



April 2016

Response to the Report of the UN Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit **"ONE HUMANITY: SHARED RESPONSIBILITY"**

Joined here by the undersigned civil society organizations around the world, the NGO Committee on Migration warmly welcomes the UN Secretary-General's Report for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)¹.

We highly commend the Secretary-General for the extensive, inclusive and collaborative WHS consultative process. Together with other reviews and international reform processes, the consultations informed the identification in the report of the five core responsibilities that we strongly agree are critical to delivering better for humanity (21).

Above all – we emphatically applaud the inclusion of the central theme of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the report's Core Responsibility Three: *Leave no one behind*.

The Istanbul Summit in May 2016 represents an opportunity that must be seized to renew the commitment of the international community to humanity and to engage collectively to confront the challenges of our time. **As the report notes, among today's greatest challenges is the protection and empowerment of the millions of people displaced by conflict, economic inequality and environmental disaster, who are on the move in search of safety and a better life.** We applaud the Secretary-General's call for change that reaches the most vulnerable, marginalized and furthest behind; that gives voice to affected peoples and to local organizations; and promotes self-reliance rather than dependence on assistance.

We agree that the World Humanitarian Summit provides a first test of the international community's commitment to transform the lives of those most at risk of being left behind (21), including displaced persons, refugees, migrants, stateless persons, women and girls and other groups and minorities in crisis settings.

With conflict in Syria and continuing crises of violence in Afghanistan, Central and East Africa, Eritrea, Iraq, Myanmar and elsewhere, the number of refugees has reached levels not seen since World War II. Further exodus, especially of young people fleeing poverty, violence, environmental degradation and climate change in Africa, Latin America and Asia, shows no sign of diminishing in the near future. In the experience of our members and partners on the ground around the world, many of the humanitarian needs and challenges posed by human mobility are shared by refugees and migrants together, including in mixed migration, in risky migratory journeys across sea and land borders, and after arrivals in situations where refugees as well as migrants are often undocumented as well as unwanted. The pledge to leave no one behind has placed a new obligation on all of us to reach all those in such situations.

¹ Established in 2006, the NGO Committee on Migration is a global coalition of 50 networks and organizations of civil society working to protect and promote the human rights of migrants, on the ground and in advocacy at the UN, international, national and grass roots levels.

We therefore strongly support the Secretary-General’s call to:

- *better address the causes of displacement*, including long-standing inequalities (3), xenophobia (32), closed borders (32); and ecological disaster;
- *support the call for political solutions* to international crises, including civil strife and war (27);
- *secure commitments at the WHS from states who have not yet signed on to major international human rights instruments*, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1990 Migrant Worker Convention (69);
- *bridge the humanitarian and development divide*, especially for refugees in camps or outside of them for protracted periods (73);
- *effectively and systematically investigate allegations of serious human rights violations and responsibly prosecute perpetrators* (64);
- *include local, marginalized, vulnerable people* in assessing needed/required change and assistance to promote self-reliance rather than dependence on aid (14);
- *address forced displacement as part of sustainable development*, both within states and across borders (84);
- *establish a new framework on equitable responsibility-sharing* to respond to large scale refugee movements (87);
- *provide adequate support to host countries* (89);
- *ensure that the UN General Assembly’s “High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” (UNGA 19 September 2016 Summit) is a “transformative moment”* (90).

We strongly support the Secretary-General’s call for the international community to devise a collective and comprehensive response to displacement, migration and mobility based on enhanced cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination, including along migratory routes (91).

We support invoking the 2030 Agenda—especially its #29—as a partial framework to:

- *address multiple causes of forced migration* such as poverty, lack of livelihood, persecution, war and conflict, ethnic discrimination, natural and human-made disasters and environmental degradation;
- *recognize, publicize, and strengthen the development outcomes* of migration;
- *reduce migration’s human and financial costs*;
- *facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration* with full respect for the human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of migration status;
- *provide greater opportunities* for family reunification, humanitarian visas and protection for those who do not fall under the 1951 Refugee Convention (92).

In the Annex to his report, the Secretary-General has proposed an *Agenda for Humanity*, including actions under “Core Responsibility Three” to leave no one behind (ps. 54-57.)

On Actions to reduce and address displacement:

We recommend that the actions to reduce and address displacement apply to forced displacement across borders as well as to forced internal displacement. **We urge that forced displacement be addressed now and reduced by at least 50% by 2020, rather than by 2030.**

We recommend:

- *recognizing displaced people as economic contributors;*
- *directing international financial resources towards national and local systems that address the needs of displaced persons and their host communities;*
- *ensuring that humanitarian and development actors work across institutional divides in multi- year frameworks to end aid dependence and promote self-reliance in displaced populations;*
- *developing a framework for predictable responsibility- sharing to address major movements of refugees, expressly including all forced migrants, and that this be taken forward in advance of the UNGA 19 September 2016 Summit;*
- *financing both for collective outcomes and the harmonizing of costs and standards which will not remove funds from NGOs on the front lines or deflect the focus of humanitarian aid on the most vulnerable;*
- *allowing all migrants and refugees, including stateless persons and those forcibly constrained to or warehoused in centers or camps, to gain access to international relief agencies, healthful nutrition and clean water, adequate shelter, health, education, and access to decent work;*
- *enhancing support to provide for the educational, social, psychological, and physical needs of children, youth, adolescents, and older persons;*
- *providing additional services at all levels for the unprecedented number of unaccompanied migrant and refugee children while they are in transit, after settlement in refugee camps, placement in third countries, and elsewhere.*

On Actions to protect and empower women and girls:

Mindful of the Secretary-General's recognition of the requirement to both empower and protect female refugees and migrants of all ages from sexual and other violence, we strongly support the importance of education for all women, providing them with access to labor markets, and giving them information and counseling on health issues.

