



DRAFT PROGRAMME
for the 2023 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment
21 to 23 June, Geneva
As of 15 June 2023

Overarching HAS theme: *Strengthening humanitarian assistance in times of unprecedented global humanitarian needs: driving transformation and solutions to address the urgent challenges of rising food insecurity and famine risk, protection risks and climate change*

Monday 19 June

11:00-12:30 pm: Side event: *The life-saving power of education: Learning, mental health and well-being of crisis-affected and displaced children and youth*

1:00-2:30 pm: Side event: *Disaster and climate-related displacement: Towards a global humanitarian response*

2:45-4:15 pm: Side event: *Ensuring Access that Protects Children: Collaborating with Communities for Effective Humanitarian Action*

4:30-6:00 pm: Side event: *Fit for Purpose: How to Get to a Low Carbon and Resilient Humanitarian Sector?*

Tuesday 20 June

8:30-10:00 am: Side event: *Localization in practice - Enhancing local leadership and people-centered approach for quality humanitarian responses and long-term solutions*

1:15-2:45 pm: Side event: *The Global Food Crisis: What are the Most Impacted People and Communities Telling us at this Extraordinary Time? What are the Solutions?*

Wednesday 21 June

8:30-10:00 am: Side event: ***Protection Risks & Food Insecurity: Strengthening Community-led Solutions to Complex Crises***

10:00-10:30 am: HAS Opening session: *Overview of the humanitarian landscape and the way ahead*

Opening Remarks of the Chair: H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Keynote Statements:

1. Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
2. Mr. Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
3. Affected person - youth representative

10:30am-1:00pm panel: *Addressing the unprecedented global challenge of food insecurity and risk of famine: scaling up prevention, response, and resilience*

The largest global food crisis in modern history has been unfolding, with the world witnessing unprecedented levels of food insecurity. In 2022, at least 222 million people across 53 countries experienced high levels of acute food insecurity and needed urgent assistance. This trajectory has continued to escalate. Women and children are especially bearing the brunt. The risk of famine continues to loom, with millions one step away from famine-like conditions, and hundreds of thousands of people experiencing life-threatening conditions. Malnutrition and wasting amongst children are at record levels. The complex and multisectoral drivers are well known, yet go on unabated – conflicts, climate change and economic shocks. The session will look at current trends and challenges being experienced in humanitarian operations, how the humanitarian community has scaled-up, adapted and innovated to respond to this crisis in humanitarian contexts, and explore lessons learned in order to better understand and respond to the challenges being faced. It will also focus on actions and recommendations that can be transformative to help to prevent and address rising food insecurity and famine risk now and into the future.

Chair and Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Introductory and closing remarks: OCHA

Invited speakers:

1. Ms. Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department of the World Food Programme (WFP)
2. Ms. Reena Ghelani, United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator
3. Ms. Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro, Secretary General, Care International
4. Mr. Rein Paulsen, Director of the Office of Emergencies and Resilience of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
5. Ms. Annette Msabeni, Deputy SG Kenyan Red Cross Society
6. National NGO / local actor

1:15-2:45pm: Side Event: *Accountability to Affected People and Donor Responsibility – Building a Shared Agenda*

1:15-2:45pm: Side Event: *Empower to Protect: Strengthening Partnerships Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*

3:00-6:00pm: General Debate

6:00pm-7:30pm: Humanitarian Affairs Segment reception hosted by the Chair Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations; Venue: Serpent Bar, Palais des Nations.

Thursday 22 June

8:30-10:00 am: Side Event: *Nurturing digital safe spaces for women and girls in humanitarian settings*

10:00am-12.30pm panel: *Addressing protection risks, needs, and challenges in humanitarian emergencies, particularly the disproportionate impact on women and children*

With humanitarian needs at record levels, this panel will discuss the evolving protection risks, needs and challenges in humanitarian emergencies – especially for women and children who are disproportionately affected. Protection risks and needs are increasing because of different and sometimes compounding factors – such as the escalation of armed conflict, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and disasters, the record levels of displacement and food insecurity – and are ever more so affecting women and children and especially those with disabilities. The session will include a discussion of the key trends, issues and experiences and their implications for affected people and for humanitarian operations. It will consider how humanitarian organizations are working to prevent, minimize and respond to protection needs and

risks faced, and to save lives, reduce suffering and protect people's human dignity. It will include a focus on the importance of respect for and the promotion of international humanitarian law, refugee law and human rights law in humanitarian contexts. This discussion will draw lessons from ongoing humanitarian system-wide efforts on the centrality of protection. It will also include consideration of practices to increase women's participation in decision-making for humanitarian programmes, and address trends in gender-based violence and child protection. It will focus on what is being done – and what more can be done – to prevent and respond to protection challenges in humanitarian crises.

