA). Addressing this will require strong leadership, an area where the panel noted a need for improvement. It was noted that more predictable response could be facilitated through preparation and planning with national authorities. From a logistical viewpoint, it was stated that the Gap-Fit Analysis tool is innovative and useful, and that there has to be a community of purpose in order to work well together.

On complex emergencies, the discussions called for stronger enforcement of IHL. They also noted that the legal requirements on all actors increase the complexity of work, yet adherence to IHL must be insisted upon. The panel also remarked that perception is important in the field and humanitarians must be seen to be neutral and impartial, as well as actually being so.

It was highlighted that humanitarian civil-military coordination (CMCoord) is very context-specific work, no one size fits all, and the work is underpinned by humanitarian principles and IHL. Moreover, with 80 per cent of humanitarian action conducted in complex emergencies, CMCoord has an increasingly important role in humanitarian action. It was also noted that how humanitarians interact with non-state armed groups is important. A platform is needed for humanitarians and militaries to interact while maintaining humanitarian principles; principles and pragmatism can coexist.

On the central issue of dialogue, the panel noted that clarity and understanding in the dialogue are as important as having dialogue between humanitarian and military actors, and stereotypes disappear with interaction and dialogue. Similarly, humanitarians must understand the consequences of information. It was also said that humanitarians must improve at bringing the military into the dialogue. Moreover, it was noted that CMCoord is difficult and humanitarians have to be comfortable operating with a lot of ambiguity.

Regarding preparedness, the panel remarked that humanitarians need to continue to advocate needs-based and principled humanitarian action, and that dialogue is necessary before an emergency. The effectiveness of preparations must also be examined, as effective operations are heavily affected by preparedness. Discussions noted that militaries brought important capacities in response to the Ebola virus outbreak. It was also stated that trust-building is essential and therefore dialogue has to start from the concept stage of a response operation.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- There is a need to focus on how to get stakeholders to recommit to proper and coherent use and effective coordination of foreign military assets in humanitarian action.
- There is a need to advocate the introduction of universal standards in how humanitarians and militaries interact. This would facilitate informed and principled decision-making for the deployment and use of foreign military assets in support of humanitarian action.
- In complex emergencies, when it is appropriate to share information, a dedicated platform where humanitarian and military actors can interact would be operationally effective and an efficient use of resources. Both parties must make a commitment to share information in an open and transparent manner.

4.16 **Aid effectiveness: Saving lives together**
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Co-organized by: Switzerland, the CHS Alliance, SCHR and the Sphere Project

Sponsors: Canada, Denmark and Germany

Objective: Discuss how a common set of standards for humanitarian action can support more effective responses, improve collaboration between diverse communities of actors, and enhance accountability of humanitarian organizations to affected populations.

Chair: Manuel Bessler, Ambassador, Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid

Panel: M. Zamir Akram, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations office in Geneva; Wolfgang Jamann, Secretary General, CARE International; Terry Morel, Director, Division of Emergency, Security and Supply, UNHCR; and Mike Penrose, Director

Discussion:
In opening remarks, it was underlined that over the past 20 years, humanitarian actors have developed many initiatives to promote greater relevance and efficiency of humanitarian response, while strongly advocating that people affected by crisis should be better included in the design and monitoring of humanitarian action. Important components of this common reference framework include the Sphere Standards, The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the NGOs in Disaster Relief and the Quality Compass, and the recently adopted Core Humanitarian Standards. Switzerland noted the added value of such initiatives and its continued support of them.

The panel stated that standards are learning, training and capacity-building tools that are urgently needed to strengthen local partners and create solid partnerships. Standards reflect principled humanitarian aid that translates into practical implementation and aid collaboration.

The panel agreed that standards set objectives for humanitarian action, but their application should be contextualized. They also agreed on their importance in providing a common base for dialogue with affected people, as well as with authorities who control access to affected people. Panellists expressed different views on whether standards should remain aspirational or whether independent verification of performance against standards should be promoted.

The discussion highlighted the importance of standards to set objectives for humanitarian actions, which also sets clear expectations for affected people and helps maintain a dialogue with all stakeholders on humanitarian action. Standards need to be adapted and applied in a variety of contexts and in-country capacities to enable and support quality and accountable responses. The discussions highlighted very different perspectives on third-party verification and certification among panellists.

4.17 The role of crisis-affected women and girls in shaping an effective, inclusive and coordinated future of humanitarian affairs
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: IASC Reference Group for Gender in Humanitarian Action, UN Women, Oxfam and Care International

Objective: Highlight the important role of women's civil society in humanitarian affairs.

Moderator: Steffen Kongstad

Panel: Binetta Diop, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; Rola Hallam, Hand in Hand Syria; Mary Oku-mu, UN Women Sierra Leone Representative; Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat; and Mary Kowa (video presentation), Councillor for Koinadugu District Sierra Leone and a member of the Kankela Kumala Women's Union

Discussion:
The panellists highlighted that gender inequalities are particularly acute in crisis settings. It is essential that women are seen as leaders in humanitarian response. Women's civil-society groups provide a platform that ensures women and girls in crisis-affected contexts have the opportunity to act as active contributors, leaders, participants and decision makers in the planning and implementation of humanitarian action that affects their lives and

the future of their families, communities and countries. Ultimately, investing in the capacity of women and girls in humanitarian action will leave a legacy of resilience.

Referring to a case study in Syria, the panel stressed that sexual and reproductive health is still not prioritized but desperately needed. Current humanitarian programming is developed according to donor standards, not actual need. Humanitarian assistance is provided by local groups, but grassroots women's organizations struggle to receive humanitarian funding and question whether mainstream humanitarian agencies follow humanitarian principles. It was noted that the traditional humanitarian system is failing women and that siloing gender and GBV funding damages programming. In a humanitarian context in which access is increasingly difficult for international organizations, investing in local organizations will facilitate a bigger impact in terms of humanitarian outcomes. Women are already active on the ground in meeting the needs of their community, and with support they could be significant partners in humanitarian response.

Based on a case study of the Ebola virus outbreak in Sierra Leone, the panel regretted that it took eight months for the UN humanitarian response to apply a gender lens to its Ebola response to decrease mortality and morbidity. Women and girls are more vulnerable to the Ebola virus, due to their role as caregivers. Just saying "don't touch" doesn't work for a mother, and insisting on a hospital-based approach resulted in lost lives. The military response unsettled people, and there was not enough communication as to where patients were. Women from districts that survived

the Ebola crisis are now reaching out to women whose districts are still affected to help support them and effectively respond. The panel stated that a collaborative approach for a gender response was eventually used in the Ebola response and worked well, even if it was late in the process. The positive effect of giving women a central role in responding to a humanitarian crisis was demonstrated during the Ebola outbreak and showed that the application of a gender lens in humanitarian response can be the difference between life and death.

Regarding women, peace and security, continued work is needed on the implementation of related Security Council resolutions. The relevance of the WHS agenda to humanitarian work must be clarified and understood by humanitarian actors. The panel noted good practices that should be replicated, including local African donors providing psychological support to survivors of conflict and African aid workers mobilized to respond to the Ebola virus outbreak. Projects and programmes are necessary to implement gender-equality work in conflicts.

The panel discussed the WHS as a venue to help women increase their voices and to help women be seen as partners and leaders. It was noted that incentives could be used to make gender-equality programming the norm. The panel stressed that the WHS is a unique opportunity to get everyone to sign on to the idea of gender equality, and for every humanitarian response going forward to have the full inclusion of women and girls, as all WHS regional consultations have called for direct funding and support to local organizations, including women's organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Humanitarian action strategies should include the localization of funding, involving local communities and including grass-roots women's organizations.
- It is essential that women are seen as leaders in humanitarian response. Investing in the capacity of women and girls would allow humanitarians to leave a legacy of resilience. Women are already active on the ground meeting the needs of their community. With the relevant and appropriate support they would prove significant partners in humanitarian response.
- Gender-equality programming must be the norm in humanitarian response to help save lives and build resiliency.
- Implementing a gender-based humanitarian strategy is not starting from zero: the data and the knowledge already exist, but they need to be harnessed to make humanitarian programming work for women and girls.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment need to move from becoming something that is accepted at the policy level to something that is implemented on the ground. The WHS is an opportunity to facilitate this and put women at the heart of humanitarian response.

4.18 **Strengthening protection in humanitarian settings**
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Switzerland, Republic of Korea and UNHCR (Global Protection Cluster)

Objectives: explore how humanitarian actors contribute to community-based protection efforts; and examine challenges humanitarian actors face complementing local protection structures and coping mechanisms.

Chair: Volker Turk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR

Panel: Pauline Elaine Riak, Executive Director of the Sudd Institute, South Sudan; Eva Svoboda, Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute; and Kevin Kennedy, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis

Discussion:
The event opened with an observation that this is one of the worst periods for humankind since the Second World War, with nearly 60 million people displaced from their homes by war, conflict or persecution. Against this backdrop, it was acknowledged that humanitarian actors sometimes fall short of delivering protection and assistance. The panel highlighted the situation of displaced people and challenges to access and protection of others who may not be able to flee, as they are trapped and living in besieged areas. The opening of the event underscored the role of affected communities in developing innovative ways of protecting themselves and the need to support local capacities to respond effectively to human-itarian needs. The documentary video by Local to Global Protection was also introduced, which highlights how local community groups have taken the lead in protecting themselves in Sudan.

Using the example of the conflict in South Sudan, participants were reminded of the role of affected communities in protection; the importance of effective communication with affected communities that humanitarian organizations are striving to protect; some of the shortcomings of humanitarian actors' attempts to meaningfully engage with communities; and some thought-provoking tips for improvement. The panel underlined the importance of understanding the heterogeneous nature of the local culture, noting the plethora of ethnic groups and languages in South Sudan. The panel spoke of the need for humanitarian organizations to reach out to and communicate with affected communities; to listen to and hear communities; to better understand their needs; and to explain the purpose of humanitarian actors' presence to the communities, as South Sudanese will assume they should be the ones protecting humanitarian workers, and not the other way around. It was suggested that humanitarian actors consider the cultural appropriateness of their assistance, be mindful of potentially sensitive issues such as gender, look to communicate with others beyond traditional community or political leaders, and reflect on how they are perceived by affected communities.

With regard to research outlining the effectiveness of support by Syrian diaspora to local responses, it was reported that diaspora, uniquely knowledgeable of the context and needs of the affected communities, made individual donations and rendered professional assistance in their respective fields. Through their links to local communities, the diaspora proved able to reach areas inaccessible to international organizations. Their work with local organizations

ranged from the provision of material assistance to medical assistance, education and psychosocial support, protection mainstreaming and documentation of human rights violations. It was noted that there are language barriers in these activities, citing examples of proposals to donors or reports on activities in Arabic that are often overlooked by the international community, and training courses for Syrian organizations by the international community that are often carried out only in English, thereby omitting those who only speak the local language. There is a need to adapt capacity-building initiatives to the needs of local organizations, which require, inter alia, increased knowledge of humanitarian aid; support in registering NGOs; assistance in understanding funding, audits and monitoring; management skills; awareness of issues such as potential pitfalls in counter-terrorism legislation; and mentoring support. The session emphasized the need for humanitarian actors to understand and adapt to the context of each situation, and for organizations to make a long-term commitment to bringing the right resources to address the identified needs.

The limits of humanitarian protection in Syria and challenges faced by humanitarian workers in a very insecure environment were outlined. The lack of respect by all parties to the conflict for IHL and human rights law continues to be problematic in Syria, and the lack of access to affected communities, particularly due to insecurity, is an obstacle to effective protection. There is no 'one size fits all' approach, and the panel remarked on the importance of taking the context into account to ensure protection measures are commensurate with realities on the ground. It was further stressed that including local NGOs in the humanitarian response is important, noting that $30 million is currently provided to national NGOs in Syria, highlighting their role in the overall coordination of the response in Syria. To facilitate access of national NGOs in the

humanitarian response, all meetings and trainings are conducted in English and Arabic. The panel urged humanitarian actors to take cultural complexities of each situation into account, and to take time to listen, hear and try to understand the context before making commitments.

Discussion with the participants focused on many areas, including the life-saving nature of protection, the need to demystify the concept of protection, and protection risks faced by children, who make up an average of 50 per cent of affected communities but are often not consulted. Participants also commented on the necessity to look at each particular context, stressing that one size does not fit all when it comes to protecting communities. Finally, participants noted that the Human Rights Up Front UN initiative should be better understood and implemented by humanitarian actors in the field, including NGOs, to ensure that needs are translated up to governing bodies working to define preventive action.

Conclusions and recommendations:
The key ingredients in strengthening protection in a humanitarian setting include community literacy, reached through listening, hearing and understanding communities from the beginning of a crisis to the end; humility, essential for humanitarian actors from outside the area who need to understand what is going on in a particular context; and the need for self-assessment of effectiveness of protection measures, to establish whether and what is making a difference.

The session concluded with a reminder for a bottom-up approach to partnership with communities, with all its facets, diversity and richness, in order to provide effective protection. Understanding the context, language, culture and needs of the affected community is key to protection.

4.19 Preparedness in a changing climate: Integrating climate risk into emergency preparedness
18 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor: OCHA

Objective: Explore the state of climate risk integration into emergency preparedness by addressing two questions:
(a) How do we incorporate climate risk into emergency preparedness?
(b) How do we act on available climate risk information to ensure effective preparedness and response at the local level?

Chair: Neil McFarlane, Chief, Regional Programmes and DRR Coordination, UNISDR

Moderator: Rudolf Müller, Deputy Director and Chief, Emergency Services Branch, OCHA

Panel: Neil McFarlane, Chief, Regional Programmes and DRR Coordination, UNISDR; Wayne McCook, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva; Maarten van Aalst, Director, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre; Beris Gwynne, Director and Representative to the UN Geneva, World Vision International; and Lorenzo Guadagno, Programme

Discussion:
The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was presented. It was highlighted that the framework promotes the development and investment in multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services. Climate researchers can now determine the probability of extreme weather events for specific regions based on forecasts, up to six months in advance. By operationalizing and using this scientific information, it offers time to prepare and implement adequate and appropriate measures for risk management and emergency preparedness at the community, country and regional levels.

The panel reiterated that risk analysis, specifically climate risk information, needs to be better integrated into humanitarian action and emergency preparedness at all levels. Risk models and triggers should become more sophisticated, and there must be clear links and mechanisms for action. There is a need to improve the forecast for slow-onset events, including drought and floods, which are expected to increase as the effects of climate change.

The importance of the "3Cs"—coordination, coherence and complementarity—for effective preparedness was stressed. The panel noted the need for complementarity among climate change, DRR and preparedness measures. Given that extreme weather conditions have resulted in the loss of livelihoods and had other economic and humanitarian effects, it is necessary to understand the full cost of disasters, including management and risk prevention. Thus, while dealing with immediate response, it is necessary to reduce future effects through joined-up climate change, preparedness and disaster risk reduction strategies. In the case of Jamaica, emergency preparedness mechanisms are activated before each hurricane season by pre-positioning relief items and heavy equipment.

