



**Economic and Social Council  
Humanitarian Affairs Segment  
United Nations Headquarters, New York, 19 to 21 June 2018**

***DRAFT Programme [as of 18 June]***

*The Humanitarian Affairs Segment will be held on 19-21 June in New York. On 4 April, ECOSOC adopted a decision that the theme for the 2018 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) is “Restoring Humanity, Respecting Human Dignity and Leaving No-one Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability” (E/2018/L.6). Since 1998 the Segment has been an essential platform for discussing issues related to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including assessing progress and identifying emerging issues, obstacles and challenges. It also promotes the sharing of experiences and lessons learned at the national and regional level.*

*The organization of the HAS will include a General Discussion, including action on the annual ECOSOC humanitarian resolution, three high-level panels, and approximately twenty side-events. The HAS will be preceded by the annual informal ECOSOC Event on the Transition from Relief to Development, which links discussions between the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment and the HAS, in the morning of 19 June.*

**Day 1 - Tuesday, 19 June**

- 8:30- 9:45 am**      Side-event: *Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People (CR E)*
- Side-event: *Trends in Humanitarian Funding: Where are we now and what is ahead (CR 12)*
- 10:00- 1:00 pm**      **ECOSOC event on the transition from relief to development**  
**“Transition from relief to development: Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in crisis contexts”**  
**(ECOSOC Chamber)**
- 1:15 – 2:45 pm**      Side-event: *Rebuilding Trust and Increasing Accountability to Prevent Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Harassment of and by Humanitarian Staff (ECOSOC Chamber)*
- Side-event: *Anticipation and Forecast-based Financing (CR 12)*

**3:00 pm- 6:00 pm**

**Opening Session of the Segment by ECOSOC Vice President of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, followed by General Discussion.  
(ECOSOC Chamber)**

*The Opening Session provides Member States with the opportunity to make statements during the General Discussion and reflect on the theme of the Segment: "Restoring Humanity, Respecting Human Dignity and Leaving No-one Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability". The General Discussion also provides Member States with the opportunity to offer their perspectives, priorities and experiences on humanitarian challenges. Logistical information pertaining to the arrangements for General Discussion will be made available in the Journal in the usual way.*

**6:00 - 7:15 pm**

Side-event: *Local Actors Driving the Participation Revolution (CR E)*

Side-event: *Reducing Displacement Risk and Resolving Complex Internal Displacement Crises (CR 12)*

## **Day 2 - Wednesday, 20 June**

**8:30- 9:45 am**

Side-event: *Implementing the New Way of Working (ECOSOC Chamber)*

Side-event: *Examples of Localisation in Humanitarian Preparedness and Response (CR 12)*

**10:00 - 1:00 pm**

**Panel discussion: Addressing the impact of armed conflict on children - strengthening the response to meet children's needs  
(ECOSOC Chamber)**

The panel will address the devastating impact on the lives of children in crisis contexts, and explore current trends, challenges and best practices in protecting children and meeting their particular needs in crises, including educational, health and psychosocial. Armed conflict often strips away layers of protection afforded by families and society, and leads to a reduction of traditional safe spaces. Conflicts often lead to forced displacement of children, which has increasingly been protracted.

The discussion will highlight the impacts of conflict and violence on children including disruption to education, and lack of access to proper nutrition, medical care and safe water and sanitation, and increased risk of violence, exploitation or abuse. In addition, the panel will focus on what can be done to protect children in humanitarian crises, including through ensuring respect for international humanitarian and human rights law.

Good practices and lessons-learned will be showcased, including experiences of working with community-based programs. Critical challenges and measures to overcome challenges and improve the lives of children living in such humanitarian crises will also be explored.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF
- Ms. Yasmine Sherif, Director, Education Cannot Wait
- Mr. Robert Mardini, Director for the Near and Middle East, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Ms. Mari Malek, South Sudanese Refugee and Founder of Stand for Education

**1:15- 2:45 pm**

Side-event: *The Humanitarian Response in Yemen (CR 12)*

Side-event: *Strengthening the Humanitarian and Development Partnership in the Lake Chad Region (ECOSOC Chamber)*

Side-event: *Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (CR E)*

**3:00- 6:00 pm**

**Panel discussion: Addressing the challenges, risks and impacts of extreme weather events and climate change on the most vulnerable (ECOSOC Chamber)**

The panel will focus on how to address challenges related to extreme weather events and climate change, in particular the humanitarian impacts of droughts, floods, hurricanes, and other hazards. The discussion will review trends, the multidimensional humanitarian challenges linked to growing global food insecurity, displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change and different drivers of risk and environment stressors.

