2015 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

The Future of Humanitarian Coordination
The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
Time and Date: 17:30-18:45, 19 June 2015
Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

This side-event will be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme:

The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness.

Background and objectives

The future of humanitarian coordination continues to feature in national, regional and global discussions, such as the World Humanitarian Summit. It is widely agreed that humanitarian action needs to continue to adapt and become more effective in order to keep pace with the evolving nature of emergencies, including protracted crises, to ensure the needs of affected people are met. With the IASC recognized as the primary mechanism for inter-agency humanitarin coordination, this side event will explore the added value of the IASC, how it has adapted to the evolving humanitarian environment and what the future holds for humanitarian coordination and this forum.

The event aims to update Member States on the progress made since the Humanitarian Reform in 2005, the implementation of the IASC Transformative Agenda since 2012 and the work undertaken in the IASC’s five thematic priorities in recent years: Accountability to Affected Populations, including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Humanitarian Financing; Preparedness and Resilience; Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action; and Protection. The panellists will highlight how humanitarian coordination has evolved and how it can be further improved, bearing in mind that coordination is not an end in itself. The panellists will look at what is working well and what is in need of improvement.

The event aims to be a forward-looking discussion, building on the experiences of IASC Members and the current state of humanitarian coordination, on how best to leverage the comparative advantages of different partners to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action. Panellists will present different perspectives from the IASC, the UN, NGOs, and the Private Sector.

Discussion points

Against this backdrop, the discussion will revolve around the following questions:

1. Humanitarian coordination has evolved in recent years, what is working and what is not?
2. What would “perfect” humanitarian coordination look like and how do we achieve it?

3. How can the humanitarian work become more inclusive – of local actors, private sector, affected people and others – yet at the same time be more streamlined, efficient and effective.

**Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**
The outcome of this event is expected to inform future IASC policies and feed into other discussions on humanitarian coordination.

The panellists are asked to propose specific recommendations.

**Format**

**Chair and Moderator:**
- Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

**Panel composition:**
- Mr. Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Ms. Lise Grande, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General / Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq
- Dr. Faizal Perdaus, President Mercy Malaysia and Chair ICVA Consortium
- Prof. Dr. Christof E. Ehrhart, Head of Corporate Communications & Responsibility, Executive Vice President, Deutsche Post DHL Group
- Dr. Bruce Aylward, Special Representative of the Director General for Ebola and Assistant Director General for Emergencies, World Health Organization (WHO)

**Background Material**
https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/

**Contact**
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