The panel agreed on global-level coherence and stressed the importance of acting on available scientific information in a timely manner. Beyond the traditional storm warning, there is information readily accessible by the humanitarian community weeks and months ahead. However, the current humanitarian system is not set up for early actions as there is less funding available for preparedness. The Sahel food crisis is an example of the humanitarian community not acting swiftly enough despite available forecasting. The Climate Centre, with the support of the Government

of Germany, has been working with partners on mechanisms to better understand the triggers for action and developing standard operating procedures for action.

Access to climate services should be complemented with other types of information. Collected information needs to be processed for the targeted audience through the development of practical and usable guidelines for field staff to respond to certain indicators. The panel agreed that national capacity needs to be built in, linking early warning to early action. Further, there should be coherence among global processes of DRR, climate change and humanitarian actions. Governments and NGOs need to work together and acknowledge the comparative advantage of different organizations.

The panel stated that there are clear links between climate change and further displacement. Climate change affects the most vulnerable communities and creates conditions that reinforce multifaceted humanitarian emergencies. Climate change could result in more mobility and displacement from certain areas, but it can also result in increased obstacles to move out of the areas at risk, particularly for the most vulnerable people. DRR and resilience-building, with a long-term and multi-hazard approach, can reduce some of the key drivers of displacement and forced migration.

Interactive group discussion:
The group agreed that the use of climate services will be determined by the way it is packaged and communicated (language, quality of information, source and credibility of information). The relevant social infrastructure needs to be in place to support an efficient use of climate and weather information. Innovative financing systems should allow for better use of readily available climate information.

Regarding coordination, including cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder, the group discussed the essential role of coordination in enhancing preparedness for climate-induced disasters, as the humanitarian community cannot act on its own. There is a need for

a more participatory approach, including the views of indigenous communities and gender perspective.

The need to be more aware of climate risk, particularly by decision makers, was agreed.   This requires investment in risk education and emergency preparedness. Awareness should be raised at community, local, national, regional and global levels. The media and private sector also have an important role to play in raising awareness, and the media can be trained to better attribute extreme weather events.

For truly durable solutions for displacement, the group concluded that a comprehensive package (food, water, other basic needs, education, employment and livelihoods) should be offered to displaced people and host communities. Information on risk and opportunities for relocation is essential for decision makers to plan for durable solutions and for displaced people to make informed choices. It was highlighted that urban planning and development will become central to finding durable solutions for displacement, as cities have become hotspots for climate-related displacement.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Information on climate risks, through climate services, should be tailored to local needs, sophisticated enough to be acted on but clear and simple enough to be understood and usable. Such information needs to be strategically conveyed to affected people. Tools for reliable environmental risk information are improving and increasing, but there is still work to be done with sharing this information.
- Coordination, coherence and complementarity are important in making better use of climate information to enhance preparedness, risk management and resilience-building.
- The coherence and mutual reinforcement among key global processes, climate change, DRR, development and humanitarian action need to be promoted.

4.20 Devastating consequences – The use of explosive weapons in populated areas
19 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Austria and OCHA

Objectives: raise awareness of the immediate and longer-term impacts of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA).

Panel: Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva; Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Director of the Policy Development and Studies Branch, OCHA; Maya Brehm, representing Article 36 and the International Network on Explosive Weapons; Anne Héry, Director, Advocacy and Institutional Relations, Handicap International Federation; and Jacques F. Baud, Head, Small Arms and Light Weapons, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO

Discussion:
During the introduction, it was highlighted that the increased use of EWIPA is causing great suffering among civilians, particularly among women and children. It was reported that Austria, with OCHA, will convene an international meeting in Vienna on 21 and 22 September to further discuss the various aspects and consequences of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and also to study options such as a political declaration to address this issue.

It was reported that on many occasions since 2009, the UN Secretary-General has highlighted the devastating humanitarian impact of the use of EWIPA. Today's conflicts are increasingly taking place in urban contexts, exposing civilians to great harm. Civilians comprise 92 per cent of casualties in conflict caused by the use of EWIPA. An increased use of explosive weapons is causing great suffering among civilians, particularly among women and children. A total of 41,847 people were killed or injured by explosive weapons in 2014. Ninety per cent of casualties in areas where explosive weapons are being used are civilians (a 50 per cent increase of civilian casualties compared with 2011). The use of explosive weapons is a major driver of displacement and has long-term consequences that last for generations after conflicts have ended. While explosive weapons are not explicitly prohibited under IHL, in many cases their use in populated areas constitutes unlawful conduct because of their indiscriminate impact. The use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects is indiscriminate yet predictable. It kills civilians, creates complex injuries and is a major driver of displacement. Data collected by different actors over the recent years point to a distinct pattern of harm to civilians across various contexts. It was underlined that there is a very high risk that the civilian population will

be affected by blast and fragmentation, even if they are not directly targeted, particularly when weapons with wide-area effects are used in populated areas. The use of EWIPA is a threat to life, hinders access to land and the safe return of displaced populations, and impedes access to and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Key findings from Handicap International (HI) field studies in Syria were presented. According to this research, there is massive use of explosive weapons by all parties to the conflict in Syria, particularly in urban areas. This poses a threat to the lives of 5.1 million Syrians, including 2 million children. More than 1 million people have been injured by explosive weapons during the conflict in Syria, and the heavy use of EWIPA continues to kill and cause complex injuries. The consequences of conflict in Kobane were specifically reported. Extremely violent fighting has destroyed 80 per cent of the city and forced 90 per cent of the population to flee.

Explosive weapons cause severe damage to infrastructure, including health-care facilities and schools, and they pose a long-term threat to civilians that might last for generations after conflicts have ended. Many explosive weapons are not explicitly prohibited under IHL. In most cases their use in populated areas constitutes unlawful conduct because of their indiscriminate impact. The panel stressed the importance of efforts to compile existing good practices (International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), African Union Mission to Somalia) to minimize the humanitarian impact of these weapons. At the tactical level, ISAF works to minimize harm to civilians, but it was noted that such practice and doctrine remain limited. The panel emphasized the urgent need for a political commitment to ultimately stop the use of EWIPA. There are some important military precedents that illustrate how a change in practice by military forces using explosive weapons can significantly improve the protection of civilians.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- A political commitment e.g. in form of a declaration was discussed as an appropriate way to address the problem. Member States were encouraged to consider working towards such a commitment. This issue will also be discussed in an expert meeting that will be organised by Austria in cooperation with OCHA in Vienna on 21-22 September 2015.
- There is a need for better and more data collection to further refine our understanding of the use of and short and long term humanitarian impact of explosive weapons in ongoing/recent conflicts.
- There was a call for more sharing of lessons learned and compilation of good practices in minimising or avoiding the use of EWIPA, with a view to strengthening the protection of civilians in conflict. OCHA's ongoing efforts to compile good practices was noted. This could also lead to reviews of national practice.
- The importance of enhanced humanitarian-military dialogue on this issue taking into account tactical, strategic and operational considerations was also noted.
- The need to highlight testimonies of survivors and to promote the rights of victims and survivors was noted.
- There was a call for attention also to addressing the responsibilities of non-state actors to protect civilians from use of explosive weapons, in particular with reference to increased use of IEDs by non-state actors.

4.21 **Casualty recording for humanitarian action**
19 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Colombia and Every Casualty Worldwide

Objectives: build support for recording all casualties of armed violence; inform and update UN Member States on progress in establishing casualty recording as a universal practice, and highlight best practices of how Governments, civil society and the UN may work together to document casualties in a way that will contribute to immediate and longer-term humanitarian response.

Chair: Beatriz Londoño Soto, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva

Moderator: Everett Ressler, Former Chief of Early Warning and Preparedness at UNICEF

Panel: Hamit Dardagan the Co-Director of Every Casualty Worldwide; and Marc Antoine Perouse de Montclos, Director and Founder of Nigeria Watch

Discussion:
The session opened with a presentation on the importance of the Every Casualty campaign to victims of armed violence and their families. The panel reminded participants that the UN Secretary-General called for casualty recording in the context of the protection of civilians. The panel and participants were urged to reflect on the goals and purposes of casualty recording and how it can be implemented.

> *Although casualty recording may vary from context to context, it is driven by a moral premise that every human life is inherently valuable, and in recognition of this it generally aims to record not just how many died but who died.*

Casualty recording was described as the comprehensive, systematic and continuous documentation of deaths and the incidents in which they occur, and the publication of this in a verifiable, transparent, disaggregated and accessible form. It was noted that although casualty recording may vary from context to context, it is driven by a moral premise that every human life is inherently valuable, and in recognition of this it generally aims to record not just how many died but who died. Given that this type of recording is nowadays electronic, research into current practice by Every Casualty has discovered that modern casualty recording also has a range of identified and potential benefits for humanitarian action. For example, detailed casualty databases may be queried to understand trends in violence, establish the vulnerabilities of various groups, monitor compliance with IHL, and provide immediate operational uses, such as identifying safe supply routes for humanitarian access. Casualty recording is becoming a field in its own right, with a process for creating agreed standards currently under way. Despite all this, it remains inconsistently implemented at the global level and needs the support of States to ensure that every casualty, anywhere in the world, is promptly recorded, correctly identified and publicly acknowledged.

The work of the Government of Colombia, through the Unit for Victim Assistance and Redress, was presented. Colombia has taken a unique lead in pioneering a casualty-recording initiative based on the principle that every victim should be recorded, no matter what

side of the conflict they were on, and to recognize all victims equally, begin restitution and contribute to peacebuilding. It was noted that so far over 7 million victims have been included in a single victim's registry, of which 264,112 are deaths. This registry demonstrates that a large-scale casualty-recording initiative is possible. The single-platform registry seeks to consolidate information about direct and indirect victims. It was emphasized that this initiative requires strong political will from Governments and coordination among Government agencies, civil society and others.

The case of Nigeria was presented as an example of a civil-society-led exercise. The panel noted that in Nigeria and more generally, monitoring violent deaths is a particularly straightforward index of violence, which can consistently be compared across time and location in order to assess trends. This information is essential to formulate policies and programmes to reduce or contain violence. It was reported that Nigeria Watch's data has been used by local and international media, as well as by humanitarian information networks such as IRIN. In the absence of any official or State-led initiative, casualty recording can still be undertaken, if only to create public awareness.

Many participants agreed that casualty recording can potentially fill a critical gap in the international system, as a lack of reliable and disaggregated data on deaths presents a challenge in dealing with the past, providing corrective measures for victims, as well as protecting civilians and reducing violence. It was reported that the UN Secretary-General has integrated casualty recording into the Rights Up Front initiative to engage parties of conflict, try to change their behaviour and promote compliance with IHL.

Participants asked how casualty recording is linked to WHO's initiative on universal birth-and-death registration. The panel recognized that countries with a good vital registration system also saw a need for casualty recording to publicly acknowledge victims, especially in post-conflict situations.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Despite its many benefits and the clear need and availability of the technical means to undertake casualty recording, it is far from consistently undertaken around the world.
- Political will is needed to ensure that every casualty of armed violence around the world is promptly recorded, correctly identified and publicly acknowledged.
- It is necessary to establish global standards, involving civil-society practitioners, Governments and other stakeholders.

4.22 **World Humanitarian Summit –** **Countdown to Istanbul: Voices for Change**
19 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsored by the Governments of Mexico and Turkey

Objective: Showcase the diversity of perspectives that have emerged from this wide-ranging consultation process; highlight opportunities for mutual cooperation and collaboration; and explore the vision for a more inclusive and diverse global humanitarian system.

Co-hosts: Jorge Lomónaco, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN in Geneva; and Mehmet Ferden Çarikçi, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UN in Geneva

Moderator: Martha Maznevski, IMD International Institute for Management Development

Panel: Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation; Ilwad Elman, Director of Programmes and Development, Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre; and Ed Schenkenberg Van Mierop, Executive Director, Humanitarian Exchange and Research Centre (HERE-Geneva)

Discussion:
- The panel included representatives of key stakeholders who have been engaged in the WHS process to share their perspectives on the bold changes that are needed to meet the enormous challenges that humanitarians and the people they serve face in the coming years and decades.
- The panellists underlined that the WHS is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to innovate and adapt the humanitarian system to address new challenges. The WHS should re-inspire our commitment to humanity.
- Humanity was mentioned several times as the core value to humanitarian action, which should be reaffirmed as such in Istanbul.
- The view was consistently expressed that affected people have to be at the centre of the humanitarian response as beneficiaries and first responders. It is important to help affected people preserve or regain their dignity.
- Communities and local groups are the first responders and remain on the ground long after the UN leaves. More synergies between local and international actors at field level are required. Several participants emphasized the need to build trust with local responders and to invest time and resources

to build capacity at local level.
- Several Member States stated their support and commitment for the multi-stakeholder nature of the WHS process, which is in line with humanitarian action—an area of clear Government responsibility, but which also requires broad participation and inputs from other stakeholders. They also welcomed the efforts to make the process as inclusive and transparent as possible. They suggested that more Member States might benefit from national-level consultations with their various national constituencies, as some have done spontaneously.
- Several Member States made references to the non-intergovernmental nature of the Summit and requested further information on the process leading up to Istanbul.
- Mr. O'Brien emphasized that the WHS is the initiative of the Secretary-General to bring together Governments, non-governmental organizations, local communities and other partners to seek more effective and innovative ways of meeting the needs of people affected by humanitarian crises. He called for all participants to continue to engage with the WHS process. The Global Consultation in Geneva (October 2015) will be a springboard to the Summit in Istanbul (May 2016). The Summit is not an end in itself. It is a departure point for changes that will ensure that global humanitarian action keeps pace with the new challenges and opportunities of our rapidly evolving world, and contributes to our global efforts to lift millions of people out of suffering and ensure that no-one is left behind.
- There were suggestions for renewed national-level consultations and for distilling the WHS consultative and inclusive process in a way that avoids a lowest-common-denominator outcome. Some proposals were made for the agenda at the Summit, including discussions on disaster risk reduction; local capacity building and technological development; and better approaches to pandemic responses. Participants stressed that the WHS represented an opportunity to recommit to the humanitarian principles, re-focus humanitarian action to help people to preserve or regain their dignity, and improve the UN system.

4.23 Counter-terrorism measures and principled humanitarian action
19 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor: OCHA

Objective: Identify concrete measures for delivering principled humanitarian assistance to people in need while complying with counter-terrorism measures.

Chair: Naz K. Modirzadeh, Director, Harvard Law School Program on International Law & Armed Conflict

Panel: Kyung-wha Kang, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator; Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council; Hany El-Banna OBE: Chairman of the Muslim Charities Forum and Founder of Islamic Relief; and Elizabeth Campbell, Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor, US Department of State/Bureau of International Organization Affairs

Discussion:
The panel said there was increasing recognition that counter-terrorism measures have an increasing impact on the overall humanitarian environment. Panellists emphasized the direct and indirect humanitarian impact of some counter-terrorism measures (e.g., restrictions on transfer of funds; criminalization of some activities; chilling effect on organization, self-censorship). They underlined the need for a strengthened dialogue between counter-terrorism and humanitarian actors to mitigate that impact, including by bringing clarity on existing laws and policies. The need for humanitarian exemption and the importance of engaging the banking sector were also stressed.

