



**WORLD  
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SUMMIT**  
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South and Central Asia, 28-30 July 2015



## **KAZAKHSTAN YOUTH INVITED TO SHARE THOUGHTS ON FUTURE OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

Astana, 15 May 2015 – Students of the Kazakh Humanities and Law University (KAZGUU) have been encouraged to take a more active role in reducing risks of future disasters during a joint seminar “Youth resilience: understanding risks and reducing vulnerability” at the KAZGUU Academic Diplomatic Club.

The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Caucasus and Central Asia with the support of KAZGUU and the Embassy of South-African Republic in Kazakhstan conducted the seminar as part of a series of UN lectures that are being organized to mark 70 years since the establishment of the United Nations.

UNICEF Representative Yuri Oksamitniy outlined many reasons why youth and children must play a greater role in reducing future risks, as well as in preparing for disasters and responding to them. “Youth should be seen as partners, stakeholders; their potential in building resilience and meeting the needs of affected people must be understood and put to action,” underlined Yuri Oksamitniy.

This event’s particular importance was in that it introduced the participants to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and, specifically, to the regional consultation for South and Central Asia that will take place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 28-30 July.

The WHS is a historic chance to shape the future of humanitarian action. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will convene the first-of-its-kind Summit in Istanbul in 2016. Leading up to the WHS, eight regional consultations will be held. Kazakhstan is part of the South and Central Asia regional consultation.

Youth, academia, and the private sector along with national authorities and humanitarian organizations are taking part in the WHS consultations.

“Kazakhstan youth has demonstrated its willingness to offer help at times of need during the recent flooding in Karaganda Region that affected lives of over 11,000 people,” said Marcel Vaessen, head of regional OCHA office, “Now is the perfect time to explore how youth can become a more systematic partner to us, the international community, and the local and national structures in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response.”

Youth were encouraged to share their experiences in humanitarian action and to take active part in WHS regional consultations through the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, as well as the WHS website at [www.worldhumanitariansummit.org](http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org).

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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