

**Title:**

***Moving from Commitments to Implementation: Women and Girls in the Context of Crisis***

**Sponsors and Organizers:**

**United Arab Emirate, UN Women, and the IASC Gender Reference Group**

**Time and Date: Wednesday 21 June 2017 08.30 - 09:45  
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Background and Objectives:**

The side-event – organized by the United Arab Emirate, UN Women, and the IASC Gender Reference Group – will discuss internal reforms that UN and other humanitarian and development agencies should undertake to ensure that (a) the needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls are planned for and met during humanitarian crises and (b) women are empowered as first responders, income generators for their families and instrumental in the development of the resilience of themselves, their households and their communities.

Despite many pledges of gender and age mainstreaming in humanitarian and development efforts, key metrics evidence a persistent discrepancy in services and outcomes for women and their offspring in humanitarian settings. Women and girls are disproportionately exposed to the effects of disasters. One woman in five is likely to experience sexual violence in humanitarian settings, girls are more likely to be pulled out of school and are less likely to return than boys, and 60 per cent of preventable maternal deaths take place in crisis settings. Further, natural disasters are known to kill more women than men, and at an earlier age.

**Discussion Points**

This event builds on recommendations sourced through each participant's work with a focus on specific international agreements and processes, specifically, these include:

- Every Woman Every Child Everywhere, the multi-stakeholder movement that extends the UN Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health to humanitarian settings.
- The Global Compact for Refugees based on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migration.
- The World Humanitarian Summit commitments, the Agenda for Humanity and the Grand Bargain.

**Intended Outcomes and Follow Up**

Reactions and inputs from the Geneva-HAS side event will be incorporated into the annual meeting of Every Woman Every Child Everywhere in Abu Dhabi (2<sup>nd</sup> week of December), where over 40 of the largest and most innovative humanitarian and development organizations review their programming and internal practices and agree on necessary outcomes and the reforms to achieve them.

The discussion on the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework will inform the thematic dialogue and consultation process in the development process of the Global Compact for Refugees.

### **Format**

Following opening remarks, the event will use a moderated, “Davos-style” format without statements to present and debate potential implementation actions in support of gender and age mainstreaming.

**Chair:** H.E Obaid Salem Saeed Nasser Al Zaabi, Ambassador/Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

**Moderator** - Mr. Daniel Seymour, Humanitarian Director, UN Women

**Panelists:**

1. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, Partnerships, IFRC
2. Joan Timoney, Senior Director of Advocacy and External Relations, Women’s Refugee Commission on behalf of the IASC Gender Reference Group
3. Civil society representative TBC

### **Biographies of Participants**



**H.E Obaid Salem Saeed Nasser Al Zaabi, Ambassador/Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

H.E Obaid Salem Saeed Nasser AL ZAABI started his diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 1975 in the political Department and took part in the 30th UN General Assembly as a member of the UAE Delegation. In May 1976, he was promoted Second Secretary and between May 1976 and March 1983, he was assigned at the UAE Embassy in Bonn (Germany), where he held successively the positions of First Secretary (1981), then Counselor (1982).

In November 1982, H.E. was promoted Minister Plenipotentiary and then Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sudan until March 1986, date at which H.E. returned to the Foreign Ministry in Abu Dhabi and was appointed Chief of Protocol in April 1986, a position which he held for 21 years (from 1986 to 2007). During this period, H.E. has participated in several Arab and international conferences, and has also organized several regional and international conferences in the UAE on various themes relevant to the country.



**Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, Partnerships, IFRC**

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood began her mandate as Under Secretary General for Partnerships at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in January 2016.

Before joining the IFRC, Dr. Mahmood was:

- The Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat at the United Nations in New York.
- Founder of MERCY Malaysia
- Chief of the Humanitarian Response Branch at UNFPA;
- Senior Fellow at Khazanah Nasional Berhad in Malaysia's Khazanah Research and Investment Strategy Division, and Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Humanitarian Futures Programme at Kings College in London.

Jemilah Mahmood is a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the National University of Malaysia, has a Masters in Obstetrics & Gynaecology from the same university and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists United Kingdom.



**Joan Timoney, Senior Director of Advocacy and External Relations, WRC**

Based in Washington, D.C., Joan joined the Women's Refugee Commission in 2005. She was formerly Vice President for Programs of the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit organization she helped launch, and which is dedicated to revitalizing the federal civil service and inspiring a new generation to serve.

Joan previously worked in the legislative and executive branches of government. She began her career in the office of then-House Majority Whip John Brademas. Two years later, she left Washington to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa. Upon her return, she worked as a legislative assistant to the late Senator Quentin Burdick and as a Special Assistant to Senator Kent Conrad.

In 1993, Joan was appointed the Director of Congressional Relations at the Peace Corps. She later served as the first director of the Agency's Crisis Corps program and as its Chief of Staff. She is a graduate of The George Washington University and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

H.E Obaid Salem Saeed Nasser AL ZAABI was appointed Ambassador/Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva in July 2007.