The discussion highlighted the need for an evidence-based approach and the related importance for humanitarian organizations to gather accurate information on the concrete impact of counter-terrorism measures to support discussions with Governments and counter-terrorism entities. Similarly, there was consensus on the importance of strengthening monitoring mechanisms to limit risks of aid diversion, as fighting aid diversion is a humanitarian imperative and a counter-terrorism requirement.

The importance of maintaining a clear distinction between counter-terrorism and humanitarian action was stressed. Humanitarian action should not be used as a pillar of COTER efforts.

The steps taken by the US Government to mitigate the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian organizations and programmes were highlighted, including the establishment of an inter-agency working group to analyse the issues on a regular basis and the issuance of guidance and licences by the Treasury.

Conclusions:
The panel concluded that the following actions are needed:

- Strengthened dialogue between humanitarians and counter-terrorism actors.
- Research on the impact of counter-terrorism measures.
- Guidance and clarity for humanitarian organizations on counter-terrorism legislation and policies.
- Strengthened monitoring mechanisms to limit aid diversion.

4.24 Protracted internal displacement: Rethinking the humanitarian response

19 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: European Commission and IDMC

Objectives: Present the latest global trends in internal displace-
ment, with a specific focus on protracted situations;
discuss the protection challenges faced by IDPs
trapped in displacement over long periods of time,
and consider the impacts on individuals, groups
and host communities; discuss whether the current
humanitarian response framework is well suited
to address these impacts; and look at possible
transformational approaches to prevent or unlock
protracted situations.

Panel: Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director of Policy, DG ECHO;
Alfredo Zamudio, Director, IDMC (Internal Displace-
ment Monitoring Centre); Hansjoerg Strohmeyer,
Chief of Policy Development and Studies Branch,
OCHA; and Niels Harild, Manager, Global Program on
Forced Displacement, World Bank

Discussion:

> *Initially, displacement starts as a humanitarian issue.*
> *But once it continues for a long time, displacement becomes*
> *a development and political issue, not a humanitarian issue.*
> *Further, there are long-term development and security*
> *implications of protracted displacement, as it can lead to*
> *exclusion, poverty, loss of human capital and radicalization.*

The panel noted that protracted displacement was mentioned in
almost every event during ECOSOC. Internal displacement is highly
complex, as IDPs are often displaced on multiple occasions and
seldom in organized camps, instead finding refuge in urban areas,
which adds to the scores of urban poor in slum areas. They are
also highly vulnerable, as they tend to be forgotten or deliberately
ignored. It was remarked that the origin of and solutions to internal
displacement are political.

So far in 2015, 38 million people are internally displaced globally; 11
million were displaced by conflict and violence alone. Disaster-in-
duced displacement is increasing, as disasters are more frequent. It
was reported that the average internal displacement is 17 years.

The panel described conflict-induced displacement as a global
"blind spot". In two thirds of countries monitored, in more than 90
per cent of countries, displacement lasts for more than 10 years,
with needs and vulnerabilities changing over time. When data is
requested, the issue of national sovereignty is raised regularly.

Regarding funding, the panel noted that 10 years ago, CAPs
launched for $3.5 billion and now appeals measure upwards of $20
billion. The vast increase in financing does seem to be reaching
a plateau. In 2014, 80 per cent of funding went to protracted,
long-standing crises: Syria, Somalia, DRC, Sudan and South Sudan.
It was noted that the longer humanitarians stay in protracted cri-
ses, the greater the per capita expenditure becomes, as assistance
becomes more sophisticated. The average appeal is now at seven
years, but fundraising and planning largely remain annual. Human-
itarian work needs to move from perpetuating dependency and
move towards reducing vulnerabilities and self-reliance. To do this,
the panel suggested that actors need to transcend silos, become
more long term and see each actor's comparative advantages to
address a given situation.

The panel observed that protracted displacement becomes a
life sentence. After a year or two, a different assistance model
needs to be implemented. This should include outreach to host
communities, municipalities and Governments. Current planning
tools are dysfunctional. It was suggested that in the fifth year of an
operation people need secure housing, education, work, income
generation and sometimes protection.

Initially, displacement starts as a humanitarian issue. But once it
continues for a long time, displacement becomes a development
and political issue, not a humanitarian issue. Further, there are long-
term development and security implications of protracted displace-
ment, as it can lead to exclusion, poverty, loss of human capital and
radicalization. The panel said displacement should be an integral
part of the SDGs. The panel highlighted the need for voluntary tar-
gets and indicators for SDGs as part of an advocacy platform.

The panel concluded that the time is ripe for a dramatic change that
should include a change in approach from humanitarian response
to a broader and sustained response with development and politi-
cal actors, related policies and long-term planning. The panel noted
that the solution will not come through the UN alone, but involves
the political will and participation of affected Governments.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Political will and a fundamental change are needed in our
  approach to displacement. Displacement is a development
  and political issue, not only a humanitarian one.
- The correlation between fragility and displacement must be
  recognized. There are serious long-term development and
  security implications of protracted displacement.
- Most crises become protracted, and while a humanitarian and
  development divide does exist within some double-hatted or-
  ganizations, it is necessary to have a common shared analysis
  that includes a review of the comparative advantages of each
  actor to address a given situation.

4.25 The future of humanitarian coordination
19 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) secretariat

Objective: Explore the added value of the IASC, how it has adapted to the evolving humanitarian environment and what the future holds for humanitarian coordination.

Chair: Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

Panel: Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); Lise Grande, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq; Faizal Perdaus, President Mercy Malaysia and Chair ICVA Consortium; Christof E. Ehrhart, Head of Corporate Communications & Responsibility, Executive Vice President, Deutsche Post DHL Group; and Bruce Aylward, Special Representative of the Director General for Ebola and Assistant Director General for Emergencies at WHO

Discussion:
The panel reflected that the coordination of humanitarian assistance has improved through the implementation of the 2005 Humanitarian Reform and the 2012 Transformative Agenda. Headquarters has become more engaged and operations have become more accountable. Response is now often coordinated through the clusters, making operations increasingly more inclusive and broad based. Clusters are obliged to uphold mandated standards and are responsible for defending their decisions with evidence, resulting in smarter and more effective responses. There has been a shift of authority to Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs), whose leadership is overall accepted and supported. Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) generally work collectively and in solidarity. NGOs are increasingly recognized and empowered as full partners, often acting as cluster co-coordinators and having increased access to country-based pooled funds.

> *"Perfect" humanitarian coordination will never exist… the focus should instead be on increasing speed, efficiency, accuracy and transparency of humanitarian action and increasing accountability to beneficiaries.*

It was reported that the IASC agenda has resulted in increased transparency with regard to pooled funds, and funding mechanisms have improved, although not sufficiently. Information regarding incoming relief goods is improving. As a result, beneficia-

ries receive more of the goods they need. Finally, many efforts to better prepare for emergencies have been successful, for example, Getting Airports Ready for Disasters contributed to a more efficient delivery of relief items following the 2015 Nepal earthquakes.

Despite the many improvements, many challenges remain. The panel remarked that humanitarian coordination is currently over-regulated, bureaucratic, loaded with processes, undercapacitated and underappreciated. Protection has not improved sufficiently and is currently being treated as a responsibility of the Protection Cluster, when in reality it is everyone's responsibility.

The question of accountability remains, and it is yet to be determined whether impact has improved due to increased inclusivity (which has resulted in higher transaction costs). There is an overemphasis on satisfying donor needs instead of focusing on recipients' needs, and humanitarian actors find it challenging to demonstrate the impact of each dollar donated, particularly in deep-conflict settings.

All panellists agreed that inclusiveness could be improved, particularly at the Global Cluster level. In some contexts, cluster members lacked decision-making power, indicating commitment issues from organizations party to the clusters and/or reflecting the exclusion of key players. The panel recommended that looking forward, more inter-cluster work needs to be done. The intentions of profit-making companies involved in humanitarian affairs were questioned.

Predictable humanitarian financing is perceived as one of the biggest failures in recent years. Panellists criticized that there is no tax nor a dedicated budget for humanitarian action as there is for security. Great concern was expressed over donor conditionality.

There was a shared view that "perfect" humanitarian coordination would never exist, and that the focus should instead be on increasing speed, efficiency, accuracy and transparency of humanitarian action and increasing accountability to beneficiaries. Improved humanitarian coordination would involve local and national actors (civil society, NGOs, etc.), modern technological assistance (e.g., Virtual On-site Operations and Coordination Centre, DHL Resilience 360, civil drones), better preparation and training mechanisms, and a focus on beneficiaries instead of prioritizing the needs of donors. To achieve this, there should be a focus on the inclusion of relevant actors; greater innovation of systems, practices and technologies; improving funding mechanisms and cost efficiencies; accountability to beneficiaries; interoperability and better predictability of cluster functions; flexibility of coordinating mechanisms; and generating a sense of common purpose among actors, while helping them play into their strengths.

To better deal with access problems, local people need to be better involved in processes through information sharing and mutual

learning (in local languages). Funding needs to be localized, but this does not mean that there should be no international presence. Overall, there was consensus that humanitarian coordination should focus on the implementation and primacy of aid delivery and principled humanitarian action.

Conclusions and recommendations:
- Humanitarianism is fundamental to multilateralism.
- Partnerships with a variety of actors are important in all disasters and crises.
- Engagement with local stakeholders is key; affected populations need to be at the centre of humanitarian operations.
- Stronger involvement of the private sector is encouraged; these partnerships could help improve the cost-effectiveness of humanitarian operations.

- Member States should be charged a humanitarian tax; guaranteed funds should be provided for first responses.
- Transaction costs could be lowered by creating a one-stop shop for HCs.
- Improve funding mechanisms and cost-efficiency through greater innovation.
- People with the relevant competencies should be placed into Government coordinating mechanisms.
- Need for mechanisms for any potential hazard, including pandemics. An 'OCHA in a box', similar to Canada's DART programme and the US tag teams, was suggested.
- Focus needs to remain on the implementation and primacy of aid delivery and principled humanitarian action.

5. Humanitarian Trade Fair
Palais des Nations, Geneva

The twenty-five exhibits, which were on display at the third Humanitarian Trade Fair, listed:

1. Wartime parenting
2. How does it work – innovative approaches to beneficiary registration in emergencies
3. One day in IOM resettlement assistance
4. Virtual reality and vulnerable communities: Clouds over Sidra
5. Geneva screening of growing home
6. World Humanitarian Summit
7. Photo exhibition on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA)
8. One Billion Coalition for Disaster
9. Preparedness saves lives and livelihoods
10. More than mines: Enabling humanitarian mine action
11. Emergency risk management and humanitarian response
12. UNFPA caring for the special needs of women and girls in humanitarian emergencies
13. A human story behind the figures
14. Campaign to end statelessness by 2024 #IBelong

15. Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (VAM)
16. World Humanitarian Data and Trends
17. Global Humanitarian Overview Status Report 2015
18. Innovation Norway
19. Flyability - the collision-tolerant exploration and inspection drone
20. Hackathon
21. Humanitarian Data Exchange
22. KoBo Toolbox: a humanitarian platform for mobile data collection
23. The new Financial Tracking Service (FTS)
24. Ideas box
25. GoHelp

5.1 **Wartime parenting**
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Since 2009, IRC has been working to reduce violence in the lives of children in crisis zones and support their healthy development by introducing parents to techniques they can use to communicate and problem-solve effectively with their children and discipline them without the use of violence. IRC and research partners from the Harvard School of Public Health and Duke University conducted impact evaluations of two of these parenting and family skills interventions – also referred to as Families Make the Difference programmes - with communities that lived through the civil war in rural Liberia, and among displaced Burmese families on the Thailand-Myanmar border. This research found that these interventions had a significant impact on parenting practices, family functioning and child behaviour. Surveys of children living in IDP camps in northern Syria and refugee camps in Lebanon revealed that the mental health of many children is at risk due to the stress of their living environments and the suffering they have witnessed. IRC is using lessons learned from its Families Make the Difference programmes to introduce these parents to new ways of coping with the stress of their lives so that they are better able to shelter their children from the stresses and difficulties they are forced to live with.

At the Humanitarian Trade Fair, a short film highlighted how IRC has responded to the threat to the mental well-being of children living in conflict and displacement settings by supporting families through parenting skills programmes. An interactive webpage guided visitors through the story of the why, how and where of the parenting skills programmes. It demonstrated how IRC is using lessons learned from parenting skills interventions in Thailand and Liberia to introduce parents in contexts such as northern Syria to new ways of coping with the stress of their lives so that they are better able to shelter their children from the stresses and difficulties they are forced to live with.
www.rescue.org

5.2 **How does it work – innovative approaches to beneficiary registration in emergencies**
World Vision International
The 'last mile' is the critical stage of humanitarian aid delivery where essential supplies reach the people most affected by disasters. World Vision developed the Last Mile Mobile Solution (LMMS) as a stand-alone digital system with functionalities including beneficiary registration, verification, distribution planning and management, monitoring and reporting. It improves remote data collection, helps manage aid recipients, enables faster and fairer aid distributions and delivers rapid reporting to aid workers. As of May 2015, LMMS has registered over 3 million beneficiaries and has been deployed in 26 countries by over a dozen different humanitarian agencies. World Vision is currently piloting the expanded use of the LMMS card to ensure that the card owners can link their ID to a voucher or electronic cash transfer program.

At the Humanitarian Trade Fair, World Vision facilitated an experiential demonstration of beneficiary registration that takes place in emergencies using the LMMS platform. World Vision staff took the trade fair's visitors through a registration process which is normally used for the affected population in order to give them an experiential idea of what it feels like to be an affected person during an emergency, as well as how access to aid with a registered ID can be improved. This demonstration showcased how LMMS not only has the benefit of giving each individual official documentation, but how it also ensures accountability and fairness during distribution processes, as well as prevents fraud.
www.wvi.org

5.3 **One day in IOM resettlement assistance**
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
For nearly 65 years, IOM has played a critical role in refugee resettlement around the world, from well-established programmes to ad hoc responses to specific forced migration crises. Supporting Member States by resettling refugees and migrants is a fundamental purpose of IOM and its largest ongoing activity, helping almost 122,000 people in 2014. IOM provides the capacity to implement cost-effective pre-departure resettlement services worldwide, while working with governments, UNHCR, NGOs, and other partners, such as airlines. These services – transportation assistance and coordination, case processing, health assessments, and overseas language training and/or orientation – are designed to support refugees and counterparts across the resettlement continuum, and to contribute to humane and orderly migration. It is of IOM's utmost concern that resettlement is carried out while upholding the dignity and safety of refugees and fostering their successful integration.

The project titled One Day in IOM Resettlement Assistance highlighted the volume and range of tasks performed by IOM during resettlement activities around the globe over a 24-hour period. It raised awareness of the geographically and culturally diverse caseload of refugees being resettled; explained the dynamic realities involved in carrying out Article 1 of IOM's mandate; and highlighted the difficult conditions in which IOM staff work to move refugees in a safe and orderly fashion. The project centrepiece, a large and high-quality map, provided an illuminating one-day snapshot of the sheer volume and expanse of refugee resettlement operations around the world. A short video added the candid perspectives of refugees and IOM staff members that support them during resettlement. The IOM resettlement bag, featured prominently in the video, was also on display along with its contents in order to provide a tangible piece of equipment that trade fair visitors could interact with.
www.iom.int

5.4 Virtual reality and vulnerable communities: Clouds over Sidra
United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC)

Clouds over Sidra is the first in a planned series of films demonstrating global development challenges. The aim is to bring the experience of vulnerable communities straight to decision makers, thereby creating deeper empathy and understanding. This is in line with the UNMC's efforts to elevate the voices of those who often do not have a say, bringing people's voices directly into the decision-making process.

