One Year from the World Humanitarian Summit: Advancing the Agenda for Humanity

Friday, 23 June 2017
8:30am-9:45am, UN Palais, Geneva (room: XXVI)

Background

“The World Humanitarian Summit was one step toward our joint endeavor to reduce human suffering. It is critical that we maintain momentum to advance the Agenda for Humanity and deliver better results for people in the coming years”

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

One year ago, Member States, NGOs, civil society and other stakeholders came together in Istanbul at the World Humanitarian Summit to demonstrate their commitment to collectively and individually reduce the unprecedented level of humanitarian need and suffering in the world today.

The Summit recognized the complexity of political, economic, environmental and social factors leading to historically high levels of humanitarian need. Without a new international approach to addressing crises, the promise and historic opportunity presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could not be realized for the worlds most vulnerable. Humanitarian assistance alone would not be sufficient. The Agenda for Humanity and its five core responsibilities serve as a tool to build momentum and maintain focus around the transformations that would most improve outcomes for people affected by crises or living in fragile situations.

At the Summit, thousands of commitments were made and new initiatives, alliances and partnerships were launched to take the Agenda for Humanity forward. One year later, change is underway. Funding is being increased to local actors. Private sector networks are more connected bringing their expertise to emergency response. Cash-transfer programming is becoming more integrated into humanitarian coordination systems. Humanitarian and development actors are beginning to operationalize the New Way of Working. More education and livelihood opportunities for refugees are being provided.

The Summit set in motion a change agenda to prevent and manage crises differently so that all people can have access to humanitarian assistance and protection in their time of need, and their vulnerability can be reduced so they have the opportunity to thrive in the long term. Change however requires time to implement and results to become visible. This side-event will identify key achievements and challenges emerging as the commitments and initiatives are taken forward to advance the Agenda for Humanity, and stress the importance of maintaining focus and momentum if we are to deliver better results for people in the coming years.
Overall Format

The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) will open the event and present an overview of some of the key findings and trends in achievements and challenges, as self-reported by Stakeholders through the PACT, in how commitments and outcomes of the Summit are being taken forward to advance the Agenda for Humanity by stakeholders.

The ERC will then invite the panel to provide practical examples of how the Summit has initiated a change (either organizationally, programmatically or through partnerships) that will contribute toward reducing needs and vulnerability. They will also provide a recommendation on what is further needed from the international community to propel that change forward.

Finally, the ERC will open the floor for interventions and questions by Member States, UN Agencies and NGO’s.

Welcome and Overview of Trends and Achievements based on Self-Reporting on Commitments (7mins)

• **Mr Stephen O’Brien**, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations

Panel (5 minutes per panellist):

• Ambassador Hasan Ulusoy, Director-General for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
• Ms Paula Gaviria Betancur, Presidential Counsellor on Human Rights for Colombia
• Mr Imran Madden, Islamic Relief, UK Director
• Ms Dilakshinee Angunawela, Connecting Business Initiative, Sri Lanka Network.

Q & A and interventions from floor (30 mins)

Closing remarks and recommendations by the Panel (8 minutes)

Closing Remarks on the Way Forward (2 mins)

• **Mr Stephen O’Brien**, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations