



**Economic and Social Council  
Humanitarian Affairs Segment  
9 to 11 June 2020  
Preceded by the Transition Event on 8 June  
*Draft Programme (11 June)***

*On 16 March 2020, ECOSOC agreed (E/2020/L.4) that the theme for the 2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) will be “Reinforcing humanitarian assistance in the context of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations: taking action for people-centred solutions, strengthening effectiveness, respecting international humanitarian law and promoting the humanitarian principles”.*

*The 2020 HAS will be held from 9 to 11 June in a fully virtual format. Since 1998, the Segment has been an essential platform for discussing issues related to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including assessing progress and identifying emerging issues, obstacles and challenges. It also promotes the sharing of experiences and lessons learned at the national and regional level. The organization of the 2020 HAS will include three interactive High-Level Panels, one High-Level Event and be complemented by side-events.*

*On 8 June, the HAS will be preceded by the annual informal ECOSOC Event on the Transition from Relief to Development, which links discussions between the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment and the HAS. Side-events will also take place during the week.*

**Day 1 - Monday 8 June**

**10:00 - 12:30 pm**    **ECOSOC Event on the Transition from Relief to Development: *The multidimensional and interconnected challenges in the Central Sahel region: reducing needs, risks and vulnerabilities for people through closer humanitarian, development and peacebuilding collaboration***

This event, convened jointly by the Chairs of the Operational Activity for Development Segment and the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, will consider some of the intersecting challenges facing the Central Sahel region, such as persistent and increasing insecurity, climate impacts, displacement, food insecurity, transhumance, and protection concerns. The compound risks and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for the

region will also be addressed. Panellists will discuss actions taken to strengthen collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors, what progress has been made and consider opportunities to further address challenges faced in the region through increased collaboration amongst international, national and local actors to support the region in achieving the SDGs by reducing humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability in a highly challenging environment.

Co-Chairs:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC HAS
- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC Operational for Activities for Development Segment

Moderator:

- Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination Office

Panellists:

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group
- H.E. Mr. Laouan Magagi, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Niger
- H.E. Ms. Minata Cessouma Samate, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission
- Ms. Paraskevi Michou, Director-General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- Mr. Maman Sambo Sidikou, Permanent Secretary of the G5 Sahel
- Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator
- Ms. Metsi Makhetha, Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Burkina Faso
- Mr. Albert-Philip Burger d'Haem, Humanitarian Working Group coordinator / INGO Forum Mali

## Day 2 - Tuesday 9 June

**9:00 – 10:00 am**    **Opening Session of the Segment by ECOSOC Vice President of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations**

*The Opening Session will reflect on the theme of the Segment “Reinforcing humanitarian assistance in the context of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations: taking action for people-centred solutions, strengthening effectiveness, respecting International Humanitarian Law and promoting the humanitarian principles”. It will consider the factors affecting the humanitarian landscape today and looking forward, particularly in light of the implications of COVID-19. It will reflect on how the humanitarian system is responding and adapting quickly and collaborating with a range of partners, and what more can be done. It will examine the value of collective humanitarian action to multilateralism and to global solidarity for affected people and communities, leading in to the 75th Anniversary of the UN.*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Keynote speaker:

- H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (Keynote Address by recorded video message)

Speakers:

- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
- Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, United Nations Children’s Fund
- Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Ms. Abby Maxman, Chief Executive Officer, Oxfam
- Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (address by recorded video message)

**10:00 - 12:30 pm**    **High-Level Panel: *Addressing the increasing complexity of health challenges in humanitarian contexts***

This panel will focus on critical next steps needed to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to increasing needs driven by it, recognizing in the trends in recent years of disease outbreaks and epidemics. Panellists will discuss how the UN and its

partners are mobilizing responses, and working with local organizations, to respond and adapt to current and future challenges, identifying emerging needs, addressing access challenges, delivering by remote, implementing preparedness measures to mitigate further risks. They will discuss how to anchor these new approaches in humanitarian principles in a context where humanitarian needs are driven by an ever more complex mix of health, economic, development crises, and increasingly protracted conflicts.

Panellists will discuss the measures that are needed to lower the human costs of these new dynamics, providing first-hand examples of how they are managing to deliver in such challenging environments. They will describe ways they are meeting the urgent existing needs, even as the COVID-19 threatens to drive already historic levels of hunger to new extremes and add hundreds of millions to the ranks of poverty. They will also discuss solutions for facilitating the flow of humanitarian and medical supplies to where they are most needed. Finally, the pandemic's mental health and psychosocial (MHPSS) impacts will be discussed, along with solutions for affected people, and for front-line humanitarian workers.