Clouds Over Sidra enabled trade fair visitors to follow the life of a young Syrian girl named Sidra in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. The virtual reality experience immersed the participants in a 720-degree viewing experience. This project is a collaboration between UNMC, UNICEF Jordan, Samsung, Chris Milk and his production studio VRSE.works.
http://blog.myworld2015.org/virtualreality

5.5 Geneva screening of Growing Home
UNAFF Traveling Film Festival
This documentary follows the daily life of a Syrian barber struggling to maintain normality in the Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. As stated by the film director, Faisal Attrache, *Growing Home* shows what it might be like if your life were suddenly uprooted and you were forced to make a new home in a refugee camp in the desert. It shows the will and determination of these people to make decent lives for themselves despite the odds being against them. When you watch this film, keep in mind that Samer could be you or your brother or neighbour or friend, and remember that these refugees may never be able to return to their homes without the support of the capable and willing people of the world.

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) was conceived to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was founded by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic with the participation of the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter, a community-based non-profit organization. UNAFF celebrates the power of films dealing with human rights, environmental themes, population, migration, women's issues, refugees, homelessness, racism, health, universal education, war and peace. UNAFF has screened some of the most awarded and talked about documentaries in the industry, including seven that won Academy Awards and 23 that were nominated.
www.unaff.org/2015 and *www.refugeebarbers.com*

5.6 World Humanitarian Summit
World Humanitarian Summit secretariat
The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General. The first global summit on humanitarian action of this size and scope, it will be held in Istanbul in May 2016. The goal is to bring the global community together to commit to new ways of working together to save lives and reduce hardship around the globe.

The WHS display at the Humanitarian Trade Fair showcased the WHS as an historic opportunity to find new ways to save lives and alleviate suffering, emphasizing the extensive global consultative process that is preceding the summit in order to gather the opinions of all stakeholders on how to make humanitarian action fit for the future. The exhibit illustrated, through banners and videos, the four themes that are leading the consultations. A powerful photo exhibition showcased the winning entries of the Spirit of Humanity photo contest organized in conjunction with the WHS Middle East and North Africa regional consultation. This series of moving pictures depicts the tragic consequences of conflict but also highlights hope and humanity.
www.worldhumanitariansummit.org and *http://blog.worldhumanitariansummit.org/entries/spirit-of-humanity-photo-contest-winners/*

5.7 Photo exhibition on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Urgent action is needed to curb the use of EWIPA. From Afghanistan to the occupied Palestinian territory, Libya to Iraq, Yemen to Sudan, Syria to Ukraine and elsewhere, the use of EWIPA is a major cause of civilian deaths, injuries and displacement. In 2014, when explosive weapons were used in populated areas, 92 per cent of the casualties were civilians.

This photo exhibition demonstrated that the use of EWIPA has a severe long-term humanitarian impact: it destroys housing and the infrastructure on which civilians depend, such as hospitals, clinics, and water and sanitation systems. In addition, explosive weapons leave explosive remnants of war, which can kill and injure civilians for decades after hostilities have ended.
www.unocha.org/what-we-do/explosive-weapons-populated-areas

5.8 One Billion Coalition for Disaster
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The first people to respond to a disaster are those living in the local community. They are the first to start rescue-and-relief operations. The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies therefore focus on community-based disaster preparedness, which assists communities to reduce their vulnerability to disasters and strengthen

their capacities to resist them. When the capacity of a community or country to respond and recover from a disaster is overwhelmed, and upon request from the National Society, the International Federation uses its regional and international networks, assets and resources to bring assistance to the communities and National Red Cross Red Crescent Society that is assisting them. At an international level, the International Federation advocates with Governments, international organizations and humanitarian donors for better practice and accountability in disaster management and greater respect of the dignity of vulnerable people.

The exhibition at the Humanitarian Trade Fair aimed to rally visitors to be part of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, which is an initiative to scale up community and civic action on resilience. Within the next 10 years, the coalition's goal is to engage at least one person in every household around the world in active steps towards enhancing community resilience. This is IFRC's voluntary commitment towards the following framework for disaster risk reduction and SDGs.
www.ifrc.org/one-billion-coalition

5.9 **Preparedness saves lives and livelihoods**
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Inter Agency
Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience
Preparedness is an important investment against natural and man-made disasters. It buys the humanitarian community valuable time to respond more effectively, and it gives vulnerable people a buffer against the repeated crises that strip away their resilience and push them deeper into poverty. Effective preparedness involves anticipating emergencies that are likely to occur and implementing key components of the response in advance. The booth was organized by OCHA and the IASC Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience to display various tools and frameworks for preparedness for response components. They included hazard and risk analysis/early warning; institutional and legislative frameworks; resource allocation and funding; coordination; information management and communication; preparedness and contingency/response planning; training and exercises; and emergency services, standby arrangements and pre-positioning.
www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination/preparedness/overview

5.10 **More than mines: Enabling humanitarian mine action**
United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
Mine action in emergency settings is a critical humanitarian enabler, assisting affected people to move without fear and supporting humanitarian agencies in delivering aid. The United Nations applies mine-action expertise to an increasingly wide range of explosive hazards, from unexploded missiles, artillery shells, rockets, grenades and mortars, to unsafe and unsecured weapons and ammunition, improvised explosive devices and cluster bombs. UNMAS leads, coordinates and carries out efforts to mitigate these threats when mandated by the United Nations Security Council or, when requested by the Secretary-General, a United Nations Country Team or an affected country, often in response to a humanitarian emergency. In particular, UNMAS leads the Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster, a field-oriented coordination mechanism that aims to ensure a predictable, accountable and effective mine-action response in emergencies due to armed conflict and natural disasters. "More than Mines" was also the theme of an exhibition of children and youths' art from UNMAS programme countries and Geneva, showcased at the interactive UNMAS Geneva booth during the ECOSOC HAS Trade Fair. Participants also learned about UNMAS programmes and emergency settings with a mine-action problem, as highlighted in the recently published *Global Humanitarian Overview Status Report*.
www.mineaction.org/unmas

5.11 **Emergency risk management and humanitarian response**
World Health Organization (WHO)
The impact of any emergency is measured in the number of lives lost and people ill or injured. This is why health is a critical component of emergency response. WHO is committed to saving lives and reducing suffering in times of crisis. The organization is currently responding to more than 30 acute and protracted emergencies worldwide.
However, WHO's work to save lives in emergencies begins well before a crisis strikes. A key focus is also on building country capacity for emergency and disaster risk management for health. With its Health Cluster partners, WHO is working to minimize the health impact of humanitarian emergencies.
www.who.int

5.12 **UNFPA caring for the special needs of women and girls in humanitarian emergencies**
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UNFPA participated in the 2015 ECOSOC HAS Trade Fair to raise awareness of delegates with regards to UNFPA's unique mandate and corporate humanitarian engagement responding to the special needs and protection of women and girls in humanitarian crises worldwide. UNFPA is co-leading two critical sub-clusters of the humanitarian cluster system, namely sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV). UNFPA's crucial work with its many partners was demonstrated and explained to more than 270 visitors, mainstreamed throughout the trade fair by continued screening of videos showcasing UNFPA's work in emergencies, and the provision and distribution of in-depth documentation illustrating UNFPA's work in reducing the plight of women, girls and youth in sudden-onset and protracted humanitarian settings.
www.unfpa.org

5.13 **A human story behind the figures**
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UNHCR showcased its Biometric Identity Management System and enrolled visitors into this system using their fingerprints and irises. It separately displayed a mobile iris-verification tablet to demonstrate how people already enrolled can quickly be identified, and it showed videos of enrolments taking place in operational settings in Chad and Thailand. UNHCR also displayed its operational web portals, which cover major emergency situations, are used as a key communication and coordination tool, and provide a platform through which detailed operational information can be shared among partners, donors, experts and staff.

Thanks to these projects, UNHCR raised awareness of the fact that behind the staggering statistics, there are individual stories of people and families who have been forcibly driven out of their native land.
www.unhcr.org

5.14 **Campaign to end statelessness by 2024 #IBelong**
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UNHCR showcased the End Statelessness by 2024 campaign. UNHCR's global advocacy efforts in the campaign to end statelessness by 2024 captured the attention of participants and bystanders. Many signed the Open Letter, calling for an end to statelessness - a global strategic priority for UNHCR. There are an estimated 10 million stateless people in the world, one third of whom are children.

Using the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the 1954 convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, UNHCR launched a joint advocacy and media campaign aimed at eradicating statelessness by 2024. In 2014, to bring the issue of statelessness into the public domain, UNHCR scheduled a series of dialogues with stateless groups and people around the world to focus on their stories in their own words. The First Global Forum on Statelessness took place in September 2014, bringing together policymakers, academics, NGOs and stateless people to discuss their experiences and responses to statelessness. The #IBelong media campaign reinforces and complements such advocacy efforts, strengthening the search for political commitments and overall outreach to the general population.

The key goals of the campaign are as follows: 1. Put the issue of statelessness on the media and public agenda. 2. Engage champions and high-profile supporters to amplify our messages and reach broader audiences. 3. Reinforce UNHCR's status as the authority on statelessness issues and action.

5.15 **Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (VAM)**
World Food Programme (WFP) – Food Security Analysis
Food security analysis is the core function of WFP's work and the basis for the design of all operations (emergency operations, protracted relief and recovery operations as well as country programmes). Food security analysis provides information to identify the most food-insecure people, the most appropriate type and scale of intervention and the most efficient use of humanitarian resources. VAM showcased four of its initiatives: 1) mVAM: remote data collection for real-time food security data; 2) Seasonal Monitor: a new monitoring product using satellite imagery; 3) FSIN (Food Security Information Network): a global initiative to strengthen food and nutrition security information systems; 4) Innovative assessments for post-disaster emergencies with a focus on the Nepal earthquake.
www.wfp.org

5.16 **World Humanitarian Data and Trends**
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
This publication, now in its fourth year, presents global and country-level data in an accessible way, providing aid practitioners and policymakers with an evidence-base for their decisions. The information is presented as visual case studies, to transform numbers into easy-to-digest infographics. The 2014 edition won first prize in the technical book category of the prestigious Washington Publisher's 2015 Book Design and Effectiveness Awards. This is the first award of its type for the organization and is a strong acknowledgement of OCHA's determination to better use analysis on humanitarian trends and data to support evidence-based advocacy and policymaking. The publication aims to build a repository of information, for example, by doing appeal analysis year to year as well as providing macrolevel figures, as well as providing an overview of the trends and challenges in the humanitarian landscape. Two examples from the 2014 edition showed that out of more than 440,000 tweets posted after Super Typhoon Haiyan, 44 per cent related to needs and donations. In 2013, 97 million people were affected by natural disasters in 109 countries.
www.unocha.org/data-and-trends-2014

5.17 **Global Humanitarian Overview Status Report 2015**
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
In December 2014, humanitarian partners launched a consolidated appeal for 2015, requesting $16.4 billion to assist 5.7 million people with humanitarian aid in 22 countries. Since then, requirements have increased to $18.8 billion (and rising) to meet the needs of 78.9 million of the most vulnerable people across 37 countries. Donors have generously contributed $4.8 billion to humanitarian response plans, though only 26 per cent of requirements, leaving a vast shortfall of $14 billion. Over 55 per cent of the funding received has gone to the highest-level emergencies categorized as L3 crises

in CAR, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. Many emergencies are still underfunded (Somalia, Chad, Sahel, Libya and the Gambia among others). The financial demands of the combined appeals are not only substantial, they are also essential for protecting, feeding, sheltering and saving the lives of millions of people in critical need.

The Status Report pinpoints numbers of people targeted for assistance through humanitarian response plans and flash appeals as of mid-June 2015 and for the rest of the year. The overview lists achievements in meeting the needs of affected people in the first half of the year, and it describes inter-agency efforts to meet those outstanding needs. The report serves as the basis for corporate and inter-agency system-wide action for resource mobilization.

The ECOSOC HAS Trade Fair was an opportunity to put humanitarian needs at the centre of the humanitarian financing discussions at ECOSOC, making it an important point of reference. Through the trade fair, the GHO Status Report was accessible to all partners -- participating Member States, development actors, private sector partners and NGOs -- to raise their awareness of the status of humanitarian funding and enable them to reflect on concrete efforts such as diversifying funding sources, burden sharing and finding innovative fundraising methods.
www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/
gho-status_report-final-web.pdf

5.18 **Innovation Norway**
Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System (NOREPS)
A key component of Norwegian humanitarian action, NOREPS, was established by Jan Egeland in 1991 as a partnership between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Red Cross, major Norwegian NGOs, the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning and selected Norwegian suppliers of relief goods and services. NOREPS is mandated to strengthen international emergency preparedness and respond to emergency relief needs. A key feature of the funds is the pre-positioning of relief items in areas such as water and sanitation, shelter and protection, nutrition and health, sustainable energy, telecommunications and logistics. The funds can further enable organizations to pilot new technology and solutions that can increase humanitarian effectiveness.

NOREPS is administered by Innovation Norway, a Norwegian public entity mandated to offer services and financing to boost innovation in Norwegian enterprises. Being part of Innovation Norway, NOREPS fosters innovation in humanitarian operations by supporting product development, new ideas and sustainable solutions. The NOREPS network includes suppliers that have long experience in serving the humanitarian market. These suppliers are important partners in developing humanitarian innovative and sustainable solutions. UN agencies and humanitarian organiza-

tions use the NOREPS network to identify private sector partners and develop new technology to help overcome challenges and increase effectiveness in humanitarian operations.
www.noreps.no

5.19 Flyability - the collision-tolerant exploration and inspection drone
Flyability
Flyability is a Swiss flying robotics company building disruptive drones for the inspection and exploration of places highly dangerous or costly to access with conventional methods. Its collision-tolerant drone represents a game-changing device that can fly in contact with structures and people without any risk, using obstacles rather than avoiding them. This patented technology is based on a decoupled protective cage and control algorithms that were developed at the leading Swiss University EPFL.

