

Global Policy Forum 2017

2017 HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIUM

On 13 December, OCHA is convening the 2017 Global Humanitarian Policy Forum in New York, under the theme of “**Reaching for the future: Humanitarianism in 2030.**”

The UN Deputy-Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed will deliver the keynote address to open the Forum. 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 since the World Humanitarian Summit, 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.*”

The high-level symposium will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Background

In the last two years, a range of global change agendas and processes¹ 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 and vulnerabilities was needed.

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 better work together toward the 2030 Agenda.**

9:30am Keynote address by the DSG, Ms. Amina Mohammed

In her **keynote address**, 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.

¹ These include, for example, the Member-State led 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the Addis Ababa Action agenda on financing for development (2015), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), the New Urban Agenda adopted at the Habitat III conference (2016), and the vision and framework laid out in Agenda for Humanity widely supported at the World Humanitarian Summit (2016) .

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

In his opening remarks, 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. It will also be an opportunity to remind participants of the overwhelming call and commitments made at the Summit for a new approach to humanitarian action that not only meets needs, but contributes to reducing them.

10:00am-11:30am High-level panel debate:

These speeches will frame the **high-level panel debate**. Each panellist 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. The moderator will guide panellists through a discussion aimed at addressing some of the following questions:

Title: The future is here: the scale of change required to the humanitarian sector to contribute toward the 2030 Agenda for people in crisis.”

Moderator: Ms. Laura Trevelyan, BBC World News America

Panellists: Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka,
Chair, Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

H.E. Ms. Koki Muli Grignon,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

Mr. Mark Lowcock,
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Mr. David Miliband,
President and Chief Executive Officer, International Rescue Committee

Ms. Gwen Pang,
Head of East Asia, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Former Secretary-General, Philippines Red Cross