**Proposal for the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2014 side event, 8:15-9:30am, 23 June, ROOM 5 NLB**

**Humanitarian Goals – Should the international community develop a set of ‘humanitarian goals’?**  
***International Rescue Committee and World Vision International***

**Introduction and Rationale**

As the world enters the next millennium, poverty is becoming concentrated in the same conflict-affected or fragile states in which most of the world's humanitarian needs lie. The international community is responding in such places with both humanitarian objectives and long-term development aims. As a result, considerable debate within the humanitarian community has arisen about the future and the objectives of humanitarianism Humanitarian actors have faced serious logistical and financial challenges to operating in these countries while the needs have grown and far exceed capacity to respond to them. The demands on the humanitarian response require great trade-offs—not all of the urgent needs can be met, and humanitarian actors are also meeting longer-term needs of those in protracted conflicts. The definitions that demarcate what counts as emergency response and what counts as development constrain as much as they reveal. On the supply side, we are seeing increasing donor fatigue and fragmentation across the system, as new landscapes and emerging donors redefine our global responses to crises. It is hard to rally the conscience and public opinion of the people in developed countries.

While the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been seen to deliver focus and drive behind the development goals, such as reducing poverty, there are no such goals to align the efforts of the humanitarian sector. The idea of humanitarian goals (HuGos) could address some of the challenging issues of supply and demand by creating a system of public policy debate and drawing attention and resources to the humanitarian sector, helping to align the implementation efforts of different organizations and actors in response to conflict and disaster, raising accountability of ourselves and of donors to the most vulnerable affected populations, and rallying public opinion and interest.

**Objective**

The objective of this side event is to discuss whether any such goals could be appropriate for aligning the diverse efforts of the humanitarian sector, what form those goals should take, and what they would entail. Although the idea of humanitarian goals is controversial, it is also a useful stimulation for debate, in terms of how we interact with the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process, the disaster risk reduction framework, and the World Humanitarian Summit.

**Participants**

Panelists: 1. Mr. David Miliband, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee. 2. World Vision International, Dan Kelly, Executive Vice President for Humanitarian Affairs; 3. Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Moderator: Ms. Nan Buzard, Executive Director, ICVA