Greetings. It is a pleasure to be here. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you about the challenges we collectively face for humanitarian aid and how we can use the moment created at the World Humanitarian Summit to better serve people in need and in crisis around the world.

I want to start by thanking the leaders in the NGO community for the critical role you played in making the World Humanitarian Summit a success. There is always a danger in us, the humanitarian community, to be too modest. We need to acknowledge the Summit was a success. Nothing ever happened like it in 70 years. It achieved what it was set out to do, to reset the humanitarian agenda and to generate the political will to thrust us forward. You not only participated in the Summit itself but also helped shape its goals. Your forward-thinking and fundamental desire for positive change led to a robust Agenda for Humanity that pushes all actors to do more and better.

In the lead-up to the Summit, NGO engagement and advocacy with Member States in operational countries, with donors, UN entities and other partners, encouraged these actors to make commitments that can enable real change.

And at the Summit the NGO community set the standard for innovation, willingness to change, and awareness of the urgency of the challenges we face. Among the more than 3,000 commitments made, many of the most concrete and measurable came from you. Thank you.

For example, Save the Children committed to support global targets to increase the proportion of funding that goes to national and local actors. World Vision aims to deliver half of its aid through cash by 2020 while Mercy Corps aims to allocate up to 20 per cent of its development funding in crises and situations of fragility, where appropriate.

Each of these efforts will help us significantly as we move forward in reporting and assessing progress.
The Secretary-General’s Report on the World Humanitarian Summit was released in September, and was discussed in a session at the General Assembly. This report, alongside the Commitments to Action document which summarizes the commitments made, gives a good sense of what the Summit achieved.

These reports do not cover the full range of commitments made, but identify the areas attracting both the greatest consensus for change and those where the widest gaps persist.

Here are some of the top findings:

At the Summit we adopted a ‘new way of working’ to both focus on humanitarian needs and preventing and reducing those needs, including by working to collective outcomes with development actors. The most significant support for this approach came from NGOs, with many identifying with the proposed shifts to greater development-humanitarian synergy, as well as to a more people-centered and localized approaches. Eight UN agencies and the World Bank also signed on to the Commitment to Action to adopt this new way of working. I am one of the signatories too, and my feet are to the fire to deliver.

We are now putting in place a process to make the new way of working real. Humanitarian Coordinators have requested assistance in adopting this approach in the Lake Chad Basin as we speak, the Horn of Africa, and possibly in Haiti depending how it goes there given recent events. To be absolutely clear, the approach will always be context specific: it is clearly not the time to starting planning for development in East Aleppo, but there are several protracted crises, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, where we indeed are already working to reduce needs even as we maintain a principled approach to providing life-saving assistance and where these approaches could be expanded.

At the Summit we also recognized that the central role of local actors in crisis prevention, response and recovery must be matched with more direct funding and leadership support. We touched on this in yesterday’s session already. The Summit forced us to take a hard look at the way we operate and assess: are we reinforcing capacity or replacing it?

We resolved to change our planning, programming, data collection and analysis to ensure the most vulnerable in crises, including displaced people, women, young people, the elderly and people with disabilities are included in all aspects of response.

We recognized that gender equality and fulfilment of women and girls’ rights are the bedrock to political and development progress. Leaders made concrete commitments to address sexual and gender-based violence and reproductive health rights; to support women’s leadership in decision making; and fund women’s groups – targets that we must track as we move forward.

We reached consensus for a new approach that would strengthen the resilience of displaced people and their host communities through increased livelihood support and access to education.
Donors and investors committed to a shift to longer-term financing to address protracted crises, and to increase the proportion of unearmarked funding through pooled funds to increase efficiency.

The IASC Working Group has set up a task team on disability to support the implementation of the Disability Charter, launched at the WHS.

The group is also offering to explore in its next session, where elements of the WHS’s commitments, including the Grand Bargain, are already being taken forward through its work-streams and to explore how it can work with a more diverse range of partners.

In terms of gaps, numerous Member States reiterated their commitment to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law and stressed the importance of political solutions to crises. However, as is evident in too many of today’s crises – from Syria to Yemen – when it comes to protecting civilians, resolving conflicts and upholding humanitarian law, much more needs to be done to achieve meaningful change.

Four our part, OCHA has committed to propel the Agenda for Humanity forward and to deliver on our own commitments.

For instance, we will continue to work with our partners to operationalize the New Way of Working.

We will support the Grand Bargain by improving inter-sectoral analysis, by making our pooled funds more accessible to front line responders; and by leading on best practice to manage these funds as a donor.

I will continue to lead efforts to strengthen our response to internal displacement and plan to convene a high-level event on IDPs in 2017 to build on the 2030 agenda, WHS and the 19 September Summit commitments, which in turn were backed up by the Summit led by President Obama on 20 September.

And I will continue our advocacy efforts to demand greater respect for international humanitarian law and protection of civilians, including by working with all of you in calling for a global campaign to this effect. I hope you are all aware of my vocal insistence for upholding IHL as our licence to operate.

We all need to do our part by implementing our commitments to advance the Agenda for Humanity.

You are crucial partners as we map out the way forward.

One of the centrepieces is the online Platform for Action, Commitment and Transformation, or PACT, which was launched in September, and must be an active hub for information sharing, seeking partners, sharing information, and providing a transparent reflection of commitments.
I seek your views on how to shape PACT and seek your collaboration in providing inputs to it.

The Secretary-General’s Report also emphasizes the need for continued dialogue. This is not simply to set up more meetings, but to acknowledge that we have put lots of big ideas on the table and operationalizing them requires further discussion. I am eager to hear more from you about the best fora and approaches to this engagement.

The report also calls for an annual report on progress. We will continue to rely on your partnership and expertise in measuring progress and tracking change. Individual NGOs have already proposed to follow progress on specific agendas, such as cash-based programming, localisation, collective outcomes in fragile states, and other issues. We welcome further collaboration in these and other areas.

We look forward to working with you to help donors enact the promises they made to significantly change the way they finance prevention, response, and needs-reduction.

And we call on you to hold Member States and UN Agencies to account for the commitments they made, encouraging them to be transparent in reporting their progress. Let’s use OCHA as a spur to drive commitments.

And finally, we call for a high-level stock-taking meeting by 2019 – this is to ensure sustained political attention to some of the Summit’s most pressing issues: crisis prevention, humanitarian access, and protection, and the overall reduction of vulnerability and need.

Only by working together to put vulnerable people at the heart of our decision-making and action will we achieve the change we so desperately need.