

## **Political Communiqué for the World Humanitarian Summit<sup>1</sup>**

On 23-24 May 2016, representatives of the undersigned countries will meet in Istanbul at the World Humanitarian Summit. We thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for convening this historic Summit and the Government of Turkey for hosting it. The Secretary-General's ambitious Agenda for Humanity seeks to address global concerns surrounding the humanitarian impact of multiple, seemingly intractable conflicts, climate change, and natural disasters that threaten lives today as well as those of future generations, rendering peace and prosperity elusive while setting back development gains in fragile countries.

We, the undersigned, commit to holding ourselves accountable, to ensuring that our efforts create a world where we can more effectively address the needs of the 125 million people seeking assistance and protection, and to leaving no one behind, recognizing we are living in a world where 60 million people are today forcibly displaced from their homes. Specifically, we commit to supporting the five core responsibilities outlined in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity and use them as a rallying call for action, change, and accountability to better support those in need of humanitarian assistance.

First, we commit to use global leadership to prevent and end conflicts. We will do more to prevent crisis situations from deteriorating further and focus more attention on tackling root causes of conflict. We welcome the Secretary-General's call to end need, change lives, and commit to a new model of working that puts those affected by conflict and disaster at the center of planning and decision-making. We commit to empowering affected people to drive their own response to crises, in particular to strengthen the voice, choice, and control of crisis-affected women and girls, children and youth, older people, and people with disabilities. We will take concrete action to protect against sexual and gender-based violence and provide support to the survivors of such crimes when they do occur in crisis situations. With the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence as our point of departure, we commit to transforming humanitarian action so that it is fit to address the scale, complexity, and duration of the crises of the 21st century.

Second, we commit to uphold the norms that safeguard humanity. We will renew and revitalize our commitment to upholding humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law. We aspire to a global order that is based on full respect for the norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We confirm also our respect for the norms and standards that safeguard civilians in conflict as well as the personnel who provide assistance. We reaffirm in particular the importance of respecting and protecting medical personnel and facilities in conflict zones.

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<sup>1</sup> This Communiqué is not legally binding and does not affect the signatories' existing obligations under applicable international and domestic law. Rather, the signatures below reflect the high-level political commitments of the Member States represented.

Third, we commit to leave no one behind. We will promote a new approach to displaced people, which will enable them to receive protection and assistance close to their homes. Where people have to flee, we will help create and provide possible earning opportunities and education at all levels as well as health services for refugees and host communities. We reaffirm the institution of asylum and the principle of non-refoulement and also commit to relieve some of the pressures on host countries by expanding means of resettlement and admission for refugees. We commit to focus more on reconciliation between and among communities in conflict, and to support the emergence of safe, dignified, and durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, while recognizing that voluntary return to the places of origin under stable conditions is the overarching goal. We commit also to working together to improve national disaster resilience and response efforts and acknowledge that disasters and the effects of climate change play a role in driving displacement. We will work to strengthen national and local capacities in these different contexts. We view these commitments as critical issues for all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fourth, we commit to shift from delivering aid to ending need. As we do this, we recognize the need for humanitarian and development work to be mutually reinforcing and interrelated. We come to Istanbul convinced that the new approach outlined by the Secretary-General to deliver assistance with individuals at the center of the response, the 2030 Agenda adopted by the General Assembly, and the new tools and opportunities created by technology require supporting and investing in a workforce trained to deliver results on the Agenda for Humanity and the 2030 Agenda. We will work closely with academic and research institutions as well as networks around the world to develop tomorrow's leaders within Member States and the UN system who will drive this transformational agenda.

Finally, but not least, we commit to invest in humanity. We will provide financing and assistance differently, approaching it in a way that promotes and reinforces the coherent delivery of outcomes for affected populations. We recognize the need to make effective use of financing instruments such as pooled funds for humanitarian assistance. We recognize also the need to secure commitments to tackle unprecedented forced displacement and to match lifesaving assistance with longer-term support for livelihoods and education, also recognizing that the principle of responsibility-sharing in humanitarian response will lay the groundwork for more predictable and equitable responses. We will promote migration that is safe, regular, and orderly. We will strive to support those States most affected or vulnerable to climate change and climate-related disasters in accessing climate finance, taking into account their needs and priorities. We recognize the importance of initiatives being launched by the World Bank Group, regional and international development banks, and other international financial institutions as they refocus and apply new tools to better address protracted, recurrent, and predictable crises. We welcome in particular the World Bank's new financing initiatives to support refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon and note that these initiatives serve as models for other

countries, recognizing the global public good that countries with large refugee populations provide across Africa and Asia, and we will explore additional financing with countries that have large refugee populations.

We are confident that taken together, these efforts can collectively and jointly deliver on the Agenda for Humanity.

Signed,

Albania

Andorra

Antigua and Barbuda

Argentina

Australia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Bangladesh

Belgium

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Brazil

Bulgaria

Canada

Chile

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Djibouti

El Salvador

Estonia

Ethiopia

Finland

France

Georgia

Germany

Greece

Honduras

Iceland

Ireland

Israel

Italy

Japan

Jordan

Kazakhstan

Latvia

Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malta

Micronesia

Monaco

Montenegro

Morocco

Netherlands

Niger

Norway

Oman

Peru

Poland

Portugal

Qatar

Republic of Korea

Romania

Rwanda

Samoa

San Marino

Serbia

Seychelles

Slovakia

Slovenia

Somalia

Spain

Swaziland

Sweden

Switzerland

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Thailand

Turkey

Ukraine

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America

Uruguay

Zambia

The European Union