2015 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Building a Coalition for Resilience

Side event co-organised by the Government of Mexico and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

08:15-09:45, 17 June 2015
(coffee/tea available at 08:00)
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

This is one of the side-events to 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.

1. Background and objectives
Resilience as a sustainable solution for local and national development has gained increased recognition and acceptance globally. In terms of bridging humanitarian action and development, resilience has been regarded as an useful approach which supports shifting away from the traditional paradigm of “from relief to development”. It also contributes to building national and local capacity so to strengthen the ability of communities and people to endure stresses and shocks, and to cope with and recover from the accompanied negative effects without compromising their long-term prospects.

In November 2014, the IFRC convened a Global Community Resilience Forum. It was attended by more than 200 participants from different sectors – National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, government agencies, corporate partners, UN agencies and intergovernmental organisations. The Forum concluded with a new initiative to increase community and civic action on resilience – the One Billion Coalition for Resilience.

The way forward calls for collaboration and partnership amongst a wide range of like-minded actors including public authorities, the private sector, schools, universities and organisations from international to community level. The coalition is expected to increase the effectiveness of cooperation and improve the flow of resources to programmes and initiatives on the ground. It will also bring greater learning through the sharing of knowledge, experience and ideas to improve community resilience.

Partners:
Effective partnerships, progressive legal and policy frameworks and long-term program implementation will be fundamental to building resilience. For instance, addressing rapidly growing exposure of communities to disaster risk brought by the intensification of weather and climate extremes will require investment in adaptation and mitigation cross-generations, and a coordinated and inclusive approach to risk reduction. Only through more diverse and sustainable partnerships, along together with longer term investments and plans, can we endure and recover from the humanitarian challenges of the future.

This side event will demonstrate the need for more united efforts to galvanise local action and build community resilience. By bringing together perspectives from youth and the field together with government, private sector, and specialised technical agencies, this side event will:
- showcase how we can work together to build community resilience;
- promote collective responsibility, collective action and collective accountability by all and for all, for enabling individuals, households and communities to become stronger and safer; and
- call upon all stakeholders to join in the creation of the One Billion Coalition.

2. Discussion points
Against this backdrop, the side-event will be conducted as a panel discussion, focused on key questions to panelists representing different sectors and organisations. Questions to guide the panel discussion will include:
- What do you think are the most pressing needs for building community resilience?
- How has partnership enhanced the impact of your work at community level?
- In what areas do you think partnerships are most needed to make a difference at ‘the frontline’?
- What are key challenges you see in partnerships and how they can be overcome?
- What support can government provide for building resilience and involving local communities in sustainable development?

3. Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations
It is expected that the discussion will conclude with recommendations for the consideration of ECOSOC for its 2015 report.

4. Format: Panel discussion
Chair and Moderator: Dr Stephen Omollo, Head of Strategic Partnerships and International Relations Department, IFRC

Video: Our world, our challenges
▶ 4:05
https://youtu.be/zhYMCs6TqQE

After the video, the Chair will invite the representative from the Government of Mexico to make a keynote speech (max. 5 minutes). The keynote will share thoughts on what is needed for a government to reach the SDGs and how partnerships, including one with the Mexican Red Cross at the local level, can contribute to the process toward 2030.

Keynote by Mr. Alfonso Molina Romo, Assistant Director for Evaluation, Monitoring & International Affairs at the National Coordination of Civil Protection, Government of Mexico.

Introductory remarks by panelists
Each panelist will be provided with 3 minutes of introductory remarks to briefly explain their programs for resilience and the role of partnerships.
• **WMO:** Ms Mary Power, Director, Office for Resource Mobilisation and Development Partnerships

• **Zurich:** Ms Linda Freiner, Zurich Flood Resilience Manager, Zurich Insurance Group

• **OECD:** Mr Hugh MacLeman, Policy Advisor, Risk & Resilience, DCD/GPP

• **Lebanese Red Cross:** Ms Tala Ali Atieh, Community-based Youth Volunteer

The moderator will then ask the panelists to provide their insight and perspective on different aspects for partnering for resilience.

**Conclusion**

At the end of the panel discussion, the moderator shall invite panellists to share their recommendations for building resilience through effective partnerships at different levels.

We invite representatives from different sectors to join the discussion and coalition. An IFRC stand at the Humanitarian Trade Fair during ECOSOC HAS is at disposal for further discussion.

5. **Background Material** (Through hyperlinks)
   - Review of the Mexican National Civil Protection System (Mexico)
   - The Road to Resilience, and The One Billion Coalition for Resilience (IFRC)
   - Global Framework for Climate Services (WMO)
   - How can “Resilience” help? (OECD)
   - Reducing the impact of floods (Zurich)
   - Youth Volunteers community activities (Lebanese Red Cross)

6. **Contact at IFRC**

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