



## ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 19-21 June 2018

**Title:**

**A Collective Effort of Leaving No One Behind:  
Strengthening Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action**

**Sponsors and Organizers:**

**Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, Permanent Observer Mission of the European Union to the United Nations, UN OCHA, UN Women (on behalf of the IASC Gender Reference Group), Women’s Refugee Commission, IASC GenCap Project**

**Date and Time: Thursday, 21 June 2018, 13:15 – 14:30  
UN Secretariat, New York**

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: *Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

**Background:**

Now more than ever, it is critical to ensure that humanitarian projects, programming and assistance are gender responsive. Globally, more than 130 million people are affected by humanitarian crises and are in need of lifesaving assistance. While conflict remains the main driver of humanitarian needs, natural disasters also exact a massive toll on people’s lives, dignity and well-being. In all of these contexts, gender equality programming is crucial for an effective and efficient humanitarian response, because women, men, girls and boys respond differently, gender roles change across age and over time, power dynamics shift, and women and men have different needs, priorities and capacities.

Significant progress has been made in mainstreaming gender in humanitarian action, which has been critical in enhancing the humanitarian community’s ability to address needs, risks and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys. However, challenges remain in systematically integrating gender in all stages of humanitarian response. Existing policies and strategies on gender in humanitarian action are not always prioritized or implemented, and advancing gender equality is too often considered optional or additional, rather than critical and lifesaving. Without specific guidance, tools and collective leadership, humanitarian action runs the risk of potentially harming – rather than helping – people in need.

In an effort to achieve sustainable change on gender equality programming, the humanitarian system has worked together to strengthen practical, system-wide approaches on the ground.

This side event will explore the newly endorsed IASC *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy*, and how recently developed tools such as the IASC Gender Handbook, IASC Gender with Age Marker, and Women’s Refugee Commission’s “I’m Here” Approach, will

help deliver on policy commitments to gender equality programming as well as explore their applicability in the broader context of gender equality programming.

### **Objectives:**

To highlight the recent policy commitments made to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action by the IASC, the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the humanitarian system to deliver on them and the tools and resources that have been recently developed to help facilitate this.

Points for Discussion:

Address collective efforts and challenges in enhancing gender equality programming in humanitarian settings by:

- a. Discussing tools, including by the IASC and Women's Refugee Commission, to support gender responsive humanitarian action.
- b. Highlighting the IASC GenCap Project and the role of local organizations in promoting gender-responsive projects.
- c. Galvanizing collective support for the universal use of tools and gender-responsive projects in an effort towards ensuring accountability to gender equality programming across the humanitarian system.

### **Format:**

- Panel Discussion

### **Co-Chairs and moderator:**

- Ms. Ursula Mueller, *Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator*
- Mr. Yannick Glemarec, *Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women*

### **Panel composition:**

- GenCap Adviser: IASC Gender with Age Marker and IASC GenCap Project
- Women's Refugee Commission: "I'm here" Approach
- Member of Civil Society: the role of local organizations in promoting gender-responsive projects

### **Background Material:**

- [The GenCap Project](#)
- [Women's Refugee Commission: "I'm Here": Adolescent Girl's in Emergencies](#)
- [IASC Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy](#)
- [IASC Gender and Age Marker](#)
- [IASC Gender Handbook](#)

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