Thank you all for your active engagement over these past three days. And in particular, I would like to thank the many panellists, moderators and participants for their insights and recommendations, including those who joined us through the live-feed from the Philippines and the Central African Republic.

Over the past three days, we have had a record 34 events and I hope you had a chance to visit the humanitarian trade fair to see the films, photos and exhibits on how people in crisis are responding to meet their own needs. With each year, we see increased interest and importance placed on this Segment as a platform for discussing the challenges facing the humanitarian community. And the short film you just saw is a testament for this.

A number of important messages have emerged from our discussions.

The panel on effective humanitarian assistance acknowledged that we must change our way of working if we are to meet the growing needs of people in crisis. We discussed the need to invest more in addressing the underlying risks of crisis and that of a collective response efforts in terms of putting the needs of people at the centre.

The importance of local actors was also a key theme on the panel on serving the needs of people in complex emergencies. We discussed the need to change our models of delivering assistance, and collectively improve our advocacy efforts with all parties to conflict so that they adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. But the limitations of humanitarian action were also stressed. We must invest more in conflict prevention and to finding political solutions to conflicts to better serve the people affected.

At the side events, we have discussed everything from the strategic use of the CERF to how to respond better in urban settings. We reviewed partnerships of every kind – including those with the private sector and the diaspora. We examined how to strengthen protection of people in crises.

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We explored the need for a new business model that is based on collectively managing risk. We considered the importance of ensuring the most vulnerable benefit from the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals process, the disaster risk reduction framework, and the World Humanitarian Summit. All of these discussions moved us towards our ultimate goal of greater inclusiveness, improved coordination, working together better and effectiveness.

Mr. Vice-President,

I commend Member States on reaching consensus on the resolution you have just adopted and the progress that has been made. I would like to thank the co-facilitators, Bangladesh and Switzerland, for their work.

I was particularly pleased to see the new language on the protracted nature of displacement and the need to strengthen efforts to meet the needs of people displaced by conflict and disasters. With the drastic increase in the number of people displaced and the average length of displacement being 17 years – this is a call that Member States and humanitarian organisations cannot ignore. We must do better.

The Secretary-General in his report stressed the importance of Member States, humanitarian and development organisations addressing the underlying causes of crises and vulnerabilities in national development plans. This was an important recommendation that Member States endorsed in the resolution. We must now translate this into commitment into action.

This week we have also talked about the challenges we face in meeting the needs of people, particularly children and women caught in the midst of violence and brutality.

For example, in three years we have seen the number of people in need in Syria rise from 1 million to almost 11 million. The situation in Iraq is further destabilizing an already fragile region. In South Sudan, the risk of famine now threatens millions. And in the Central African Republic, Mali and elsewhere, there remain significant unmet humanitarian needs that must be addressed.

Mr. Vice President,

After every atrocity we say ‘never again’, yet our ability as an international community to persuade governments and armed groups to stop the violence and promote peace is limited. Humanitarian aid is not a solution to any crisis. I hope that all Member States will continue to take their responsibility to protect their people seriously.

Humanitarian needs are also increasing from natural hazards and chronic poverty. Food insecurity in the Horn of Africa is growing and there are predictions of a strong El Nino Effect that will further exacerbate the situation. Hundreds of thousands of children in the Sahel die every year from preventable causes. We need to prioritize prevention and act quickly on early warning signs. And, the hurricane and typhoon season has not yet begun – which each year threatens millions across the Caribbean and Asia Pacific.

With the growing needs and major funding gaps, we are falling far short of what is needed.

As many have said in the last few days, we have a unique opportunity through discussion on the post-2015 development agenda, the post-Hyogo Framework and the World Humanitarian

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Summit to consider how best we can reform the way we work to maximize our effectiveness, grow the resilience of communities and better protect people in crisis. 
Mr. Vice-President,
I hope the debate will continue.

My thanks to you, Ambassador Dabbashi for your leadership as Vice-President of this Segment, and for Libya’s stewardship of the process this year.

My thanks to your team, the ECOSOC Bureau, our interpreters and sound engineers, the organizers of side events including Member States, my own staff and others who have helped to make this Segment a success.

Thank you all very much.

[Vice President to continue his remarks and officially close the Segment]