We urge that specific reference be made to the protection of all migrant women and girls, including in their capacity as migrant worker.

On Actions to eliminate gaps in education for children:

We recommend that the educational needs of the youngest children (ages 1 – 5) be ensured, particularly for refugees, and including those who are stateless and those detained in refugee camps.

In addition, we recommend the following:

- *that the five core responsibilities be embraced and their corresponding goals be pursued by states with the support of the international community as a whole and in close collaboration with civil society actors and organizations; in particular, with migrants, refugees and diaspora;*
- *that the framework of the WHS be strengthened through specific commitments and pledges to action, recommendations as to existing promising practices, and coherent mechanisms for follow up, assessment, and accountability;*
- *that the Secretary-General's Report for the WHS become one of the principal reference documents for the UNGA 19 September 2016 Summit.*

In concluding his report, the Secretary-General declares that the World Humanitarian Summit must be the occasion for an “Istanbul moment” in which we firmly commit to the unity and cooperation needed to confront the major challenges facing the world and our responsibilities to prevent and end suffering (169). However, **as the Secretary-General emphasizes, the test of our commitment to humanity does not lie in the outcome of the WHS alone, but in the refugee and displaced persons camps in Darfur, Kenya, and the Middle East; and in the refugee and migrant boats adrift in the Mediterranean and Andaman Seas (179).**

We stand in strong support of the United Nations and the Agenda for Humanity. We share the belief of the UN Secretary-General that the blue flag of the United Nations continues to offer hope, protection and inspiration, as it has in the past seven decades, and **we urge all stakeholders to make the first ever World Humanitarian Summit truly an “Istanbul moment.”**

Signing in support:

- Africa Unite
- Afrique Culture Maroc
- Agar Ethiopia Charitable Sociaety
- AJESH (Ajemalebu Self Help)
- ARDD-Legal Aid
- Antenne pour la Reconnaissance de l'Environnement au Congo (AREC)
- Armenian Relief Society
- Asociacion Dianova España
- Associatio Epanouissement Féminin
- Association AFVMC - Aide aux Familles et Victimes des Migrations Clandestines
- Association Avenir NEPAD Congo
- Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc.
- Attac Gabon
- Augustinians International (Curia Generalizia Augustiniana)
- Bread for the World – Protest and Development Service
- Community Economic Empowerment and Legal Support (CEELS), Tanzania
- Centre D'Etudes Et De Recherche Pour Une Population Dynamique (CERPD)
- COBINAMM-Migrantes
- Commission episcopale pour la pastorale des migrants et des réfugiés, Burkina Faso - Niger
- Community Advancement Programme-CAP
- Construisons ensemble le monde
- Corporación Anne Frank Colombia
- Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres Comunes, Comunitarias, Indígenas y Campesinas de la República de Colombia
- Fédération Euro-Africaine de Solidarité
- Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)
- Filipino Women's Council
- Federazione Organismi Cristiani di Servizio Internazionale Volontario (FOCSIV)
- Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)
- Fundación Scalabrini
- Global Community Peace Network initiative
- Hear Women/GarGar Foundation

- "Hope For Children" UNCRC Policy Center
- Human Rights Journalists Association (HURJA), Nepal
- I Sell the Shadow
- Incitare
- Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración/Institute for Women in Migration
- International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- International Council of Psychologists
- International Federation of Business and Professional Women
- International Forum For The Right Of Black People
- International Presentation Association
- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
- Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)
- Loretto Community
- Lutheran World Federation
- MADE (Migration and Development) Civil Society Network
- Medical Mission Sisters
- Mennonite Central Committee UN Office
- Association de la Migration Africaine (MIGRAF)
- NGO Committee on Migration
- ONG Jeunes Filles en Difficulté (JFD)
- Plateforme des Organisations Nationales et Territoriales de la Societe Civile Haitienne (PONT-SCH)
- Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE) Foundation
- Public Services Labor Independent Confederation
- Rehabilitation and Development Organization for Landless (RADOL)
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- REMESO, Linköping University
- Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme
- Réseau Marocain Transnational Migration & Développement (RMTMD)
- Rights Jessore
- Save the Climate
- Scalabrini International Migration Network
- Sheba USA
- Sisters of Charity Federation
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP), Pakistan
- Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
- Solidarite Agissante pour le Developpement Familial (SADF)
- Soroptimist International
- Terre des Hommes
- The Congregations of St. Joseph
- Un monde avenir
- Unanima International
- United people for Africa Congress
- Vivat International
- Vivere

- WARBE Development Foundation
- World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)
- Zimbabwe United Nations Association