



**Economic and Social Council
Humanitarian Affairs Segment
Palais des Nations, Geneva, 21 to 23 June 2017**

Draft Programme (as of 20 June)

On 7 April ECOSOC adopted a decision that the theme for the 2017 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) will be “Restoring Humanity and Leaving No-one Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability”.

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment will be held on 21-23 June at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. 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 Debate, including action on the annual ECOSOC humanitarian resolution, three High-Level Interactive 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 21 June. This year the HAS will also be preceded by an informal High Level Event on Famine Prevention and Response on 21 June.

Day 1 - Wednesday, 21 June

8:30- 9:45 am

Side-event: *Hunger and the Protection of Human Rights - UNHCR/Global Protection Cluster and Republic of Korea (CR XXII)*

Side-event: *Moving from commitments to implementation: women and girls in the context of crisis – UN Women, the IASC Gender Reference Group, and the United Arab Emirates (CR XXIII)*

Side-event: *Settlement-based Coordination for Inclusive and Effective Humanitarian Responses to Urban Crises - IMPACT Initiatives on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group for Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (IASC RG MHCUA), Global Shelter Cluster, Global Food Security Cluster and The Global Alliance for Urban Crises (CR XXVI)*

10:00- 12:45 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”
(Room XVII)**

Co-Chairs:

-H.E. Mr. Cristián Barros Melet, Permanent Representative of Chile and Vice-President of ECOSOC

-H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany and Vice-President of ECOSOC

1:00 – 2:45 pm **Side-event: High-Level Event on Famine Prevention and Response (further details to be provided) (CR XXVI)**

1:15 – 2:45 pm Side-event: Responding to tomorrow's challenges: Financing local and national humanitarian capacity –International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Switzerland (CR XXII)

3:00 pm- 6:00 pm **Opening Session of the Segment by ECOSOC Vice President of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, , followed by General Debate. (Room XIX - ECOSOC Chamber)**

The Opening Session provides the opportunity to make statements during the General Debate, including on the theme of the Segment: "Restoring Humanity and Leaving No-one Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability". The General Debate also provides Member States with the opportunity to offer their perspectives, priorities and experiences. Logistical information pertaining to the arrangements for General Debate has been provided in the UN Journal in the usual way.

6:00 - 7:15 pm. Side-event: Localising Humanitarian Assistance: Empowering Local Actors through better Financing Partnerships and Capacity Building - Charter for Change (CAC), Shifting the Power Project, Disaster and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP), Germany, and Welthungerhilfe (CR XXVI)

Side-event: Data and Trends: Financing to Meet Needs, A Presentation of the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2017 and the Global Humanitarian Overview Status Report 2017 – Development Initiatives (DI), OCHA, and Canada (CR XXXIII)

Side-event: Cash-Based Transfers as a Front-Line Response in countries facing famine- WFP, CaLP and Norway (CR XXII)

Day 2 - Thursday, 22 June

8:30- 9:45 am

Side-event: *Humanitarian assistance operations in high risk environments Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and OCHA (CR XXVI)*

Side-event: *The CRRF- potentially a game changer in large scale and protracted refugee situations- UNHCR and Germany (CR XXII)*

Side-event: *Protecting the Medical Mission: Implementation Matters -Switzerland and Colombia with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), MSF ICMM, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, and Slovakia (CR XXIII)*

10:00 – 1:00 pm

Panel discussion: Reaching people in need and promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles (Room XIX - ECOSOC Chamber)

This panel will address why compliance with international humanitarian law and respect for the humanitarian principles are vital for ensuring that civilians receive the humanitarian assistance they need for their survival.

This session will also explore the practical measures that Member States, non-state armed groups, and humanitarian actors can all take to ensure that humanitarian personnel and objects are respected and protected, and that relief operations are carried out without arbitrary or unlawful impediments. The panel will also look at good practices to implement international humanitarian law.

