

## **OCHA Global Humanitarian Policy Forum 2017**

### **Reaching for the future: Humanitarianism in 2030**

**13 December, UNHQ, New York**

#### **Annotated Agenda**

### **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

OCHA's sixth annual Global Humanitarian Policy Forum (GHPF) will take place on 13 December 2013 in New York under the theme of: **"Reaching for the future: Humanitarianism in 2030."**

Maintaining the broader objectives of building a more inclusive policy community, identifying the latest trends and showcasing research, the GHPF 2017 will focus on the following specific objectives:

- To identify specific measures that can be adopted or scaled to bring about the systemic and structural changes required for the humanitarian sector to contribute to lifting out the most vulnerable of humanitarian crises, between now and 2030.
- Through multi-stakeholder dialogue, to identify areas where progress can be accelerated on the transformations identified in the Agenda for Humanity.

### **OVERVIEW**

**The 2017 GHPF program will consist of two parts: the public, high-level symposium in the morning and three thematic workshops running in parallel in the afternoon.**

**The public, high-level symposium** will begin with a keynote address by Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy-Secretary-General. This will be followed by introductory remarks by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock, who will also launch and highlight the key trends in progress and gaps emerging from the first Annual Synthesis Report, setting the scene for the high-level panel debate on the topic: "The future is here: the scale of change required to the humanitarian sector to contribute toward the 2030 Agenda for people in crisis." This will bring participants together in discussion on the key challenges the humanitarian system faces, exploring where we want to be by 2030 in addressing these challenges and how to get there.

Continuing along the same thread of discussion from the morning session, the workshops will focus on the themes of the New Way of Working, local humanitarian action and urban warfare. Participants will have pre-registered for the workshops. Outcomes will be shared during a closing session, followed by a reception.

## AGENDA

**08:30 – 09:15 AM**

**ARRIVAL AND SECURITY CHECK-IN**

**Location: UN Entrance on 46<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>ST</sup> Avenue**

**09:30 – 11:30 AM**

**2017 HUMANITARIAN SYMPOSIUM**

**Location: UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber**

In the last two years, a range of global change agendas and processes have drawn attention to the scale of global challenges and their impact on increasing humanitarian needs, risk and fragility. The 2030 Agenda opened new opportunities for how development actors manage and finance issues of risk, fragility, and sustainability. The World Humanitarian Summit also confirmed that a new and coherent approach for reducing needs was needed, one that would also require humanitarian actors to change the way they deliver and coordinate assistance in crises.

As reforms begin to make significant changes to the development sector, the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum will provide an opportunity to explore how the humanitarian sector is evolving, what is the scale and depth of change required and how we can work better together toward the 2030 Agenda.

**9:30 – 9:45 Keynote address by the DSG, Ms. Amina Mohammed**

The DSG will reflect on the universal vision provided by the 2030 Agenda, and provide examples of how some of the UN development system reforms will decrease people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability over the coming years. The DSG will then outline her expectations of how the humanitarian sector should change and adapt between now and 2030 to effectively contribute to that vision.

**9:45 – 10:00 The USG, Mr. Mark Lowcock, launches the first Annual Synthesis Report on Progress since the World Humanitarian Summit**

The USG will highlight the key trends in progress and gaps emerging from the first Annual Synthesis Report since the Summit. The progress and gaps shed light on how humanitarian action needs to evolve over the coming years (including in the areas of protection; coordination; engagement with local actors; and finance), and will provide a suitable backdrop to the high-level panel debate and subsequent workshops.

**10:00-11:30 High-level panel debate: The future is here – the scale and depth of change required to the humanitarian sector to contribute toward the 2030 Agenda for people in crisis**

The high-level panel debate will focus on the scale and depth of change required to the humanitarian sector to contribute toward lifting the most vulnerable out of humanitarian crises between now and 2030. Each panelist will offer a forward-leaning, thought-provoking vision for the kind of systemic and structural changes needed and propose concrete actions that could be taken over the next 12 months to begin this process. The panel will

also identify some of the tensions humanitarian actors will face in contributing toward the 2030 Agenda and how these could be overcome.

**11:30 – 13:00**

**LUNCH BREAK**

**Location: UN Headquarters, Riverview Café OR any other UN Cafés**

**13:00-16:00**

## **POLICY WORKSHOPS**

**Locations:**

**Workshop 1: UN Headquarters, Conference Room 12**

**Workshop 2: UN Headquarters, Conference Room A**

**Workshop 3: UN Headquarters, Conference Room B**

**The future we want: practical steps forward**

Each workshop will look at one core challenge the humanitarian sector faces today and where we want to be in addressing this challenge by 2030, identifying the key priorities for the next 12 months to advance the systemic and structural changes required to get there.

### **WORKSHOP 1: REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND – through the New Way of Working**

*A broad range of stakeholders from the humanitarian, development and donor communities, including International Financial Institutions, made commitments to transcend the humanitarian-development divide at the Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. At the centre of this commitment stands the New Way of Working that frames the work of development and humanitarian actors, along with national and local counterparts, in support of collective outcomes that reduce risk and vulnerability and serve as instalments toward the achievement of the SDGs. Examples are emerging from a diverse set of countries where stakeholders have started to gather around the achievement of collective outcomes, facilitated by better joined up analysis, planning and programming, whereas global discussions on how to support this approach through institutional policy and financing are also advancing. This workshop will provide practical examples of how to implement collective outcomes at the field level, including in situations of large-scale internal displacement, and how to make them the centre of gravity for planning and financing.*

### **WORKSHOP 2: OPERATIONALIZING COMMITMENTS TO LOCAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

*Since the WHS, discussions around the need to ‘reinforce, not replace’ local humanitarian action have gained significant traction and questions have emerged around the scale and the nature of change required to achieve this ambition and how to tailor it to different contexts. Adopting a forward-leaning perspective, the workshop will focus on how local action contributes to the humanitarian mission of ensuring the needs of populations in crisis are met in the most effective manner. Bringing together a diverse group of actors engaged in humanitarian response, the workshop will articulate some of the key outstanding or new questions that are emerging for humanitarian practitioners as they seek to engage in or to implement their commitments around local humanitarian action. Ultimately the workshop aims to promote a discussion on the elements that need to be considered in moving towards a common vision for local humanitarian action in the future, to help shape policy and practice beyond the GHPF.*

### **WORKSHOP 3: PROTECTING CIVILIANS IN URBAN WARFARE**

*Many of today's armed conflicts are fought in urban areas, affecting an estimated 50 million people in cities worldwide. High population density and the close proximity of civilians and civilian objects to military objectives greatly increase the risk of civilian death, injury, and displacement, in addition to damage to critical infrastructure, disruption of essential services, and loss of access to education and livelihoods. Urban warfare is particularly devastating for civilians when it involves the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects. The use of such weapons also leaves explosive remnants of war, which pose a continuing lethal threat to civilians, and a major obstacle to reconstruction and the return of displaced persons. This workshop will examine the human cost of urban warfare, how the rules governing the conduct of hostilities translate into practice, and the steps that parties to conflict should take to strengthen the protection of civilians in such contexts.*

**16:30-17:30**

#### **CLOSING SESSION**

**Location: UN Headquarters, Conference Room 12**

**18:00 – 20:00**

#### **COCKTAIL RECEPTION HOSTED BY OCHA**

**Location: UN Headquarters, West Terrace**