

## Concept Note

### **ECOSOC Joint Informal Event of the Operational Activities and Humanitarian Affairs Segments New York, 27 June 2016**

#### **Transition event from relief to development: Understanding the Humanitarian-Development nexus**

##### **Background**

The purpose of this joint informal event is to discuss how and what the UN and its partners should do differently to ensure a coherent and collaborative response to people's needs, risks and vulnerabilities. This event will build on the discussions held at the World Humanitarian Summit and issues raised in the Agenda for Humanity spelled out in the Secretary-General's report for the World Humanitarian Summit, especially Core Commitment Four: Change people's lives – from delivering aid to ending need.

The event will showcase practical examples at the country level, trying to answer the questions: What are the challenges and opportunities of joint efforts by the different pillars of the UN to support countries, particularly in protracted crisis and post-crisis situations? How can we rethink humanitarian and development collaboration to deliver better outcomes in building national and local capacity so the need for international humanitarian response is lessened over time?

This year's event will contribute to the discourse on implementing the international community's commitment to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first. It will draw from a number of recent reports which have called for much stronger collaboration among different actors – humanitarian, development and peacebuilding. Action on these reports will have profound implications for joint analysis, planning, leadership, coordination and financing. The event will inform the discourse at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July on the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and the General Assembly discussions on the QCPR.

##### **Proposed discussion**

The focus of the event will be on new approaches and good practices by the UN system and its partners at the country level to address the humanitarian - development nexus in crisis and post-crisis situations. In particular, the panel will discuss how UN humanitarian and development partners, working with national authorities and civil society, can develop multi-year planning frameworks with collective outcomes based on shared analysis. The panel will discuss what is meant by building national capacity to reduce the need for international humanitarian response. It will also look at financial options, such as pooled funding arrangements, to support bridging humanitarian and development needs, in particular recovery pooled funds, with a focus on natural disaster response. The panel will explore what is working and what is not, and will build on the outcomes or proposals from the World Humanitarian Summit.

##### **Format**

The three-hour panel discussion is scheduled for 10 am -1 pm on Monday, 27 June 2016. The Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC will make opening and closing statements. The panel discussion will utilize an interactive format to facilitate greater engagement with Member States. It would include:

- One country example, Lebanon, which embodies good practice on humanitarian-development planning coherence, based on joint analysis. Presentations will be given in person by the Deputy Special Coordinator/UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, and via videoconferencing by Khalil Gebara, Advisor to the Minister for Interior and Municipalities, and Dr. Sami Atallah, Executive Director, Lebanese Center for Policy Studies.
- The Sahel is a region affected by climate change, and where the recurring nature of food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty require a concerted effort to assist the most vulnerable. The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel will present.
- In addition, the Executive Coordinator of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will address how pooled funding efforts can provide catalytic support to help meet the range of needs in these complex settings.

The panellists would be asked to address their remarks to the following probing questions centred around two themes discussed at the World Humanitarian Summit: “From delivering aid to reducing need”; and “Managing risks and crises differently”:

- What are the practical recommendations to enhance better joint analysis, planning, implementation and reporting between humanitarian and development partners? How to align humanitarian and development planning cycles (UNDAF & Humanitarian Response Plans)?
- How can we change incentives so that we put the problem in the center? Would it help for member states to define some system-wide objectives and follow up with system-wide funding?
- How can the 2030 Agenda be used as an enabler for more partnership across the humanitarian - development nexus? How can the Core Responsibilities in the Agenda for Humanity in the Secretary-General’s report for the World Humanitarian Summit serve as a vision around which humanitarian, development and civilian peacebuilding actors can unite?
- Is the financial structure an enabler or limiting factor to strengthen the nexus between humanitarian and development work? What can be done differently?
- What are the experiences and comparative advantages of Multi Partner Trust Funds in supporting recovery efforts?