

Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller Remarks at the Global South-South Development Expo 2017 Leadership Roundtable “From delivering aid to ending need: Advancing the 2030 Agenda in crisis contexts”

Antalya, Turkey, 29 November 2017

As delivered

Thank you, Mr. Er. It is a great honour to co-chair this leadership roundtable with you.

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

As we gather here today, humanitarian needs continue to increase. This year, the UN global humanitarian appeal reached US\$24 billion to help 145 million people. Even though donors have contributed almost US\$13 billion so far this year, the funding gap remains wide.

We face many challenges, including continuing conflict, forced displacement, famine, failing governance, unplanned urbanization and climate change, among others.

As UN Secretary-General Antoine Guterres has stressed, the nature of these challenges requires us to connect our humanitarian, peace and sustainable development efforts if we are to deliver on our commitments to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and particularly the promise “to leave no one behind.”

Peace and development are interconnected: there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. But peace can only be sustained through a broader vision of prevention of risk and reducing vulnerability.

In the development system reforms, the Secretary-General is spearheading efforts to overcome fragmentation, and making prevention a priority, to improve how the UN delivers to the people we serve.

This quest for greater coherence underpins the New Way of Working, adopted by nine UN agencies, with support from the World Bank, at the Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

The New Way of Working aims to transcend the divide between short-term humanitarian action and long-term development by fostering closer collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in fragile contexts—where conditions allow—so that we not only save lives, but also reduce need and build resilience.

While each context is unique, we need to be mindful of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence; and our collaboration needs to respect these principles.

Governments and their partners are already making progress with the new way of working in responding crises throughout the world.

For instance, in the Central African Republic, humanitarian and development partners are sharing situation analyses to develop a common understanding of need, vulnerability and risk, which helps aim at collective outcomes.

In Yemen, a team of technical representatives from humanitarian and development organizations, including the UN, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the European Union, are pooling data across priority areas, to design their responses.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, partners are shifting from short-term life-saving response plans to multi-year programmes, to better meet the needs of people in protracted crisis.

This approach is also crucial to South-South Cooperation.

Southern actors respond to crises the world over as donors, hosts, operational and technical partners. They lend a crucial perspective, for oftentimes they have faced similar challenges and know all too well that saving lives is just the first of many steps.

The Listening Project, a non-profit organization, has interviewed hundreds of crisis-affected people to find out what they thought about the emergency assistance they received. Over and over they heard this answer: “Thank you for saving my life – but what about my livelihood?”

Livelihood support and other sustainable solutions play a central role in South-South cooperation. South-South cooperation encompasses offering a helping hand to nations as equal partners; and sharing knowledge, technical expertise, and lessons learned.

The comparative advantage of South-South Cooperation in fragile and protracted crises is yet to be fully recognized or leveraged. South-South Cooperation has vast potential to

increase its humanitarian and development impact. UN humanitarian organizations are ready to work more closely with Southern partners, as you continue on your journey.

Thank you.