

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR, VALERIE AMOS**

**REMARKS TO THE PRESS
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Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this afternoon's press conference.

This is my first visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and it has been an important opportunity to discuss with the new Government ways in which we can strengthen our partnership and improve our cooperation on humanitarian issues.

Today I had the opportunity to meet Foreign Minister, His Excellency Dr. Zarif and other colleagues in the Foreign Ministry and we discussed a joint cooperation strategy to make these mutual commitments real. I am delighted to have signed a joint statement on partnership with the Islamic Republic of Iran that envisions a strategic dialogue between us, as well as strengthened cooperation in the areas of information management; operational coordination and humanitarian effectiveness; the provision of technical support and capacity building for Iranian humanitarian and disaster management actors and; capacity building for Iranian NGOs.

Iran suffers from recurrent earthquakes, floods and droughts, with climate change now intensifying the impact of natural disasters. Iran has a well-developed system for disaster management and often shares its capacity and expertise when responding to emergencies in other countries. The international community thanks Iran in this regard. I believe that Iran has also much to contribute to the debate on the future of the humanitarian system and I also look forward to its active engagement in the preparations for the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

I also met His Excellency Mr. Ghaddami, the President of the National Disaster Management Organization, and Dr. Farhadi, the President of the Iran Red Crescent Society. We discussed how we could strengthen our collaboration on the use of international emergency tools like International Search & Rescue and UN Disaster and Assessment Teams.

It has been a very fruitful two days and I look forward to working more closely with our Iranian partners to further improve the humanitarian system, in the region and internationally.

I also took the opportunity to brief the Foreign Minister and others on my recent visit to Damascus and asked for their help in strengthening our humanitarian response, especially on obtaining better access for aid operations.

I would also like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded to me and to my team by the Government and the people of Iran during the past two days.