



**Statement  
by  
The Permanent Mission of Chile to  
the United Nations**

**Humanitarian Affairs Segment General  
Debate**

**2020**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chile takes this opportunity to greet H.E Ambassador Omar Hilale, Chair of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment and Vice-President of the ECOSOC, as well as to recognize the efforts to make this year's ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment a reality despite the limitations we face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome this year's theme "*Reinforcing humanitarian assistance in the context of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations: taking action for people-centred solutions, strengthening effectiveness, respecting international humanitarian law and promoting the humanitarian principles*" as well as the topics that will be addressed in the three high level panels, and also the joint event to discuss the transition from aid to development.

This year, we are holding this Segment under unprecedented circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has added yet another layer of complexity to the humanitarian situation around the world. Rapidly growing humanitarian needs are driven largely by conflict, leaving 135 million people facing conflict induced hunger, exacerbated by poor harvests and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. Additionally to this, violence, disasters and climate-related impacts are some of the underlying factors upon which the coronavirus continues to spread at an alarming rate. By doing so, it represents high risk to countries where millions of people cannot easily access clean water, food, healthcare and shelter. Regrettably so, it's the people in the most vulnerable situations the ones that carry the burden of the above mentioned challenges.

Mr. President,

Shortcomings to provide relief are not only financial in nature, they also relate to the lack of respect for the international humanitarian law, food insecurity, displacement, lack of inclusion and preventing gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts, challenges that we must overcome to break the breach between the mandates we commend and their effective implementation.

Ensuring unhindered humanitarian access to the most vulnerable areas is key to achieve this goal. Considering that conflicts are one of the main obstacles for humanitarian aid to reach civilians, we highlight the importance that all parties of conflicts abide by the Secretary General's call for a global cease fire.

In the face of this, our approach should be not only efficient but also forward looking. Increasingly complex, interrelated and multilayered challenges to humanitarian situations demand from us nothing less than a strong, multilateral, integrated and coordinated response. To that end our cohesiveness as an Organization is decisive. It is not a secret that this organization holds many political views and positions on various issues, however we cannot fail to face the circumstances by letting politics get in the way of providing valuable humanitarian assistance to those whose lives depend on it.

Mr. President,

This is a time to focus on what we can achieve from an understanding of where we stand. To that end, comprehensive solutions must explore the link between the root causes of these complex situations, so that by addressing them we can truly “build back better”. Our efforts should not only focus on the immediate needs but on long term development goals in line with the 2030 Agenda, to address the underlying causes of conflict. Thinking further on the link between peace, Human Rights and development is a solution on its own.

Furthermore, incorporating elements of the Secretary General prevention agenda to the analysis of humanitarian emergencies provides the ability to innovate and act earlier in crises before needs grow. While doing this, it is key to account for all the factors that add complexity to the situation in the grounds, to enable and facilitate the work of those in the frontlines to the greatest extent. Humanitarian workers are a vessel for implementing policy decisions and it is precisely in view of this that it is our responsibility to include their protection as a central part of our efforts to ensure the implementation of our mandates.

Lastly, we understand that we are in a situation of global economic fragility, but precisely because of this we must innovate to make sure we don't leave behind 1 in every 45 people in the world who are currently caught in humanitarian crises. As the Secretary General stated “we are as strong as the weakest”, therefore, we should engage actively and efficiently in this Decade of Action, to increase our collective strength.

Thank you.