Flyability works in industrial inspection and search and rescue to decrease the risk for workers and assess situations faster. It won the $1 million UAE Drones for Good award in February, out of 800 competing flying robotic teams. The EPFL spin-off received multiple other awards for its ground-breaking technology, and the company is featured in leading media outlets such as BBC, CNN, Business Insider, Wired, Engadget, TechCrunch, *The Washington Post* and many more.
www.flyability.com

5.20 Hackathon
The Port
The Port hackathon brings a diverse range of expertise together to tackle humanitarian problems as put forward by organizations working on the frontline of humanitarian aid situations around the world. The objective is to bring together people from a diverse range of backgrounds, locations and expertise to apply their collective knowledge and problem solving to problems faced by organizations working in the humanitarian sector, and to produce a first-working prototype after just 60 hours. The Port hackathon brings broad technical and organizational expertise together with frontline workers in the humanitarian sector to propose innovative and robust solutions to problems experienced first-hand during operations. A new generation of body bags and a tracking system increasing the efficiency of de-mining dogs by a factor of 10 are just two examples of last year's hackathon outcome.
www.theport.ch

5.21 Humanitarian Data Exchange
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
The Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) is an open, global platform for sharing humanitarian data from multiple partners. It has gained traction since its launch in July 2014. HDX initially focused on two locations – Colombia and Eastern Africa – and on one acute crisis

– the West Africa Ebola response. More recently, HDX has scaled to a number of locations with ongoing humanitarian crises, such as Mali, Afghanistan and Myanmar. Since its launch, HDX has been visited over 80,000 times by users in 190 countries. Data has been shared by a range of organizations including large agencies such as WFP and UNHCR, as well as smaller NGOs, Government statistical bureaus, and universities. Data from HDX has been used by *The New York Times* and other media organizations to help tell the story of humanitarian crises. The site was included as one of the top innovations in global development in 2014 by *The Guardian.*

The HDX space at the Humanitarian Trade Fair exposed visitors to the advances in bringing data together to support awareness and decision-making. HAS participants were able to explore the HDX website and see photos of HDX users in Colombia and Nairobi.
https://data.hdx.rwlabs.org

5.22 KoBo Toolbox: a humanitarian platform for mobile data collection
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
KoBo is an online platform that supports data collection via mobile devices. It aims to make humanitarian field data collection, especially needs assessments, more standardized, reliable and easier to perform. Since 2013, OCHA has been collaborating with Harvard Humanitarian Initiative to improve the platform, add functionalities and roll it out at the field level - making KoBo so reliable, user-friendly and innovative that humanitarian partners adopt it as a preferred tool for their field assessment and monitoring activities. The open-source and free-to-use platform helps humanitarian practitioners to quickly assemble survey forms; build question libraries for future use; record information systematically; and analyse and manage data more efficiently. Its strongest feature is that it has been specifically designed to work in the most challenging humanitarian environments.

The KoBo project at the Humanitarian Trade Fair showcased the tool, offered live interactive demonstrations of its use and provided visual examples of how it is being used in the field to improve humanitarian action. Visitors were able to experience the tools that humanitarian field staff increasingly rely on to conduct accurate, rapid data collection in the field and witness their added value. KoBO is based on a free-to-use, open-to-all development model and collaborative partnership between the UN, NGOs and academia. Therefore, the Humanitarian Trade Fair provided a crucial opportunity to reach out to potential new users and supporters. *www.kobotoolbox.org*

5.23 **The new Financial Tracking Service (FTS)**
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
FTS is being redesigned to greatly improve users' access to accurate and timely humanitarian financing data. The new FTS website will allow faster and easier access to data and visualizations, unlocking the full power of the data and giving users greater autonomy in its effective use. Changes to the database will make it easier for donors and agencies to report data, greatly increasing the service's potential in linking financial contributions to field activities, agreed objectives and humanitarian impact – improving transparency and accountability to donors and to beneficiaries.

The project at the Humanitarian Trade Fair showcased these improvements, demonstrating to users how they will benefit from the new design, navigation and features of the website and how they can better interact with the rich data sets. It provided an overview of the positive impact of the changes on the service's core mandate to provide an accurate, timely and comprehensive overview of humanitarian financing, an integral component of the evidence base that underpins humanitarian action. The project demonstrated the extent to which FTS is a vital and everyday tool for humanitarian workers in the field. It conveyed a vision of the future where timely and accurate information on financing - as an integral part of the humanitarian programme cycle - will have a transformative effect on humanitarian fieldwork, signalling a shift to a different way of doing business.
https://fts.unocha.org

5.24 **Ideas Box**
Libraries Without Borders (LWB)
A refugee spends an average of 17 years in a camp. During most of those 17 years, they will not have the right to leave the camp or to work. That is 17 years without much to do. This is what life is like today for more than 50 million refugees or displaced people due to world conflicts or catastrophes. Displaced people and refugees have immediate needs for food, shelter and medical aid. Once these needs have been met, communities need to begin rebuilding themselves. Too often, the tools to build the future are lacking. It is in this context that LWB launched the Urgency of Reading campaign

to better take into account the intellectual dimension of the person in danger. The call was answered, and continues to be, by the prestigious personalities of the world, beginning with eight Nobel prize winners, such as Toni Morrison and JM Coetzee, and internationally known authors, such as Stephen King or Salman Rushdie.

LWB has also created, along with UNHCR and the creator Philippe Starck, the Ideas Box: a portable multi-media toolkit. Standardized, easy to transport and set up, the Ideas Box is a robust device with minimal energy needs and its own power source. Its contents are customized to the needs of the populations, their language and their culture. The Ideas Box was born from this challenge to access to information, culture and education for refugee populations. But once created, the Ideas Box has demonstrated all its capacities and great modularity, and already we have begun to imagine its use and impact in other contexts, both in developed and developing countries. The Ideas Box offers a variety of educational and entertaining contents made to stimulate its users' creativity by providing tools to produce their own resources and shape the Box to their own image. For each deployment, the LWB team works in direct contact with in-country partners in order to identify the exact contents and equipment that correspond to the needs and expectations of populations (e.g., language, culture, geographical context).
www.ideas-box.org

5.25 **DHL**
GoHelp
The growing number of natural disasters poses an enormous challenge. Governments, disaster relief organizations and businesses alike are called on to provide quick and efficient help for disaster victims. Taking on this responsibility, Deutsche Post DHL has entered into a strategic partnership in disaster management with the United Nations. By becoming an integrated part of this internationally established humanitarian relief system, DHL can make an effective contribution to helping disaster victims.

As part of the GoHelp programme, DHL provides the United Nations with access to DHL's core competence in logistics, its global network and the know-how of its employees, free of charge. Efforts cover all phases of disaster management: preparedness, response and recovery. With DHL's Get Airports Ready for Disaster programme, DHL prepares airports for the logistical challenges posed by natural disasters and their aftermath. After a disaster strikes, Disaster Response Teams support the handling of relief goods at airports. DHL is committed to helping communities recovering from natural disaster through regional projects and the internal relief fund for employees We Help Each Other.
www.dp-dhl.com/responsibility

Annex I:
ECOSOC resolution:
Strengthening of the coordination
of emergency humanitarian assistance
of the United Nations, E/RES/2015/14

Annex II:
Report of the Secretary-General:
Strengthening of the coordination
of emergency humanitarian assistance
of the United Nations, A/70/77-E/2015/64

Economic and Social Council

2015 session
Agenda item 9

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 19 June 2015

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2015/L.15)*]

2015/14. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision 2015/210 of 15 May 2015, in which it decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2015 session would be "The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness" and that it would convene two panel discussions under the segment,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States, the United Nations and their capacity caused by the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, epidemics, natural hazards and environmental degradation, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises, emphasizing the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries, to be provided efficiently and effectively, and emphasizing also the need for development and humanitarian actors to work better together to strengthen resilience, including urban resilience, in terms of prevention, preparedness and response,

Expressing grave concern at the unprecedented number of people affected and displaced by humanitarian emergencies, including frequently protracted displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, recognizing the need for burden-sharing, and noting with appreciation efforts at the

national and international levels that promote national capacity-building to address complex challenges in this regard,

Noting with great concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in emergency situations and that civilians remain the main victims of violations of international humanitarian law committed by parties to armed conflicts,

Condemning all attacks, threats and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, and expressing deep concern at the consequences of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the local, national and regional levels is critical to reducing the impact of disasters and vulnerabilities to hazards and, in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience is a long-term development process, stressing the need for enhanced investment in building national capacities for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance will be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be accompanied by development measures as a step towards the sustainable development of affected States, and in this regard highlighting the importance of closer cooperation between national stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, and humanitarian and development actors,

Reaffirming that the specific needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys of different ages, including persons with disabilities, must be mainstreamed into humanitarian assistance programming at all stages in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Recognizing that Member States and the United Nations system need to continue their efforts, including through strengthening partnerships at all levels with relevant stakeholders, in support of national efforts, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts adhere to humanitarian principles,

1.   *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2.   *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

3.   *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen coordination, preparedness and response efforts and to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action, including through enhancing complementarity with and

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[1] A/70/77-E/2015/64.

between relevant stakeholders, such as affected Governments, regional organizations, donors, development organizations, civil society and the private sector, involved in response efforts to make use of their comparative advantages and resources;

4. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, as well as by strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and prepare for and respond to disasters, and also encourages Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance;

5. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Governments, to consider, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint assessment, analysis, planning, programming and funding and increased investment in preparedness, conducted in line with humanitarian principles, in order to reduce suffering and losses and the overall impact of humanitarian crises, and in this regard emphasizes that transitions from humanitarian response to longer-term development need to be planned over a multi-year framework, as appropriate, and linked with development planning processes, while integrating key stakeholders, such as Governments, regional organizations and international financial institutions, as appropriate;

6. *Also encourages* humanitarian and development organizations to consider applying, in coordination with national authorities, risk-management tools in order to allow for better use of baseline information and risk analysis, including analysis of the underlying causes of crises, the different vulnerabilities of countries and regions and the risk exposures of affected populations, and in this regard notes the further development of established tools, such as the Index for Risk Management, to include more data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and information regarding national and regional contexts, taking into account the environmental impact;

7. *Encourages* United Nations agencies and international organizations to continue to improve the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development of coordinated needs assessment tools, such as the multisector initial rapid assessment, in consultation with the affected States, in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action and to ensure that humanitarian emergency risk analysis is embedded at the core of humanitarian strategic planning, encourages international humanitarian organizations and relevant actors to continue to work with national and local authorities as well as with civil society and affected populations, and recognizes the role of affected communities in identifying urgent needs and requirements in order to ensure an efficient response;

8.   *Welcomes* the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015[2] and its areas of focus, including on enhancing disaster risk reduction, resilience and preparedness, in order to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

9.   *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable;

10.   *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further strengthen their efforts in supporting national Governments in mapping emergency preparedness and response capacities at the country and regional levels, in order to better facilitate the complementarity of disaster response efforts between national and international capacities, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote, as appropriate, the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance and to integrate risk management into national development plans;

11.   *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response through addressing the specific needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, men and boys on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and taking into account information provided by affected States, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making processes in order to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian action, and encourages greater use of the gender marker and other monitoring tools throughout the humanitarian programme cycle;

12.   *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure reliable and safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services in order to protect women and adolescent girls and infants from preventable mortality and morbidity;

13.   *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for victims and survivors of such violence, and also calls for a more effective response in that regard;

14.   *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

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[2] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

15.   *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

16.   *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies operating within their borders, and in other territories under their effective control, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory or in other territories under their effective control are held accountable, as provided for by national laws and in accordance with their obligations under international law;

17.   *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring safe and enabling learning environments and quality education in humanitarian emergencies, in particular for the well-being of all girls and boys, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development, and in this regard reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law and strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools in contravention of international humanitarian law;

18.   *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure better protection of and assistance for internally displaced persons, in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement, by adopting and implementing policies and strategies in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[3] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons and in finding solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

19.   *Calls upon* Member States, relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

20.   *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination, effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian assistance through, inter alia, continued and enhanced dialogue with Member States, including on the processes, activities and decisions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and encourages Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations and all other relevant actors to continue to work and improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to ensure effective and efficient delivery of the humanitarian response to affected people;

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[3] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

21.   *Recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

22.   *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately addressed;

23.   *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in promoting innovation through, inter alia, increasing investment in research and development leading to innovation and access to information and communications technologies, and to identify, promote and integrate best practices and lessons learned with regard to, inter alia, partnerships, procurement, collaboration and coordination between agencies and organizations, and in this regard notes the importance of promoting and supporting innovation and developing local capacities as a priority and welcomes innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimum logistical and infrastructure implications;

24.   *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

25.   *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[4] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

26.   *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

27.   *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

28.   *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard requests the Secretary General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of humanitarian staff of the United Nations, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff;

29.   *Encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected States, recognizes that humanitarian assistance should be provided in ways that are supportive of early recovery, sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, and recalls that early recovery requires timely, effective and predictable funding through humanitarian and development financing, as appropriate, to meet enduring humanitarian, recovery and post-crises priorities while simultaneously building national and local capacities;

30.   *Recognizes* that funding needs to be more flexible to allow for a complementary approach in order to effectively and sufficiently address the immediate needs of all affected populations in emergency situations, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies and those of a long-term nature, and the underlying causes of crises, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant entities to provide adequate funding and investment in preparedness and resilience-building, including from humanitarian and development budgets, as well as unearmarked core funding and flexible funding for multi-year appeals, in order to bridge the divide between humanitarian and development financing;

31.   *Stresses* the need to enhance resource mobilization efforts to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, including through additional contributions from non-traditional donors, exploring innovative mechanisms, such as the utilization of risk-informed anticipatory decision-making, flexible funding for multi-year appeals through existing tools such as consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, such as the country-based pooled funds, and to continue to broaden partnerships and the donor base in order to increase the predictability and effectiveness of funding, and to promote South-South and horizontal and triangular cooperation globally, and in this regard encourages, as appropriate, Member States to contribute to the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

32.   *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, and requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to ensure an inclusive, consultative and transparent preparatory process that includes the participation and contributions of Member States and stakeholders in the process and outcome of the Summit, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to further engage with Member States in the process and outcome of the Summit;

33.   *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

34.   *Requests* the Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to continue their efforts with a view to eliminating duplication between the resolutions of the Council and the Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, while promoting their complementarity.

40th plenary meeting
19 June 2015

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General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Item 74 (a) of the preliminary list*
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and
disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including
special economic assistance: strengthening of the
coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance
of the United Nations

Economic and Social Council
2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Agenda item 9
Special economic, humanitarian and
disaster relief assistance

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. The report is also submitted in response to Assembly resolution 69/135 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/13. The period covered by the report is January to December 2014.

The report describes major humanitarian trends and challenges and analyses a number of thematic issues, including meeting capacity and resource challenges through humanitarian effectiveness, risk management approaches, changes to humanitarian financing, adherence to international humanitarian law and principles, and addressing access and protection concerns. The report provides an overview of current efforts to improve humanitarian coordination and response.

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* A/70/50.

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I. Introduction

1.   Humanitarian responses to level 3 emergencies in the Central African Republic, Iraq, the Philippines,[1] South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and the continuation of other crises that caused tremendous suffering dominated 2014. More than 76 million people were targeted to receive humanitarian assistance in 31 countries and nearly $11 billion in funding was received for inter-agency appeals.[2] The continuing high level of demand for relief, the collective inability of the international community to resolve protracted conflicts and the convergence of various global trends have led to more frequent and intense humanitarian crises and have severely hindered the operational and financial capacity of Governments and humanitarian organizations to respond adequately.