Panellists will discuss experiences of national and regional disaster management agencies, and lessons on developing national capacities, including early warning and early action. The discussion will explore ways to better understand, prepare for, and respond to the risks and vulnerabilities linked to slow- and sudden-onset disasters and climate change, with particular emphasis on identifying strategies and lessons learned for

ensuring prevention, resilience building and the protection and assistance of vulnerable people, including displaced persons and their host communities.

The panel will explore how humanitarian, development and climate actors can work better together at the global, regional, national and local levels to advance coherent approaches and comprehensive solutions to these multi-dimensional challenges, backed by effective leadership and innovative forecast based financing and disaster risk financing. The panel will highlight recent experiences and lessons from the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane season and the 2015/2016 El Niño Southern Oscillation episode, and discuss gaps, challenges and opportunities with a view to preventing hazards from becoming disasters and improving our collective response in the future and the important role of local, national, regional and global partnerships.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- Ms. Lisa Goddard, Director, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University
- Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (VTC)
- H.E. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN
- Mohamed Béavogui, Director-General, African Risk Capacity
- Mr. Ibrahim Lumumba Idi-Issa, Deputy Executive Secretary, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
- Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Fiji covering ten Pacific Small Island Developing States (VTC)

**6:00- 8:00 pm**

**ECOSOC HAS & World Refugee Day Reception in the ExPress Bar (3rd floor UN Secretariat Conference Building)**

**Day 3 - Thursday, 21 June**

**8:30 - 9:45am**

Side-event: *Unlocking private sector innovation and financing (CR E)*

Side-event: Innovative approaches to education in emergencies (CR F)

Side-event: Enhancing respect for IHL and the protection of civilians: good practices (CR 9)

**10:00- 1:00 pm**

**Panel discussion: Strengthening local capabilities for sustainable outcomes and local resilience- contribution of humanitarian action (ECOSOC Chamber)**

The panel will discuss the experience of local actors who are often both affected by and the first responders to humanitarian emergencies and their knowledge of local contexts including risks and response priorities is crucial in ensuring that the humanitarian response is aligned with the needs on the ground and respectful of human dignity. The discussion will highlight that efforts to reduce the vulnerability of people, to strengthen their resilience and to enhance their ability to respond to shocks must begin at the local level, with international efforts reinforcing, not replacing, local humanitarian action.

The panel will focus on how to strengthen the capacity of local response and reinforce national and local actors, including through the lens of financing and partnerships. Panellists will discuss the investments that can be made to support local capacity in the short, medium and longer term; and the importance of partnering with local responders before the crisis to assess and reinforce preparedness, response and recovery capacities on the ground. The panel will also address how international engagement should be based on a good understanding of existing response capacity and critical gaps, to support national and local efforts. Discussion will highlight lessons learned from current practices of international actors and ways in which assistance is being improved in different local contexts.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- Dr. Nilab Mobarez, Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent
- Ms. Monique Pariat, Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission
- Ms. Dineo Mathlako, Head of Operations, Department for International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa
- Ms. Morika Hunter, Chair, Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

**1:15- 2:45 pm**

Side-event: *From Joint Analysis to humanitarian, development, and peace actors' collective outcomes – the Food Security Sector experience (CR E)*

Side-event: *High Level Event on Gender (CR 11)*

**3:00- 6pm**

**Continuation of the General Discussion, action on draft resolution and closing of the Segment (ECOSOC Chamber)**

**6:00- 7:15 pm**

Side-event: *Building Acceptance for Safe and Sustained Access to People in Need (CR E)*

Side-event: *Linking Humanitarian Cash Transfers to National Social Protection Programs (CR 9)*

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth, his legacy serves as an inspiration for this year's Humanitarian Affairs Segment. His tireless efforts to uphold humanity and human dignity are intimately linked to the theme for the deliberations at the HAS. In his own words, 'we are humans through the humanity of other human beings' and 'no power on this earth can destroy the thirst for human dignity'.