

28th Informal Working Breakfast on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Resilience and Development:
Interlinkages between the World Humanitarian Summit and the SDGs

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World
22 September 2015

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to humanitarian assistance and the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The following are highlights of the discussion:

Linking the Development & Humanitarian Agendas

- We succeeded in articulating the SDGs because there was a sense of urgency and we recognized widespread situations of vulnerability, conflict and disaster in all corners of the world. The SDGs offer a more expansive framework that builds on the unfinished agenda of the MDGs. New dimensions have been added –especially around Goal 16, pertaining to peaceful societies.
- 51 million people are displaced or are refugees today. How do we respond in a humanitarian context? The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, made an important contribution towards our response to natural disasters. However, in conflict situations there's an enormous challenge, and we see this playing out in Syria. The phenomenon of “flight” sends a terrible signal to the world of where we've come. We must place the UN at the center of humanitarian efforts.
- Significant inter-governmental discussions have included the Sendai conference, the Addis Ababa FFD conference, and climate summit discussions. The non-governmental processes going on include the Peace Mission Review, Resolution 1325 review, and the global health crisis review.
- It's hoped that the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul will provide a framework for humanitarian challenges as the post-2015 agenda did for development needs.
- In Canada, humanitarian and development work are brought together in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. The central objective is to reduce the vulnerability of those most affected by conflict and disaster situations.
- The World Humanitarian Summit is not an intergovernmental process; it is the SG's initiative. Regional consultations over the past few years have led up to the conference, and a global consultation in Geneva will be the culmination of this preparatory process. The SG will draft his synthesis report based on the Geneva consultation.
- 80% of the UN's humanitarian resources and work go towards conflict situations, and the effects of natural disasters are becoming more intense and frequent. An estimated 100 million people around the world need external humanitarian assistance to survive.
- The cost of responding to humanitarian needs grew to \$18 billion last year – a 600% increase over the last decade. The gap between what is requested for humanitarian programs and what the UN is given by donors continues to widen. Last year, the UN was \$7 billion

¹ Permanent Missions & Government Agencies: Australia, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands. Representatives from UN: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Volunteers. Non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, Child Fund Alliance, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict, Global Policy Forum, IASSW, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Plan International, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Salesian Missions, Save the Children, Sisters of Charity Federation, Soroptimist International, SOS Children's Villages International, UNANIMA, World Vision International, World YWCA.

- short; this year, that gap is \$12 billion. People are not getting the assistance they need.
- Today, crises are protracted; humanitarian tools are not designed for protracted situations, they are intended for time bound situations. Appeals in Syria, Iraq, DRC go on for years.
 - The humanitarian tools at hand are not fit to lift people in need out of their chronic vulnerabilities and on the road to resilience and development. But we have a chance now to link the humanitarian agenda with the development agenda.
 - Development actors have to come in more quickly and link with humanitarian interventions to make that transition seamless and in support of enabling people to grow out of their chronic vulnerabilities.
 - Humanitarians in the system have been oblivious to calls from the ground; there is a strong desire from the ground for ownership, to do the work themselves, and to push towards localization – in contrast to the global humanitarian system developed over the years. A bottom up system is the key to making the system act effectively for people.
 - Key part of this puzzle is financing – how is humanitarian and development work financed? The way donors are currently structured is not conducive to uniting humanitarian and development actors.
 - How do donor governments break down silos so that humanitarian and development funding can flow as needed? In humanitarian field, we don't tend to emphasize the developmental components as much as we should and this doesn't match what people on the ground are asking for.
 - Work on ensuring that children are at the heart of the WHS. Children see themselves as agents of change and want to create better lives for their communities and for the future.
 - What are the root causes of people being displaced? I see one of the causes as militarization and arming of groups in conflict rather than engaging them in dialogue. Criminal networks are profiting from vulnerabilities, especially that of girls and women. Need to combat polarization happening in thinking between fundamentalist mindset and goals of the post-2015 agenda. Would like to see these issues brought to the humanitarian summit.
 - Important for humanitarian summit to deepen conceptual framework on human rights and sustainable development. The human rights framework will enable us to talk about the duty of the state in prevention; when we look at root causes we can see that many of these causes are preventable. What are the resources within the country that can be prioritized for prevention/reconstruction in a way that also enables the building of institutions? Need to address issues of land discrimination and exclusion
 - Demographic data tells us about effects of crisis on young people. For example, when a crisis happens, the girls drop out of school and are married. We need to look into discussions around youth; look at young people from a leadership and transformative agenda perspective; young people should volunteer as a way to contributing to society.
 - Inviting those organizing the WHS to place the issue of early child marriage on the agenda
 - Regarding the crisis with immigration – in Europe we are talking about illegal immigrants when it's Africans, but when it's other nationalities we call them “refugees.” We need to address the differential attitudes held when it's really the same group of persons.
 - We need to talk about political will. Humanitarian actors can only do so much; this is an appeal to do more on this issue. Concerned that there is an increasing issue of militarization and securitization – this is detrimental to the ability to access many different places. We need context-appropriate response – not just talking about mandates but about “tools” and who can provide those “tools.” Joint context analyses will enable us to respond effectively.
 - We need to use international humanitarian law and framework
 - Must place emphasis on localization of response system, ensuring that all actors have tools