Finally, given that a common underlying challenge in many of today's conflicts is one of political will to adhere to international law even when the rules are known, the panel will examine what measures of influence can be exerted to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and, more broadly, to enhance the protection of civilians. The panel will provide an overview of experience in the field including on current access and protection experience.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

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

Panellists:

- Mr. Olabisi Dare, Head, Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Affairs Division, African Union Commission
- Ms. Elisabeth Decrey-Warner, President, Geneva Call

- Ms. Helen Durham, Director, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Mr. Bruno Jochum, Director General, Médecins sans Frontières Switzerland
- Mr. James Munn, Director of Humanitarian Policy, Norwegian Refugee Council

1:15- 2:45 pm

Side-event: *Humanitarian financing towards aid effectiveness: Grand Bargain one year outcome, innovative funding and community engagement in humanitarian action - Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UN OCHA (CR XXVI)*

Side-event: *Advancing the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action - International Disability Alliance, Handicap International, IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, Australia, Finland, and UK (CR XXIII)*

Side-event: *Marking the 40th anniversary of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions: The impact and practical relevance of the Additional Protocols- a focus on urban warfare and humanitarian access- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Argentina, France, and Senegal (CR XXII)*

3:00- 5:45 pm

Panel Discussion: Protracted crises: meeting needs and reducing needs, risk and vulnerability (Room XIX - ECOSOC Chamber)

This panel will discuss the drivers of protracted humanitarian crises, the humanitarian challenges faced, and possible ways forwards, including deliberating on approaches that would meet people's needs and also systematically reduce need, risk and vulnerability and thereby can contribute towards achieving the 2030 Agenda's vision of leaving no-one behind.

Through case studies, the panel will examine how both humanitarian assistance and development cooperation can work in protracted settings in new and better ways to contribute to reducing need, risk and vulnerability, particularly in situations of large scale displacement. This must be pursued in a manner which fully respects humanitarian principles and is context-specific.

Issues of preparedness, livelihood opportunities, barriers to applying sustainable, development-oriented approaches to protracted crises, and the lessons-learned from good practices will also be discussed. In this regard, the panel will explore developments on the discussion of the humanitarian-development nexus and the New Way of Working (NWOW).

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Moderator:

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

Panellists:

- Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Adviser to the President of Colombia on Human Rights
- Mr. Walter Kälin, Professor Emeritus, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees
- Mr. Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Program
- Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia
- Mr. Bruce Mokaya, Deputy Regional Director for Africa, International Committee of the Red Cross

6:00- 7:15 pm

Side-event: *Preventing human trafficking and exploitation- US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (CR XXII)*

Side-event: *Placing Youth on the Forefront of Humanitarian Action and the 2030 Agenda- Denmark, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, UNICEF, Women's Refugee Commission, Save the Children, IPPF, Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises and Care (CR XXI)*

Side-event: *Impact of Counter-Terrorism Measures on Humanitarian Action -Switzerland, the Harvard Law School's PILAC, and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) (CR XXVI)*

Side-event: *Innovation - Financing, Technology, Knowledge and Action - German Red Cross, World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, German Federal Foreign Office, and UK (CR XXIII)*

Day 3 - Friday, 23 June

8:30 - 9:45am

Side-event: *Effective prevention and response: from early warning to preparedness - African Union (CR XXIII)*

Side-event: *One Year after the World Humanitarian Summit: Advancing the Agenda for Humanity- OCHA (CR XXVI)*

10:00- 1:00 pm

Panel discussion: Addressing humanitarian challenges linked to disaster and climate change induced mobility (Room XIX - ECOSOC Chamber)

This panel will explore how Member States, with the support of the humanitarian community, can better understand the risks and vulnerabilities linked to disasters and climate change and take a forward-looking, anticipatory approach to humanitarian assistance and to prepare for a response. This will include a reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for those displaced by natural disasters or the effects of climate change.

The panel will address some of the key short and long term humanitarian challenges raised by displacement in the context of natural disasters and climate change, particularly in protracted situations or where disasters are recurring and allow for early action to mitigate the impact. It will also discuss how to reduce the risk of being displaced by natural disasters and climate change in the first place.

The panel will also discuss more effective ways of translating early warning into early action both in slow and sudden-onset disasters. Lessons-learned and implications from the 2015/2016 El Niño episode will also be discussed.

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- H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

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

Panellists:

- Mr. Elhad As Sy, Secretary General, International Federation of the Red Cross
- H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Representative of Fiji
- Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director, International Organization for Migration
- Mr. Ernst Rauch, Head of Corporate Climate Center, Munich Re
- Mr. Vincent Lelei, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Somalia

1:15- 2:45 pm

Side-event: *Meeting Urgent Humanitarian Needs: the UN Humanitarian Pooled Funds in the Post WHS era- OCHA (CR XXVI)*

Side-event: *Protection of Humanitarian Action: Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers - IASC secretariat and IASC Co-Champion on Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers (CR XXII)*

Side-event: *Breaking the Impasse: a new approach to protracted Internal Displacement- OCHA (CR XXIII)*

3:00- 6pm

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