



## **ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2016**

### **The Future of Global Humanitarian Health Response**

World Health Organization

**Wednesday, 29 June, 13:30 – 14:45**

**Conference Room 5, United Nations Secretariat, New York**

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

#### **Background and objectives**

In the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak, the UN Secretary General called for the advice of an international high level panel on the Global Response to Health Crises to strengthen the global health architecture. This panel recommended several concrete steps to be taken by the World Health Organization and by the larger health and humanitarian communities such as the need to enhance the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordination mechanisms across sectors to better respond to health crises and the activation of a clear line of command be activated throughout the UN system.

In follow-up to this evaluation and several other internal and external evaluations WHO embarked on its biggest reform efforts in its history to create a unified programme for operational emergency response, which was accepted by Member States at the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in May 2016. Also, WHO, UNICEF and operational health partners gathered before and during the World Humanitarian Summit to identify joint modalities for more efficient and predictable Humanitarian Health Action.

Several key themes emerge from all of these efforts to enhance the predictability of the preparedness and response to health crises.

This includes:

1. the development and delivery of a predictable essential health package for emergencies and flexible multi-year financing to deliver it,
2. the promotion of sustainable health outcomes through multi-sector cooperation,
3. the development of strong coordination models for response to health emergencies and infectious hazards,
4. the protection health workers and facilities.

The side event seeks to gather a diverse set of actors to:

- Discuss lessons-learned from emergencies,

- Reflect on the conclusions on the future of of the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly and the WHO Emergency Reform and from the World Humanitarian Summit
- Provide recommendations to Member States and UN Agencies on necessary steps to improve health responses coordination, with full engagement of technical and operational partners through the IASC and other existing coordination mechanisms.

### **Discussion points**

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions:

1. the development and delivery of a predictable essential health package for emergencies and flexible multi-year financing to deliver it,
2. the promotion of sustainable health outcomes through multi-sector cooperation,
3. the development of strong coordination models for response to health emergencies and infectious hazards,
4. the protection of health workers and facilities.

### **Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

The World Humanitarian Summit’s Chair Summary calls for a “transformational change in the approach to protecting and promoting the health of the millions of people that are affected by crises” and also calls for “new global undertaking for health action in crises”.

The 4 elements proposed for presentation and discussion should form a strong basis for this “new global undertaking”, for consideration by UN Member States.

### **Format**

*Interactive dialogue chaired by a moderator and asking questions to panelists*

#### **(Co-)Chair(s):**

- WHO
- Member State to be confirmed

#### **Moderator:**

- tbc

#### **Panel composition:**

- *UN agencies: WHO, UNICEF, OCHA*
- *Member States: TBC*
- *Red Cross Movement (tbc): ICRC*
- *NGOs (tbc): MSF or IMC*

### **Background Material**

*WHS Chair Summary*

*UNSG Report A/70/824: Strengthening the global health architecture: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises  
Report of the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly*

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