to work on disaster reduction and preparedness. Affected populations are not a faceless crowd; need to learn a nuanced response to issues.

- After the Horn of Africa famine, there has been significant political will to avoid famine. The president and World Bank are supporting this initiative.
- Join risk analysis, monitoring and planning are needed. When you do a risk analysis and plot who is doing what, it reveals that humanitarians are on the margins of countries while development actors are largely in the urban areas and have strong government actors to work with. Need to coordinate efforts.
- Countries where natural disasters occur frequently are less and less reliant on international donors to assist.
- The UN is grappling mostly with conflict related crises. Consider the case of South Sudan; three years after independence and tremendous assistance from donors, their leaders ultimately sabotaged efforts. Now, how do we understand what is happening in Syria? In the end it's the political leadership. The huge crises we see today are the failure of governance. The human rights regime is about state accountability, so what do you do when the aggressors are not governments? The international community lost control of Syria, and it has led to a sense of impunity of actors on the ground; ISIL has no regard for international human rights norms. In Yemen, 10-50 people are killed every day; all this points to a failure of political leaders.
- WHS is an opportunity to voice a strong call for an end to impunity; what are "man made" crises?
- Humanitarian community has to serve victims of crises in a manner they want to be served.
- People keep saying that poverty is the overarching problem; studies prove that conflict is the greatest driver of poverty. If you want to eliminate poverty you need to eliminate conflict. Conflict and poverty seem like different agendas but they are closely related.
- How can local governments raise their capacity to respond to disasters so that the international humanitarian system is no longer needed?
- Visited IDB camp in Goma – money was drying out, very few people were getting food assistance; no health assistance; but speaking of resilience – you can see how critical this is.
- Language around refugees and IDP for countries is sensitive, consider the use of "refugee," "irregular migrants" and "illegal migrants." The discourse in Europe is changing.
- Those living in poverty have a knowledge of how to live in time of crisis; tap into their knowledge when looking for solutions
- The crisis that we have seen is often the product of globalization
- We need to think in terms of systems, and no part of the system can be ignored.
- What concrete steps can you take to empower local governments? Put more money into the hands of local governments. Right now, donor systems are set up to give money to governments and it passes through multiple layers and filters before it reaches the local level, by which point 40% of the funds are gone. What kinds of practical arrangements can be made to deliver funds to the local level?
- Peacebuilding, development and humanitarian actors must come together but our institutional arrangements can act as a hindrance
- Key part of this conundrum rests with member states and with donors in particular