2.   By the end of 2014, the number of people internally displaced by armed conflict and generalized violence stood at 38 million, as reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, by mid-2014 the global refugee population was 18.1 million.[3]

3.   The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters recorded 271 natural disasters, which claimed an estimated 6,400 lives, affected 102 million people and caused damage worth over $85 billion. Asia continued to be the most affected region, with almost half the recorded natural disasters occurring in the region, accounting for 80 per cent of all deaths.

4.   In 2014, Member States, Observers and public entities contributed more than $479 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund — the highest-ever annual total. The Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $461 million for life-saving humanitarian activities in 45 countries and territories. More than 90 per cent went to complex emergencies and 10 per cent was allocated in response to natural disasters. Country-based pooled funds received more than $500 million from 22 Member States and allocated $453 million to humanitarian actors in complex emergencies and natural disasters in 17 countries.[4]

5.   In 2014, the continued lack of compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law and accountability for violations was of particular concern. Nearly 80 per cent of humanitarian work takes place in countries and regions affected by conflict. On a daily basis, non-State actors and Governments directly attack civilians and deny assistance to those in need, in violation of international humanitarian law, and with impunity. It has become increasing difficult for humanitarians to gain access to those in need and to meet the protection needs of people.

6.   In addition to continued and strengthened adherence to international humanitarian law and human rights law, while addressing the political and underlying conditions that cause and prolong humanitarian needs, more can be done by all actors to address humanitarian challenges. Improved humanitarian

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[1] The level 3 designation ended in mid-February 2014 for the Philippines.
[2] Data as at 2 April 2014 from the financial tracking service, available from http://fts.unocha.org.
[3] Year-end data for 2014 was not available at the time of submission of the present report.
[4] As reported to the Financial Tracking Service as at 1 April 2015.

effectiveness, risk management and better leveraging of humanitarian financing could help meet increasing needs. However, without a substantially stronger political commitment to addressing the underlying causes of humanitarian crises, it will not be possible to cover constantly increasing needs.

7.   The World Humanitarian Summit, the post-2015 development framework and the disaster risk reduction framework, a new climate agreement and a new urban agenda are all unique opportunities to better address the global challenges common to development and humanitarian action.

II.   Overview of humanitarian emergencies in 2014

A.   Complex emergencies

8.   In South Sudan, the humanitarian crisis deteriorated significantly, owing to continued violence, human rights violations and internal displacement. Nearly 2 million people fled their homes, with about 1.5 million persons being internally displaced and some 500,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries, which were already struggling with emergencies of their own, such as the floods in the refugee camps in Ethiopia. Coordinated humanitarian action contributed to averting famine, but about 3.2 million people faced acute food insecurity before the harvest season. Chronic needs compounded the situation with continuing high rates of malnutrition, vulnerability to outbreaks of disease, violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, including widespread gender-based violence.

9.   In the Sudan, 450,000 people were newly displaced by the conflict in Darfur, as the Government scaled up operations against armed groups. Large-scale clashes between tribal groups also continued in certain areas. That pushed the estimated total number of internally displaced persons in Darfur above 2.5 million. Operations by Government forces in areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) also intensified, compounding the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people remained cut off from cross-line access. At least 120,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in the Sudan during 2014. Despite increased needs, the operating environment for humanitarian actors remained extremely challenging, owing to restrictions on access and worsening security.

10.   In Somalia, for the first time since the 2011 famine, the number of people affected by food insecurity and emergency increased, from 860,000 to 1.1 million, owing to drought, continued conflict, the restricted flow of commercial goods as a result of military operations and surging food prices. There are currently some 3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 1.1 million internally displaced persons and nearly 1 million refugees in neighbouring countries.

11.   More than half the population of the Central African Republic, 2.5 million people, needed urgent humanitarian assistance in 2014. The situation faced by ethnic and religious minorities remained highly precarious. Over 891,000 people are internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.

12.   In Nigeria and neighbouring countries, the impact of Boko Haram's brutal tactics led to a dramatic worsening of the humanitarian situation, resulting in a refugee and returnee influx and the overall internal displacement of at least

1.2 million people, as at 6 March 2015. The limited or complete lack of access to affected populations in north-eastern Nigeria has restricted the scope of the humanitarian response. Over 200,000 people fled to the Niger, Cameroon and Chad, according to UNHCR. The deterioration in the security situation in the Lake Chad area linked to the cross-border nature of Boko Haram activities also triggered internal displacements in the three neighbouring countries, including between 100,000-150,000 internally displaced persons in Cameroon.[5]

13. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there were 2.7 million internally displaced persons by the end of 2014. In Katanga Province alone, 180,000 people were displaced as a result of continued fighting and insecurity. Gender-based violence remains rampant. The countrywide chronic malnutrition rate hovers around 43 per cent, while there is an 11 per cent acute malnutrition rate.

14. In the Sahel region, some 20 million people remained at risk of food insecurity and that number reached 24 million during the lean season. More than 5 million children were affected by acute malnutrition, including 1.5 million suffering from severe malnutrition. In Mali, approximately 2 million people were affected by food insecurity. Some 82,000 internally displaced persons and over 143,000 refugees remained in Mauritania, the Niger and Burkina Faso. Gains that had been made in restoring State authority and public infrastructure in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu eroded owing to military confrontations between armed groups, resulting in the abuse and pillaging of the local population and creating new humanitarian needs and displacements.

15. During the reporting period, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic increased from 10.8 million to 12.2 million and the number of internally displaced persons increased from 6.4 million to 7.6 million. By the end of the year, over 3.7 million Syrians were refugees in neighbouring countries. Violence worsened and essential services were interrupted for millions. Access to 4.8 million people in hard-to-reach locations remained challenging.

16. In the occupied Palestinian territory, around 1,500 civilian Palestinians, including more than 550 children, were killed and 100,000 were left without a home during the Gaza conflict. In Israel, five civilians, including a child, as well as a security guard, were killed. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, a record number of some 1,200 Palestinians were displaced owing to home demolitions by the Israeli authorities, while settlement and settler activity continued. The rise of casualties during law enforcement operations raised concerns over the use of excessive force and collective punishment. Movement and access restrictions continued to undermine livelihood and access to services.

17. The situation in Yemen remains volatile and extremely fragile, leading to ever-increasing humanitarian challenges. In 2014, conflicts caused more displacement: almost 100,000 people were displaced, while more than 300,000 people remained in protracted internal displacement. Political turmoil and financial challenges led to a further deterioration in already weak basic services, leaving millions of people without access to health care, safe water or proper sanitation. There are some 257,650 registered refugees in Yemen. Some 91,600 people reached Yemen by sea and approximately 250 lives were lost at sea.

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[5] As at 6 March 2015.

18.   In Iraq, 5.2 million people were in need of emergency assistance, including 2.2 million people located in hard-to-reach areas and 2.1 million internally displaced persons. Iraq hosted 235,000 Syrian refugees. Human rights violations were rampant. Protracted political stalemates, a collapse of the Iraqi security forces and widespread corruption have crippled the Iraqi economy and the delivery of services.

19.   In Libya, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated since fighting erupted in mid-2014. In particular, the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas has taken a heavy toll on civilians, causing death, injury, trauma, destruction of essential infrastructure and displacement. There are approximately 400,000 internally displaced persons, many of whom have been displaced more than once owing to the widening conflict.

20.   In Myanmar regular and sustained access to people affected by conflict and communal tensions remained challenging. Two and a half years after communal violence in Rakhine State, close to 140,000 people remained displaced. In Kachin, humanitarian access to areas beyond government control continued to be difficult, with fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army escalating at the end of the year.

21.   In the Philippines, clan feuds and fighting between the armed forces of the Philippines and armed groups continued in Mindanao, where more than 120,000 were newly displaced. In Zamboanga City, nearly 20,000 people remained in evacuation centres and transition sites while at least 11,000 people were with host communities. Inadequate shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in evacuation centres have contributed to poor health and nutrition conditions, especially among children.

22.   In Ukraine, the conflict between government forces and separatists in the east of the country triggered a humanitarian crisis, with more than 4,771 deaths and the displacement of over 1.2 million people, of whom some 593,600 have entered neighbouring countries since the beginning of the conflict. Both government forces and separatists have fired explosive weapons into populated areas, killing or injuring large numbers of civilians, causing the destruction of homes and public buildings and triggering extensive displacement. Those remaining in conflict-affected areas, particularly in densely populated urban areas, have suffered extreme hardship and difficulty in accessing basic life-saving services and education services.

23.   In Afghanistan, 164,000 people were displaced by the ongoing conflict, bringing the total number to 805,000. In Pakistan, approximately 1.6 million people remain displaced, of whom some 700,000 were displaced in 2014 alone, owing to the conflict in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. An additional 39,000 families were displaced to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

24.   In Haiti, a 53 per cent reduction in the number of cholera cases was observed, compared with 2013. However, a surge of 17,000 cases in the last quarter of 2014 led to almost 200 deaths. Since the start of the epidemic in October 2010, 725,600 cases and 8,813 deaths have been reported. The number of internally displaced persons has dropped 95 per cent since July 2010 to about 80,000. However, in the 105 registered camps for internally displaced person, living conditions remain harsh in terms of access to water and sanitation.

B. Disasters associated with natural hazards

25. During the first six months of 2014, the Asia and Pacific regions experienced the highest number of storms in the past five years. The number of storms increased by 70 per cent, with severe impacts in several countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and the Pacific region. In Sri Lanka, for example, 22 out of the 25 districts were affected by severe floods, which had an impact on an estimated 1.1 million people.

26. However, the human toll and economic losses were much lower in 2014 than in 2013, owing to improvements in preparedness measures and early warning systems. For instance, prior to cyclone Hudhud striking the east cost of India, the pre-emptive evacuation of some 500,000 people minimized the number of fatalities. Typhoon Hagupit made landfall in the Philippines on 6 December and affected more than 4.1 million people. Fortunately, drawing on lessons learned from typhoon Haiyan the previous year, the early action and pre-emptive evacuations undertaken by the national authorities were applauded for saving many lives and effectively responding to urgent humanitarian needs.

27. In the Greater Horn of Africa, over 12.8 million people suffered from acute food insecurity, resulting from two consecutive poor rainy seasons, ongoing conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan and soaring food prices.

28. In Southern Africa, nine tropical cyclones were recorded between October 2013 and May 2014, of which three made landfall affecting 383,300 people and killing 117. In Comoros, on 2 April, the Government declared a regional emergency as the storms followed a 4.8 magnitude earthquake, displacing more than 7,000 people and damaging or destroying more than 900 homes. In all, 453,300 people were affected by floods and storms across the region.

29. Natural disasters also affected 4.6 million people in Chad, including 772,000 people by drought and 206,000 people by floods. Drought and floods affected rural communities, primarily farmers and herders, thereby affecting livelihoods and food security countrywide.

30. On 13 March 2015, tropical cyclone Pam, a highly destructive category 5 cyclone, struck Vanuatu. There were 11 confirmed fatalities and 166,600 people were affected, 75,000 of whom were in need of shelter and 110,000 left without access to safe drinking water. Initial assessment reports confirmed destruction ranging from 20 to 90 per cent of houses, schools, clinics, churches and crops on all 22 affected islands. With a heavy reliance on subsistence farming, the destruction of food gardens and loss of livestock has left households with no alternative food source. The destruction of banana plantations will have a significant social and economic impact and on long-term food security.

C. Ebola emergency response

31. In 2014, the outbreak of the Ebola virus affected Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health structures that were already weak suffered the greatest impact and nearly collapsed: for months vaccinations were halted, death tolls from other health conditions rose and routine maternal health care was impeded. The closure of

schools left more than 5 million children without education for months. By the end of 2014, the outbreak had left thousands of children orphaned, killed breadwinners and caregivers and threatened livelihoods. Survivors were left traumatized psychologically and with continuing health needs, with many unable to return home owing to stigma. Malnutrition and food insecurity — already prevalent in those countries before the outbreak — are expected to increase. Concerns over protection include the displacement of entire villages, induced by fear of the disease, and security measures at border posts and around quarantined areas.

32. A wide variety of actors took part in the response, with different response systems, networks and providers, national Governments and the international community coming together to respond jointly. National and international non-governmental organizations, particularly Médecins sans frontières and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, mobilized early on. National private sectors also deployed their know-how, understanding of the local context and capabilities. The United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) was established on 19 September 2014 as a temporary measure to lead the international response. Hours after the United Nations decided to establish UNMEER, a joint United Nations disaster assessment and coordination team was sent to Liberia to assess the response to the outbreak. Over 175 organizations were involved in response programmes in the three high-transmission countries to stop the outbreak, treat the infected, ensure the provision of essential services, preserve stability and prevent the outbreak from spreading to unaffected countries.

III. Effectiveness, financing and risk management

33. Almost 25 years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182 and the establishment of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, a record 33 emergencies and crises, covered by appeals, are stretching the capacity of the humanitarian system to its limit. While the more than $11 billion provided for 2014 through inter-agency appeals was an all-time high, so too was the $7.4 billion shortfall, highlighting the need to make the best use of available resources. Megatrends, such as climate change and environmental degradation, food security, water scarcity, population growth and urbanization, are leading to ever more vulnerability and exposure to hazards. Furthermore, crises are becoming more protracted, with 78 per cent of humanitarian spending by the members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development going to protracted emergencies. Humanitarian appeals last for an average of seven years, and six countries (Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia and Sudan) have had appeals for 10 consecutive years. The Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic account for 70 per cent of funding requests for 2015 — all crises that are likely to have a humanitarian impact over the coming years in the absence of a definitive political solution.

34. Meanwhile, with the global economy tripling since 1992, many Governments have improved their capacity to handle crises and are therefore requesting assistance less frequently, preferring the international humanitarian system to work in a more tailored manner to fill specific gaps, provide specific services, or further develop national expertise. There are many more actors, including national and local civil

society actors and private sector companies which are confident about what they are doing and equipped to put their capacities to good use. The number and diversity of those actors pose a challenge to coherence, but can also be an opportunity to increase effectiveness if all actors work together towards a shared goal.

A. Humanitarian effectiveness

35. Meeting the needs of the affected population should be the focus of any humanitarian response. The capacities of the various responders, whether Governments, local or national civil society actors, or partners in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, should be leveraged towards that goal. To make the necessary cooperation work, the particular context, including the needs, drivers of need and available capacities to respond, should be taken into account. The size and shape a response takes should be customized for the specific context, with multilateral actors engaging in relation to an accurate understanding of the capacities already at hand to meet needs.

36. In pursuing effective humanitarian action, the perspective of each actor also has to be considered. Some prioritize building trust, relationships and capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters, while many focus on aspects of delivery, such as efficiency, coverage, timeliness and relevance. For others, effectiveness means improved flexibility and the capacity to align services with needs, requiring greater efforts to understand the needs and capacities of affected communities. It will be necessary to anticipate how emerging trends and challenges, such as technology, the increased number and capacities of middle-income countries and the number of new partners, will change the way needs are met.

37. Despite the varying perspectives, common ideas are emerging as to what effective responses require. First, there is a critical need to maximize resources and expertise by connecting more predictably the many actors and systems involved in humanitarian response. The consequences of not linking those emerging capacities include the likelihood of a fragmented response and missed opportunities to strengthen humanitarian action in a more sustainable manner.