Chair and Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Introductory and closing remarks: OCHA

Invited speakers:

1. Nada Al-Nashif, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
2. Mr. Ted Chaiban, Deputy Executive Director for Emergencies, UNICEF
3. Mr. Ib Petersen Deputy Executive Director (Management) of the United Nations Population Fund
4. Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Protection
5. Ms. Inger Ashing, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International
6. Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross
7. Ms. Aisha Thawab, Managing Director of ABS Organization, Yemen

12:30- 2:00pm: Side Event: ***Funding Humanitarian Action and Localization in the Context of the increasing Funding Gap***

1:00-2:30pm: Side Event: ***Collectively advancing the protection of humanitarian and health workers: progresses, gaps and next steps***

3:00pm-5.30pm panel: *Preparing for the future: reinforcing and expanding partnerships and innovating at the global, regional, national, and local levels*

The panel will discuss lessons, opportunities, and future directions for reinforcing partnerships and collaboration at the global, regional, national, and local levels to make a transformative difference, as we seek to address record levels of humanitarian need and suffering. It will bring together best practices, innovations and stronger connectivity of different actors that are vital to preparing, mitigating, and responding to humanitarian challenges ahead and that can be important enablers and transformative for a better future ahead. The discussion will explore good practices, innovations, and further opportunities in enhancing partnerships and effectiveness

given current and future humanitarian challenges and growing humanitarian needs. The panel will discuss effective ways for different levels and actors to complement and reinforce respective preparedness and response activities undertaken by, inter alia, national disaster management authorities, regional organizations, local and international humanitarian non-governmental organizations, affected communities, the United Nations, and international financial institutions. The panel will also identify practical ways for reinforcing the localization of humanitarian assistance and the role of affected people and communities through stronger partnerships and discuss examples of innovative initiatives.

Chair and Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Introductory and closing remarks: OCHA

Invited speakers:

1. Ms. Minata Samaté Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union Commission
2. Ms. Kelly Clements, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees
3. Mr. Michael Koehler, Deputy Director-General of ECHO
4. Mr. David Young, Managing Director, Boston Consulting Group
5. ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
6. NGO/Local actor

Friday 23 June

8:30-10:00 am: Side Event: *The role of local and national actors in anticipatory action to minimise and address climate induced disasters and crises*

10:00am-12:30pm panel: *Strengthening humanitarian assistance in the face of climate change: humanitarian implications, lessons, and recommendations for future action*

Extreme weather events and climate-related disasters are driving increased levels of humanitarian needs and compounding risks and vulnerability. The last decade was the warmest on record, with record glacier melt and ocean heat. If current trends continue, the number of disasters per year globally is projected to increase from around 400 in 2015 to 560 per year by 2030 – an increase of 40% during the lifetime of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Based on current trends, droughts are projected to increase by more than 30% between 2000 and 2030, while the number of extreme temperature events per year will likely almost triple between 2001 and 2030. Extreme weather events and climate change have multifold ramifications –

compounding risks, increasing the intensity and severity of disasters, fueling displacement, increasing competition over resources, feeding sea-level rise, food insecurity, spread of diseases amongst others. This panel will discuss how humanitarian system is adapting and innovating in the face of increasingly frequent and devastating natural and climate-related disasters and their impacts on the most vulnerable, including early warning-early action systems and anticipatory approaches. The panel will consider the implications of trends for the humanitarian sector and discuss what more is needed to prevent, prepare, responding and mitigate the impacts for affected communities in humanitarian crises and help building resilience, especially in the face of recurring disasters. The discussion will explore opportunities and enablers for strengthening collaboration with relevant actors.

Chair and Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Introductory and closing remarks: OCHA

Invited speakers:

1. H.E. Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York
2. H.E. Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, Director-General of COP28, United Arab Emirates
3. H.E. Ambassador Nella Pepe Tavita-Levy, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations in Geneva & Chair, Alliance of Small Island States
4. Mr. António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration
5. Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
6. Dr. Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization
7. Ms. Julie Arrighi, Director (ad interim), Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
8. Ms. Angelina Nyajima, Executive Director of Hope Restoration, South Sudan

1:00-2:30pm: Side Event: *Protecting civilians from Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas: At the intersect between international diplomacy and humanitarian assistance*

3:00-6:00pm: HAS Closing session

- Continuation of general statements and adoption of the HAS resolution
- Closing Remarks of the Chair, H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment

- **Closing remarks of Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator**