

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2016

**COLOMBIA'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS: BENCHMARKING THE
COMPREHENSIVE ATTENTION TO VICTIMS OF THE INTERNAL
CONFLICT - COLOMBIA AND
HUMANITARIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA – OCHA**

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Time and Date: Wednesday 29 June 2016

Room: Conference Room 11 United Nations 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 and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

After about half a century of an internal conflict that caused more than a million casualties and 6 million internal displaced persons, a peace agreement is about to be signed between the government and the FARC guerrilla in Colombia. In a transition phase from conflict to post-conflict, the government aims at keeping the assistance to affected people relevant and efficient, while coping with a diminishing financial capacity. The Colombian Government and the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI) have joined forces to efficiently identify strengths and weaknesses of the Colombian humanitarian attention model, to focus resources where they are most needed, and enable a more accountable humanitarian system that puts the people at the centre, allowing victims of the internal conflict regain their independence and facilitate their integration to the peace building process.

The objective of this side event is to engage different allies and stakeholders interested in promoting a project/discussion on innovative approaches to assess the effectiveness of state led assistance mechanisms. It will discuss the challenges of humanitarian assistance in the transition from conflict to peace, the extent to which social auditing methods can apply, are useful and efficient in the framework of governmental processes, and how the Core Humanitarian Standard – CHS, (highlighted as a good practice to improve accountability at the "*Secretary-General's report on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations*") can help put the people at the centre of governmental humanitarian assistance in the context of sustainable peace building.

The Colombian Government is taking action to end 60 years of an internal conflict. The event will be a space for identifying how the model can be replicated to other contexts as one of the potential mechanisms for sustainable and efficient "localisation" of aid through the strengthening of national capacities and how this links with the compliance of the 2030 Development Agenda. The Government of Colombia welcomes international expertise to evaluate the impact of its humanitarian actions in conflict and post conflict scenarios. .

This event will follow a successful presentation of the project at the WHS and will integrate the recommendations made in Istanbul to further seek the input of various international experts.

Discussion points

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions:

- The challenges of humanitarian assistance in the transition from conflict to peace, putting the people at the centre of sustainable peace building and how a standard like the CHS can help
- Innovative approaches to assess the effectiveness of state led assistance mechanisms, and the challenges of evidence building and impact measurement in the humanitarian sector.
- The inclusion of a gender balance aspect in the methodologies.
- The need to integrate mechanisms to assess the impact, both of the project itself and the Colombian Minimum Subsistence Model model

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

- Interest of different stakeholders in supporting the project to benchmark the comprehensive attention to victims of the internal conflict based in the “Minimum Subsistence Model” against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and throughout this:
 - Contribute to improve from a humane and a cost efficient stand-point the Colombian Humanitarian attention model.
 - Identify and develop a technical model to move from humanitarian assistance to self-reliance (economical stability).
 - Present the world a pilot case that can improve humanitarian response to leave no one behind in different conflict scenarios.
- Raise awareness with the society as a whole of the importance in humanitarian crisis to determine minimum subsistence models linked to the Core Humanitarian Standards. All on-board.

Format

Panel discussion, interactive dialogue or others.

If panel discussion:

The exact format of the side event is still in construction as it follows up on a successful side-event presented at the WHS in Istanbul, a similar panel discussion format could be used. However the organizers are looking into a more dynamic approach, maybe more suited to a follow up discussion

We will need a room organized in round tables. Each table will have a specific triggering question for the audience to look upon since the beginning of the event:

- A short introduction to the method we will use for the side event (participation, questions and round tables) (5 minutes)
- a short presentation of the project and discussion in Istanbul to set the context
- quick reactions from the panelists from their perspective. They will be asked to talk about concrete issues related to the project (15 minutes)
- audience to react with a round of questions and answers from panel (15 minutes)
- the moderator to ask for a delegate of each round table to read the question they had since the beginning on the table and their initial reactions to it (10 minutes)
- feedback from panel and other members of the audience on the questions (15 minutes)
- final Q&A (15 minutes)
- wrap up by moderator (5 minutes)

(Co-)Chair(s) & Moderator :

- Yves Daccord, Director General International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Jaques Forster. Former Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from 1999 to 2007

Panel composition:

- *Paula Gaviria. High Commissioner for Human Rights – Colombian Government*
- *Pierre Hauselman, Executive Director – HQAI*
- *Under construction one more panelist.*

Background Material

Information about the project

Information of the Colombian context.

Results and Highlights of the Side event in Istanbul

Contact

For more information, please contact:

Elissa Goucem. Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative. egoucem@hqai.org

Oscar Ivan Rico, Advisor Colombian Government Victims Unit.

oscar.rico@unidadvictimas.gov.co

Gustavo Torres Guerrero, Advisor for International Issues. Colombian Government Victims

Unit. gustavo.torres@unidadvictimas.gov.co; gustavotorresguerrero@gmail.com