38. Second, the aim of international humanitarian actors should be to complement, not substitute, national actors. While in many crises, international humanitarian actors will still play a critical role in providing assistance and protection measures to people in need, Member States are increasingly requesting more technical support, expertise, standards and best practices from United Nations agencies to support, validate or strengthen their own efforts. Given the particular needs in a given context, the role of international humanitarian actors may contract or expand in relation to the needs of Governments and the capacities of non-governmental national actors, including the private sector. In some situations, that may involve a call for system-wide scale-up triggered by the level 3 designation. In other cases, the international humanitarian system may play a different or more limited role, acting as a broker to connect various partners, as a service provider for the Government, supporting coordination, or supporting the development of a national response capacity. The goal should be to build capacity at the most local level possible, thereby lessening the need for large-scale international responses in the future.

39.   Third, the goals that are shared among international humanitarian actors must include a clear exit strategy, with clear benchmarks to signal the phase-out of humanitarian operations. Such benchmarks should be part of the joint planning with national actors and those outside the humanitarian community, to ensure that the different actors work together to achieve a shared set of objectives, with each contributing according to their role and capacities. That implies a longer-term, outcome-oriented approach that responds to real time frames and the fluidity of needs, including better linkages with development, peacebuilding and climate change agendas.

B.   Humanitarian financing

40.   While it is clear that full and predictable funding for humanitarian appeals remains essential, it is also clear that the humanitarian financing architecture must evolve to remain effective. The approach must address the problem not just by increasing humanitarian funding, but by taking measures to improve the efficiency of humanitarian response, prioritizing available resources for the most urgent needs and strengthening links to development financing mechanisms to build the resilience of vulnerable populations before, during and after crises.

41.   To that end, it is necessary for humanitarian and development actors to work together to transition responsibilities at an early stage, to ensure that humanitarian funds are retained for other emergencies. Under the workplan of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee task team on humanitarian financing, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, World Vision and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with financial support from FAO and Germany, launched the future humanitarian financing dialogues in 2014. The solution is not only to attract more funding and to improve the ways humanitarian partners spend those funds, but to develop new norms, whereby other actors commit to taking on responsibilities for underlying risks and long-term chronic needs.

42.   Funding needs to be more flexible to allow for a complementary approach in addressing immediate needs, protracted crises and the underlying causes of crises. To implement the change that is required, the current humanitarian planning cycles, which are one year in length, are beginning to move to longer planning periods. In 2015, for example, 10 of the 33 appeals include multi-year plans. Donors should be encouraged to commit to flexible funding for multi-year appeals and bridge the divide between humanitarian and development financing.

43.   To make recommendations for bringing about necessary change, the Secretary-General has decided to appoint a high-level panel on humanitarian financing, with the aim of engaging with the discussions on the post-2015 financing for development and informing the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in May 2016. While building on the findings of various stakeholders, the panel is expected to produce recommendations based around three questions — How can the growing gap be narrowed by mobilizing more from both Member States, and through innovative funding mechanisms? How can the predictability of funding be increased? And how can the humanitarian system use the resources available for the greatest impact?

C. Risk management approach

44. Managing the risk of humanitarian challenges and taking action before they become large-scale crises must be a priority for all actors. Of the 50 countries at the highest risk of undergoing crises, according to the Index for Risk Management, 38 have made an inter-agency humanitarian appeal in the last 10 years. A risk-based approach is needed to save more lives today and avoid crises tomorrow, while reducing costs, especially in protracted crises. Two major systemic changes are needed for a shift towards a risk management approach to crises.

45. First, it is imperative for humanitarian responses to be planned over a multi-year framework of at least three to five years and linked with development planning processes that go beyond the cycles of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, while integrating all key development stakeholders, including Governments, regional organizations and international financial institutions. Current multi-year humanitarian strategic plans must gradually evolve from multiple single years to truly transformative multi-year action. Based on a joint understanding of the risk landscape, multi-year plans should include dynamic benchmarks that are linked to context-specific milestones and clear objectives that allow for a progressive transition from humanitarian response to local, national and development partners, while building their capacity to manage risks at various levels. Such an approach will better reflect the length of many crises, while also ensuring that humanitarian actors, in synergy with development actors, can make more concerted efforts towards sustainable solutions.

46. Second, the short term nature of humanitarian financing is a major barrier for undertaking effective risk-informed multi-year humanitarian planning. Raising money on a yearly basis for crises that are protracted is not cost-effective and does not allow humanitarian agencies to benefit from the potential efficiencies to be gained from multi-year planning. Resource mobilization over a multi-year framework that is also aligned with development funding mechanisms and financing for climate change adaptation should therefore be prioritized.

47. To achieve that, it is necessary to improve existing risk management tools for humanitarian programming, which are currently more oriented towards meeting immediate humanitarian needs. That will include building greater complementarity between common assessments, based on a shared understanding of risk, such as the humanitarian needs overview and the common country assessments. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee emergency response preparedness approach is also an important tool for identifying risk in the preparedness phase, while the common framework for preparedness has been agreed with the United Nations Development Group and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to achieve more synergy between humanitarian and development action.

48. Risk management tools should allow for better use of baseline information and risk analysis, including analysis of the underlying causes of crises and the different risk exposures of affected populations, such as gender inequality, exclusion and vulnerabilities. In that regard, the further development of established tools, such as the Index for Risk Management, to include more data disaggregated by sex and age and region- and country-specific criteria is a welcome development. In order to take effective risk mitigation measures prior to a crisis, humanitarian and development

actors need to use risk indicators to push for action before, during and after crises, including as outlined in the Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Early action should prioritize response options, promoting early recovery approaches, especially in protracted and cyclical crises. In that way, multi-year action will effectively promote greater complementarity between humanitarian and development actors and resilience building.

IV. Serving the needs of people in conflict

49.   In armed conflicts around the world, the fundamental tenets of international humanitarian law continue to be undermined at every turn. Parties to conflicts deliberately or recklessly kill hundreds of civilians every day, often with impunity. Far from being collateral damage, civilian death or suffering is often the very purpose of attacks, sieges and denial of aid. Explosive weapons are regularly used in densely populated areas, in the full knowledge that they will inevitably kill, injure or displace large numbers of civilians and destroy homes and infrastructure. Direct attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, once taboo, have become a method of warfare. Parties to conflicts repeatedly and often arbitrarily obstruct or deny humanitarian access to people in need. Attacks against humanitarian and health-care workers and facilities have reached record levels. Overall, violence and other forms of persecution force an average of 23,000 people per day to flee their homes. The number of people experiencing displacement as a result of conflict exceeds 50 million, which is an unprecedented number since the Second World War. In that context, humanitarian organizations find it difficult to undertake their work. Improving compliance with international humanitarian law and promoting accountability for violations are urgently needed to better protect civilians from the devastating effects of armed conflicts.

A.   Humanitarian access

50.   Millions of people across a range of conflicts remain without adequate access to assistance, owing to the hostilities, to insecurity and to the obstacles put in place by the parties to those conflicts. Humanitarian access to people in need is a prerequisite for effective humanitarian action, including needs assessments, protection and the provision of assistance. Every time humanitarian convoys are unnecessarily delayed or prevented from reaching their destination, consent for relief operations is arbitrarily withheld, or aid is destroyed and warehouses looted, hundreds of thousands of people are deprived of urgently needed food, water, medicine or shelter. As in previous years, in the period covered by the present report, some Governments have used cumbersome administrative procedures to restrict the movement of humanitarian convoys and the delivery of essential items. Parties to conflicts have the primary responsibility for the protection and well-being of populations under their control. They should be held accountable when they fail to uphold their responsibilities. Impartial humanitarian organizations must be allowed to carry out relief operations when the needs of the population are not met.

51.   While the consent of affected States is required before relief operations may be undertaken, such consent may not be arbitrarily withheld. The affected State does not have unfettered discretion to withhold consent to impartial humanitarian

operations. It is increasingly recognized that the arbitrary withholding of consent to relief operations is a violation of international law that gives rise to international responsibility for the State withholding consent. All Member States have an important role to play in promoting compliance by State and non-State actors with the rules regulating the provision of humanitarian assistance and ensuring that there is accountability when those rules are violated.

52.   Once relief actions have been agreed to by affected States, the relevant parties must allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel. Administrative procedures and other formalities must not prevent the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance in a principled manner and should be simplified and expedited.

53.   For humanitarian actors to be able to reach people in need, it is essential that their activities be exclusively humanitarian in nature and comply with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and be perceived as doing so. When parties to a conflict, or other stakeholders, blur the lines between humanitarian assistance and political objectives, that can impair lifesaving humanitarian operations and impact negatively on how humanitarian actors are perceived and their ability to protect, reach and provide assistance and services to people in need.

B. Safety and security

54.   Preliminary records from the Aid Worker Security Database show that 270 aid workers were killed, kidnapped or seriously wounded in 2014. The largest proportion of aid workers killed (67 out of 105) were victims of targeted attacks or crossfire while delivering assistance. Improvised explosive devices and complex attacks accounted for 20 per cent of aid workers killed. Ninety per cent of the victims (244 out of 270) were national staff, who account for the majority of humanitarian workers.[6] Those estimates mark a significant improvement compared with 2013 (155 aid workers killed). However, the overall situation remains highly unsatisfactory, with repeated attacks against humanitarian and health-care personnel across conflicts.

55.   Violence against humanitarian workers and health-care personnel can have a devastating impact as it disrupts the provision of assistance and essential services. In the most serious cases, it can oblige humanitarian organizations to close health facilities or suspend the delivery of assistance. In 2014, the deliberate denial of impartial health-care services to sick and wounded combatants and civilians was also observed and medical items were removed from aid shipments. Attacks directed at health-care personnel, facilities, transport, equipment and other services exclusively engaged in medical duties constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and, potentially, war crimes. Parties to conflicts must be held accountable for attacks against humanitarian and health-care personnel.

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[6] As at 23 March 2015, the figures for 2014 had not been finalized.

C. Explosive weapons in populated areas

56.   The use of explosive weapons in populated areas remains a serious challenge for the protection of civilians. In 2014, when explosive weapons were used in populated areas, 92 per cent of the casualties were civilians.[7] The use of explosive weapons is often a primary cause of civilian deaths, injuries and displacement. It also has a severe long-term humanitarian and development impact. People injured by explosive weapons require emergency and specialist medical treatment that often does not exist, in part because hospitals and clinics may have been damaged or destroyed by explosive weapons. Schools are also damaged or destroyed, as well as commercial property and the means of production, thus devastating livelihoods. Explosive remnants of war pose a threat until they are safely removed. The impact on post-conflict reconstruction requirements and costs is dramatic.

57.   International humanitarian law contains important provisions for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including from the effects of explosive weapons. While it does not prohibit the use of explosive weapons per se, in many cases the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas constitutes unlawful conduct because of their indiscriminate impact. The use of barrel bombs, cluster munitions or explosives with wide-area effects in populated areas will be likely to kill large numbers of civilians and destroy homes and infrastructure, often in direct violation of the fundamental principles of distinction and proportionality, yet seems to be accepted as a normal method of warfare. Putting a stop to such unacceptable practices is a collective responsibility. Strict compliance with international humanitarian law by all parties to conflicts would significantly contribute to protecting civilians from the effects of explosive weapons.

58.   The development of policy standards that limit the use of explosive weapons in populated areas would provide much-needed protection to civilians. The United Nations is working with Member States and civil society partners to promote the adoption of a political commitment that recognizes the humanitarian impact of explosive weapons in populated areas and seeks to constrain their use. In November 2013, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all Member States requesting that they provide relevant information to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs pertaining to their practices and policies regarding the protection of civilians. Member States are encouraged to provide such information.

D. Internal displacement

59.   Of particular concern is the number of conflict-induced internally displaced persons, which reached a record level at the end of 2013, with 33 million persons internally displaced, the majority of whom were women and children. The average length of conflict-induced internal displacement is 17 years, during which time many internally displaced persons have limited access to basic services, struggle to find livelihoods and are at increased risk of discrimination and exploitation, while displaced children have limited access to education. Displacement increases risks and vulnerabilities, such as gender-based violence, particularly for women and girls. The risk of disaster-induced displacement is estimated to have doubled in the past

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[7] Figures provided by Action on Armed Violence, based on a preliminary assessment of a consolidated data set of incidents of explosive violence recorded during 2014.

40 years and is expected to further increase as demographic and socioeconomic pressures and environmental change continue to create conditions of vulnerability.

60.   Despite some progress to improve the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian response in support of internally displaced persons, important gaps remain. The Brookings Institution study entitled "Ten years after humanitarian reform: how have internally displaced persons fared?", released in 2014 with the support of UNHCR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Switzerland, highlighted the challenges and achievements to date, including the importance of strong, sustained political leadership, with investment at senior levels, and the effective involvement of development actors to address the needs of internally displaced persons. For example, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan and Mali have developed strategies for internally displaced persons and returning refugees. Those are good examples of cooperation between development and humanitarian actors which should be repeated where feasible.

61.   The sustainable development goals will offer a once-in-a-generation opportunity to effectively address protracted displacement. To that end, the plight of millions of internally displaced persons and refugees around the world should be reflected in the framework, as well as their right to live in safety and dignity, with access to essential services, education and legal documentation, and to return safely to their homes or integrate into new communities.

E.   Gender-based violence

62.   Gender-based violence remains a core protection concern in situations of conflict, disaster and displacement. In 2014, sexual violence, including rape, slavery and forced marriage, against adolescent girls continued to be a disturbing pattern. Other concerns include the use of sexual violence as a form of persecution to forcibly displace populations. Sexual violence in the context of rising violent extremism was also reported.

63.   The newly revised Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action specifically detail minimum interventions for prevention and response to sexual violence. Critical, field-driven programmes, such as the information management system on gender-based violence, are essential for ensuring a robust response to meet overwhelming need. Also essential are political will and collective and decisive recognition at the highest levels that addressing gender-based violence in a humanitarian crisis is central to an effective humanitarian response and to promoting resilience and recovery. Increased support and funding for programming to address gender-based violence are urgently required.

F.   Adverse humanitarian consequences of counter-terrorism measures

64.   During the past decade, the Security Council and many Member States have adopted or expanded counter-terrorism measures. While efforts to fight terrorism are legitimate, they may at times have adverse humanitarian consequences. Continued dialogue between humanitarian organizations, the Governments concerned, donors and the counter-terrorism and sanctions committees of the Security Council is essential to limit the potential negative impact of some counter-terrorism measures.

Humanitarian actors, Member States and intergovernmental organizations should work together to ensure the inclusion of exemptions for humanitarian action in domestic and international legal regimes and policies relating to sanctions and counter-terrorism. It is equally crucial to ensure that the humanitarian perspective is included in the deliberations of leading entities on financial transactions, such as the Financial Action Task Force. In addition, there is a pressing need for the definition of acceptable parameters for counter-terrorism clauses in funding agreements. The dialogue on counter-terrorism measures should also touch on risk management and due diligence. Humanitarian actors should put in place, where possible and according to prevailing circumstances, the monitoring systems necessary to ensure that aid goes only to those who are in greatest need. As part of those efforts, humanitarian organizations and Member States should engage in a dialogue on risk mitigation, risk tolerance and risk sharing.

