

National statement on behalf of Germany

on the occasion of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2020

- delivered only in writing -

Mr. Chair,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the EU delegation on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr. Chair,

In 2020, a staggering number of people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The causes include longstanding protracted crises as well as the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Humanitarian needs had been at a very high level globally even before the pandemic hit. The COVID-19 crisis now puts additional stress on the already strained humanitarian system, which is struggling to help all people in need. We thus welcome that health challenges is a key topic at this years' Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the ECOSOC.

Germany appreciates the United Nations' unprecedented efforts to coordinate the global response to the COVID-19 crisis. Regarding the humanitarian response, Germany welcomes especially the substantive Global Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA's strong overall coordinating role and WHO's essential role in designing a well-coordinated humanitarian health response. In support of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the COVID-19 appeals of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, Germany has provided 300 million euros of additional humanitarian funding for the humanitarian response to COVID-19. We are supporting key UN entities as well as the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian NGOs in order to strengthen the ability of all pillars of the international humanitarian system to contribute to the COVID-19 response.

In order to help alleviate the strain that COVID-19 has put on already ongoing humanitarian operations and to ensure that assistance to existing crises will not be disrupted, Germany has expeditiously disbursed roughly 1.4 billion EUR from our regular humanitarian budget. Moreover, Germany is committed to providing its humanitarian partners with as much flexibility as possible to help them react and adapt quickly to the rapidly changing environment for humanitarian action.

Due to COVID-19 containment measures, humanitarian actors are facing increased restrictions on movement. However, maintaining access and preserving humanitarian space is crucial to an effective and efficient response to the global pandemic. Therefore, the international community must ensure rapid and unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations to people in need, even in times of a pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

Innovation has rightly been put on the agenda of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment as well. As humanitarian needs and the strain on the humanitarian system increase, we need to make the humanitarian systems even more effective and efficient, including through innovation. As Germany is co-hosting a side event on anticipatory humanitarian assistance in the course of this week, we would

like to emphasize the importance of innovative early warning early action approaches and anticipatory risk financing. They contribute to reducing humanitarian needs, avoiding unnecessary human suffering and to using scarce humanitarian resources more efficiently. We continue to work closely with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the World Food Programme, the FAO, OCHA and the CERF, and with the Start Network, to enable and scale up anticipatory early action financing across the humanitarian system. We call on other donors and all humanitarian organizations to continue and expand their engagement regarding anticipatory action in order to make the humanitarian system more effective and efficient.

Germany welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a High-Level Panel on internal displacement to better address internal displacement, in particular where it is protracted. The need is urgent, with more than 50 million IDPs around the world. While effective humanitarian assistance is essential to address the humanitarian needs of IDPs, more needs to be done to promote solutions to internal displacement situations and to enable IDPs to go back to a normal, self-sustained life. Therefore, we welcome the Panel's focus on solutions. Its inclusive approach of consulting with countries and communities immediately concerned as well as the actors involved in assisting IDPs is critically important. We hope that the Panel's recommendations will also include concrete steps on how the UN can provide more comprehensive and better coordinated support for IDPs. Undoubtedly, situations of internal displacement are an area where the adoption of a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach can yield major results for the people concerned.