Under his authority as Vice-President of ECOSOC, the Chair of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment will present a "Call to Action" in support of the humanitarian response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will amplify the urgency of mitigating the humanitarian impact of the crisis, and prepare to minimize the risks of future epidemics and pandemics.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- H.E. Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Netherlands Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- Dr. Ibrahima Socé Fall, Assistant Director-General for Emergency Response, World Health Organization
- Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

- Dr. Christos Christou, International President of Médecins Sans Frontiers
- Dr. Raji Tajudeen, Head, Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- Ms. Atim Caroline Ogwang, Director, South Sudan Women with Disability Network (SSWDN)

**1:00 – 2:30 pm**

**High-Level Event: *Combatting and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises***

This event will assess the disproportionate impact on women and girls in humanitarian crises, and in particular the trends exposed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; what is being done; and what more needs to urgently be done to prevent and respond to in humanitarian contexts.

The event will bring together key stakeholders including Member States, humanitarians, civil society, and survivors to engage in dialogue about key issues and experiences, and promising practices to address sexual and gender-based violence.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists :

- H.E. Ms. Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, Minister Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Ms. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Acclaimed Author
- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund
- Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund
- Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Ms. Elinor Raikes, Vice-President and Head of Program Delivery, International Rescue Committee
- Ms. Christine Seisun, Sexual Violence Operations Manager, International Committee of the Red Cross, South Sudan
- Ms. Fátima Shehu Imam, Director, Network of Civil Society Organisations in Borno State

Day 3 - Wednesday 10 June

**8:00 – 9:30am**      **Side-event: *Saving lives, building trust, and informing humanitarian action: How good practice and lessons learned from community engagement can help beat COVID-19***

**10:00- 12:30 pm**      **High-Level Panel: *Improving humanitarian effectiveness through new technology and innovation: opportunities and challenges***

This panel will discuss concrete ways the humanitarian sector is improving humanitarian effectiveness in a changing landscape through use of new technology and innovation. It will showcase examples of new technology and innovation being used in humanitarian preparedness and response to improve the impact of humanitarian operations, and share best practices and lessons learned.

The panel will discuss how the humanitarian sector is positioning itself to work with partners, including regional, national, and local actors, and the private sector and to identify and roll-out further opportunities. It will also identify some risks and challenges associated with new and emerging technologies and how these can be mitigated. This will include considerations of data protection and protection against privacy breaches, the potential curtailment of personal liberties through the misuse of data, the spread of misinformation and disinformation, and the use of technology to stigmatize or incite tensions, as well as the need to respect international norms.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Commemoration of the United Nations' 75th Anniversary
- Ms. Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, United Nations World Food Programme
- Mr. Balthasar Staehelin, Director of Digital Transformation and Data, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Ms. Adelina Kamal, Executive Director, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management

- Dr. Patrick Meier, CEO, WeRobotics, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
- Mr. Raj Kumar, Founding President & Editor-in-Chief of Devex
- Ms. Sunita Grote, Innovation Fund Manager, UNICEF

**1:00 - 2:30 pm**      **Side-event: *Strengthening the protection of children during COVID-19: launching the Child Protection Minimum Standards***

**2:30 - 4:00 pm**      **Side-event: *Inclusive Humanitarian Action = Effective Humanitarian Action***

<b>Day 4 - Thursday 11 June</b>
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**8:00 - 9:30 am**      **Side-event: *Anticipatory Approach to COVID-19 and other crises***

**10:00 - 12:30pm**      **High-Level Panel: *Mobilizing action to improve humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons and achieve durable solutions***

By the end of 2019, the global population of internally displaced persons due to conflict, violence and disasters reached an all-time high of more than 50 million. In 2020, in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, internally displaced persons are disproportionately exposed to the disease and its impacts, from job losses to food shortages, compounding existing vulnerabilities and reinforcing the need for efforts to strengthen their resilience and advance durable solutions. Ever more people are displaced for ever longer periods of time, reinforcing the need to find solutions to protracted displacement. In several subregions, conflict increasingly intersects with disasters and droughts in driving displacement, complicating the search for durable solutions and testing the resilience of host communities.

This panel will explore concrete ways the international community can better support IDPs, host communities and governments to help IDPs move towards durable solutions to internal displacement. Panellists will share experiences of diverse needs of IDPs and new approaches towards achieving durable solutions and how long-term solutions can be advanced from the very outset of a humanitarian emergency.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- Ms. Federica Mogherini, Co-Chair, United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Mr. António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration
- Dr. Asha Mohammed, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society
- H.E. Dr. Nasir Ahmad Andisha, Co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Internal Displacement and Permanent representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Ms. Veronica Ngum Ndi, Gender Officer, Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities

**1:00 - 2:30 pm**      **Side-event: *Counterterrorism and Humanitarian Action in the Age of COVID-19***

**2:30 - 4:00 pm**      **Closing of the Segment, including the Chair's Summary of the discussion over the course of the deliberations**

<b>Day 5 - Friday 12 June</b>
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**9:00 - 10:30 am**      **Side-event: *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Displaced and Migrant Populations during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond***

**11:00 - 12:30 pm**      **Side-event: *Humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas***

**1:00 - 2:30 pm**      **Side-event: *Towards more inclusive and disaggregated data on displacement***