V. Progress in the coordination of humanitarian action

A. Humanitarian programme cycle

65. The humanitarian programme cycle is a coordinated series of actions undertaken to help prepare for, manage and deliver a more effective humanitarian response and better address the needs of affected people. In 2014, particular emphasis was placed on identifying lessons learnt and best practices to inform adjustments to guidance and tools. For example, the multicluster/sector initial rapid assessment framework has been updated, based on its application in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan and other disasters over the past two years. The use of mobile data collection tools, such as KoBo, which proved useful in the response to the outbreak of the Ebola virus, is being expanded.

66. With regard to protection, one key objective is to strengthen the analysis of protection concerns and actions that can improve the protection of affected people in humanitarian response plans and across all sectors of the humanitarian response. Equal attention is being paid to mainstreaming protection into programme development and implementation by each sector. Under the auspices of the Global Protection Cluster, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee has launched an independent "whole system" review. The review, which will be completed in the first half of 2015, will offer recommendations on how the humanitarian system can improve the protection of people in need in humanitarian crises. Joint missions have been conducted, including to South Sudan, to help strengthen coordination at the field level through humanitarian country teams, inter-cluster/sector mechanisms and sector coordination.

67. In 2015, the humanitarian programme cycle will continue to be refined through embedding crisis risk analysis at the core of humanitarian strategic planning, including by linking regional and national versions of the Index for Risk Management to joint humanitarian and development programming. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Development Operations Coordination Office will prepare and update joint guidance on aligning development and humanitarian planning cycles for delivering long-term resilience-enabling outcomes in protracted and cyclical crises. There will also be an increased focus on monitoring, with the monitoring component of the humanitarian programme cycle

being fully rolled out in 2015. That will improve accountability in delivery and ensure that necessary adjustments are made during the course of a response.

Understanding the different needs of affected people

68.   Given the different needs, capacities, challenges and experiences of women, men, girls and boys, including adolescents and youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, the participation of all affected groups in decision-making and in the implementation of responses is essential to ensure that humanitarian programming is informed, appropriate and effective.

69.   The communication needs of different segments of the population and the possible barriers to accessing information, should also be systematically assessed and taken into consideration in the planning of a response, so that humanitarian actors can provide information that will allow communities to access the help they need or prioritize their needs, contribute to the design of responses, make informed decisions and be effective leaders in their own recovery.

70.   The practice of systematically collecting, analysing and using data disaggregated by sex and age to inform programming is critical, as is prioritizing gender and age analysis, especially in identifying the most vulnerable and reducing vulnerability to different forms of exploitation. A commitment to providing the necessary levels of financial and human resources required to deliver gender-responsive humanitarian action is critical.

71.   In 2014, as part of the commitment of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee under the transformative agenda to improve accountability to affected people, the humanitarian community continued to take steps to establish frameworks and systems to engage different segments of the population in decision-making processes. That inclusive and participatory approach should be integral to all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle. However, challenges remain in understanding how best to equitably engage people affected by conflict, in particular the most at-risk groups, given the limitations imposed by the lack of humanitarian access and possible security implications.

72.   In Inter-Agency Standing Committee operational peer reviews, the importance of establishing gender responsive frameworks on engaging and communicating with communities as a preparedness measure was noted, as were the difficulties of integrating that work in the midst of a level 3 emergency. One of the conclusions of the reviews was that all staff training and induction sessions should cover accountability to, and communications with, affected people, including measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

73.   Gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action is central to efficient and effective preparedness and response. Existing gender inequalities deepen during emergencies and women and girls are likely to be disproportionately affected, as they are more exposed to gendered risks and vulnerabilities. For example, human trafficking can flourish in emergencies, exploiting the vulnerabilities of women and children. Recognizing and addressing the different and specific priorities of women, girls, boys and men of different ages, disabilities and disparities should be the fundamental basis that informs humanitarian action.

74.   There is a need for better ways to hold all accountable to the commitments made in global, regional and national normative frameworks to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment in preparedness and humanitarian response. In 2014, the operational peer reviews of level 3 emergencies all highlighted the gaps in the translation into practical action of policies that ensured increased protection of vulnerable populations. Tools such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee gender marker, which have been in use since 2009, should be adapted and utilized, and linked to the humanitarian programme cycle and monitoring systems, to enable results to be tracked. That will not only contribute to effectiveness, but also improve accountability and prioritization of the most vulnerable groups.

Sexual and reproductive health

75.   Sixty per cent of preventable maternal deaths and 53 per cent of deaths of children aged under five take place in settings of conflict, displacement and natural disasters Without access to emergency obstetric services, many women die while pregnant or when giving birth and many more suffer long-term health consequences that are preventable. Many newborns do not survive even their first 24 hours of life. Under those circumstances and without access to sexual and reproductive health, maternal and infant mortality rates will rise. Reliable and secure access to lifesaving reproductive health services and commodities is essential, such as those necessary to protect women and adolescent girls from preventable death during complicated obstructed deliveries or from unintended pregnancies. It is essential that proper care, including emergency contraception, protection from sexually transmitted infections and HIV prophylaxis, be provided to all victims of sexual violence, including men and boys, ideally within 72 hours of the violence occurring. Programmes that engage boys and men in support of better sexual and reproductive health outcomes also have an important role to play. Meeting sexual and reproductive health needs is critical for the resilience and more rapid recovery of affected communities overall.

B.   Information management

76.   The coordination of emergency responses depends on the management and sharing of information for better analysis and decision-making. Reliable information and data is essential to inform all aspects of a response, including preparedness, planning and coordination, programme monitoring and financial tracking. Effectiveness in response to a crisis hinges on information management and in particular, on whether the latest advances in technology can be harnessed to provide information services to operational partners and evolving constituencies.

77.   During the reporting period, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs began a multi-year workstream to develop new digital platforms and systems and modernize existing ones, to improve information services to the humanitarian community and support its humanitarian coordination work. Major areas of work include developing a contact management system for humanitarians in the field and upgrading its financial tracking service. Further, many United Nations humanitarian agencies and clusters have increased the quality and scope of their information management tools, such as the UNHCR data portal, a primary source of information for partners and donors working for the Syrian Arab Republic refugee response.

78.   With advances in technology, the availability and volume of information in crisis situations has grown exponentially. For that information to be useful, it must be collected from a wide array of sources and transformed from raw data into information that decision makers can use quickly to help save lives. The humanitarian data exchange project, launched in 2014, will serve as a central location for humanitarian data from many organizations and countries in order to create efficiency and enhance decision making and public outreach. The platform was piloted in Colombia and Kenya in 2014 and was used in the Ebola response to present data on health-care facilities in a coherent manner.

C.   Effective partnerships and complementarity

79.   The humanitarian system aims to bring in more diverse political, technical and financial support for humanitarian action through proactive advocacy and strengthening relationships with all potential partners. In 2014, the multilateral system for humanitarian operations in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and various humanitarian pooled funds saw a growth in the engagement of new and returning donors. In 2014 also, initiatives were undertaken to converge the common interests of all stakeholders for humanitarian operations in Chad, Iraq, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, through pledging conferences, joint partnership missions, strategic dialogue and regional information platforms with diverse stakeholder participation.

80.   The United Nations has continued to engage strongly with a number of regional organizations to strengthen humanitarian coordination, emergency preparedness and response actions. The adoption and ratification by member States of the African Union of the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) shows the positive contributions that can be made by regional mechanisms in building normative frameworks which facilitate the protection of, and assistance to, the most vulnerable.

81.   The United Nations also continues to connect with and strengthen complementarity among other actors involved in response efforts. For example, the recommendations set out in the 2014 report of the Overseas Development Institute, *Humanitarian Crises, Emergency Preparedness and Response: the Role of Business and the Private Sector*, were implemented, underlining the importance of strategic private sector engagement beyond the provision of material support. The deployment of private sector focal points for the responses to typhoon Haiyan and the Ebola outbreak facilitated consultations and meaningful support from the private sector.

82.   National and local governments, national disaster management authorities, local civil society and faith-based organizations, donors, diaspora communities and regional actors, including foreign military forces, are just some of the other partners in humanitarian response, each providing their comparative advantage and adding concrete value. To make multipolar responses more effective, there need to be good interaction and better complementarity among actors around needs and expected outcomes, the predictability of capacities and resources and within an agreed response framework, in order to optimize and maximize collective responses to growing needs. While the traditional international humanitarian system will

continue to have a critical role in many major responses, there is a growing recognition of the need to connect the many actors and systems involved in humanitarian response more systematically and predictably.

D. Humanitarian action in urban areas

83.   The concentration of people, resources and services in cities can increase the impacts of disasters, conflict and violence. Internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants are increasingly drawn to urban areas, seeking better services and livelihood opportunities, which can overstretch the absorption capacity of those cities, including essential services such as health, education, water and sanitation. Humanitarian action in urban areas requires the development of area-based approaches, in particular strong partnerships between municipal authorities, civil society organizations and humanitarian agencies. The specific risks and challenges of adapting humanitarian responses in urban areas should be considered when developing new tools and models. The multi-stakeholder engagement and multi-hazard disaster response plan for Government and civil society partners in Kenya or the deployment to the Syrian Arab Republic of senior urban advisors to guide the humanitarian response are good examples on which Member States and humanitarian organizations should build.

84.   The new urban agenda, which is expected to emerge from the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in Quito in October 2016, presents a good opportunity to build urban resilience effectively, with a disaster risk reduction perspective, through better alignment of humanitarian and development programming and funding, and partnerships with local governments and the private sector.

E. "White Helmets"

85.   The "White Helmets" initiative was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 49/139 B in 1994. Since then, the Assembly has regularly renewed its support for the initiative in resolutions 54/98, 56/102, 58/118, 61/220, 67/84 69/134. Volunteers or "White Helmets" act at the request of the affected country or within the framework of a call for international humanitarian assistance and support immediate response to disasters, as well as rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. They also promote risk prevention and management. Since the adoption of the initiative, they have participated in more than 262 international humanitarian assistance missions, many of them in coordination with the United Nations. With 20 years of experience in supporting and facilitating humanitarian assistance around the world, the initiative has become a useful tool in humanitarian action.

F. Strengthening human resource capacity

86.   Effective humanitarian action requires the timely deployment of staff and assets. The United Nations continues to prioritize and strengthen the timely recruitment and deployment of skilled and experienced humanitarian staff, while remaining committed to the need for diversity in geographical representation and

gender balance. The Office of Human Resources Management is working with a number of other departments on diversity outreach activities and events in numerous countries. In addition, more diverse social media outlets, such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Sina Weibo and Chinese LinkedIn, will be used to post vacancies to attract a greater diversity of candidates.

VI. World Humanitarian Summit

87.   The World Humanitarian Summit will convene in Istanbul on 26 and 27 May 2016. The Summit is a historic opportunity to commit to an agenda for change, aimed at saving more lives, alleviating suffering and upholding human dignity in the face of conflicts and disasters.

88.   Reflecting the multi-stakeholder nature of the Summit process, a total of eight regional consultations have been organized, each directed by a regional steering group comprised of key actors from the respective regions. Each regional consultation is preceded by months of extensive inputs from stakeholders, including people affected by conflicts and disasters and civil society groups, and discussions have been held online. The regional consultation events themselves have been dynamic forums, bringing together a diverse set of actors involved in humanitarian action, including Member States.

89.   Four thematic teams, each composed of a geographically diverse set of experts, have been formed to synthesize and analyse outputs from the various consultations on the four broad themes of the Summit:

  • Humanitarian effectiveness

  • Reducing vulnerability and managing risk

  • Transformation through innovation

  • Serving the needs of people in conflict.

Many humanitarian organizations and other stakeholders are currently finalizing their inputs ahead of the deadline set for 31 July 2015. A number of key issues are emerging from the consultations to date: for example, placing a greater value on humanitarian action that puts the needs of affected people at the core of the response and giving them, particularly women, a stronger voice and choice through more demand-driven humanitarian action; reinforcing humanitarian action in conflict by confronting violations of international humanitarian law and finding innovative ways to ensure affected people have access to assistance and protection; maximizing the use of available local resources and networks in humanitarian action, both in terms of preparedness, response and resilience, particularly in protracted and recurrent crises; and securing more sustained and flexible humanitarian financing.

90.   In addition to the remaining regional consultations, there are several remaining key milestones in the process: the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in Geneva in June 2015, thematic consultations in September and the global consultation to be held in October 2015. Following those consultations, the Secretary-General will present his proposals in a summary report that sets out the priority areas for action and recommendations on how they should be taken forward.

VII. Recommendations

91.   On the basis of the above, the Secretary-General recommends the following:

(a)   Member States, non-State actors and humanitarian organizations should continue to promote greater respect for and adherence to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

(b)   Member States and, where applicable, non-State actors should adhere to their obligation to respect and protect humanitarian and health-care personnel, their transport and facilities;

(c)   Member States and non-State actors should improve compliance with international humanitarian law and promote accountability for violations, and Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations should condemn instances of such violations more consistently and systematically;

(d)   Member States should ensure accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights perpetrated by all parties in situations of armed conflict, including attacks against humanitarian and health-care personnel and facilities, and the wilful deprivation of items necessary for survival, by pursuing all domestic and international options;

(e)   Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations should recognize the indiscriminate character of explosive weapons and their significant impact on civilians in populated areas, strengthen the political commitment to address the problem and develop practical measures based on existing good practice;

(f)   Member States, United Nations actors and humanitarian organizations should continue to work together to ensure that people are protected from harm and their rights upheld before and during a crisis, including by understanding the different protection needs of different people, and ensuring that those needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

(g)   Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations should strengthen their efforts to ensure better protection and assistance of internally displaced persons and, in particular, address the long-term nature of displacement by adopting and implementing long-term strategies, based on national and regional frameworks in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and capacitated national institutions. In that respect, Member States should support the ratification and implementation of the Kampala Convention and give close consideration to the Guiding Principles;

(h)   Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations should recognize the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons and refugees, and in finding solutions for displacement, and the role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in ensuring improved coordination with those institutions and among humanitarian organizations;

(i)   Member States should make further efforts to simplify and expedite procedures for the deployment of humanitarian personnel and goods;

(j) Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations should provide the necessary human and financial resources to deliver programmes responsive to the different needs of affected people, including through the systematic collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by age and sex;

(k) The United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations should actively engage people affected by crises, in particular those most at risk, including through communication, participation in relevant processes and supporting their own efforts and capacities to meet their different needs and address their vulnerabilities;

(l) Member States should strengthen their commitments to prevent, mitigate and prepare for humanitarian crises by, inter alia, integrating risk management into national development plans, supporting multi-year humanitarian planning and ensuring connectivity of those plans with longer-term development priorities;

(m) The United Nations and humanitarian organizations should further strengthen their efforts in supporting national Governments to map emergency preparedness and response capacities at country and regional levels, including those of Governments, civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors, in order to better facilitate the connectivity and complementarity of disaster response efforts between national and international capacities;

(n) Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations should invest in developing and strengthening local and national humanitarian response capacities in order to complement, rather than substitute or displace, national capacities to respond to crises, especially where those crises are prolonged or recurrent.

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