

## Outcomes from 'Interactive Dialogue on Humanitarian Financing' ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), 18 June 2015

### Introduction

The [Global Humanitarian Assistance \(GHA\) programme](#) together with [Future Humanitarian Financing \(FHF\)](#) organised a side event at ECOSOC HAS on 18 June 2015 'Interactive Dialogue on Humanitarian Financing'. A panel discussion<sup>1</sup> was followed by group work to develop recommendations on the future of humanitarian financing under five key themes identified in the GHA 2015 report and the FHF report 'Looking Beyond the Crisis' and central to discussions taking place as part of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and UN High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. The themes for the five groups include 'nationalising and localising the humanitarian response', 'the development and humanitarian nexus', 'embracing diversity to ensure sufficient funding', 'moving towards proactive ways of working to better meet peak demands' and 'upgrading the Humanitarian Architecture to address inefficiencies and strengthen needs-based funding'.

The recommendations that resulted from the group work were presented to the official ECOSOC HAS High Level Panel on 'Addressing capacity and resource challenges through humanitarian financing'<sup>2</sup> during afternoon of 18 June in order to inform discussions and feed into the conclusions from the panel by Anke Reiffenstuel, Deputy Head Task Force Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany. The recommendations from the five groups are outlined below.

### Group A: Nationalising and Localising Humanitarian Response:

1. A change in the national humanitarian architecture is needed to ensure local & national actors' strategic involvement in context appropriate coordination mechanisms. This needs to be accompanied by placing a far greater proportion of international humanitarian assistance directly at a national level.
2. Clarify the role of international organisations, to identify and understand where and how they add value, and where their role could be fulfilled by national actors.

### Group B: The Development and Humanitarian Nexus:

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<sup>1</sup> **Key note:** Kyung-wha Kang, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA)/Assistant Secretary General (ASG)

**Chair:** Anke Reiffenstuel, Deputy Head Task Force Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany

**Presenters:**

Sophia Swithern, Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Programme Leader

Lydia Poole, Independent Consultant, Future of Humanitarian Financing (FHF)

**Panellists:**

Robert Piper, UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt)

Claus Sorenson, Director General, ECHO

Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in UN DESA

Fatou Diagne Zaouini, Risk Management Advisor, Africa Risk Capacity

<sup>2</sup> **Chair:** H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Tunisia

**Moderator:** Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

**Panellists:**

Mr. Bård Glad Pedersen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Mr. Michel Lies, CEO, Swiss Re

Dr. Richard Wilcox, interim Director General, African Risk Capacity Mr. Kevin Jenkins, CEO, World Vision International

1. Donors and wider actors should organise funding investments to create incentives for humanitarian, development, climate change and other concerned actors to work in complementarity to address longer-term needs of vulnerable and crisis-affected populations. This in practise means shifting from assessments to joint analysis, from planning to programming, and from funding to financing.
2. Clarify the remit of humanitarian actors, recognising that they must work better with national governments and development actors where appropriate. At the same time, development actors must prioritise risk management, preparedness and resilience in order to 'leave no one behind'.

**Group C: Embracing diversity to ensure sufficient humanitarian funding:**

1. To better engage emerging donors, we need to build trust and engage in mutually beneficially dialogue.
2. To increase the diversity in the funding base of humanitarian action, we must illustrate transparency, improved efficiency and performance.

**Group D: Moving towards proactive ways of working to better meet peak demands:**

1. Build national, sub-national and regional mechanisms and capacities for countries to manage their own crisis risks and financial preparedness before establishing a new global contingency fund as a default for managing risk.
2. To develop ways of working that better meets peak demand, we need to not only invest in institutions that better manage risk but also invest in behavioural change within the sector towards more anticipatory ways of working.

**Group E: Upgrading the Humanitarian Architecture to address inefficiencies and strengthen needs-based funding**

1. Recognising that the current system perpetuates competition over resources, we need to strengthen understanding of donor preferences and behaviour, as well incentives for coordinated decision-making between donors. Underpinning this, the development of a shared understanding of global needs is vital to prioritising funding to particular crises.
2. Move towards results-based funding through multi-year funding and collaboration with development actors. The measurement of outcomes should be undertaken on the basis of beneficiary feedback in addition to donor perspectives.