



Photo: UNICEF/Vlad Sokhin



## CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES: FROM DELIVERING AID TO ENDING NEED

### HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity

**“Any effort to reduce the vulnerability of people and strengthen their resilience must begin at the local level.”**

**Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit**

#### BACKGROUND

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit will take place from 23 to 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. Three years of extensive consultations reaching more than 23,000 people in 153 countries clearly called for change in how the international community addresses humanitarian need and suffering and called for a renewed commitment to humanity. Istanbul is the moment to demonstrate global unity and solidarity to prevent and end suffering, and to take all steps necessary to make humanity the driver of decision-making and collective action.

In his report for the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to accept and act upon five core responsibilities that he believes are critical to delivering better for humanity. His Agenda for Humanity outlines the key actions and strategic shifts necessary to deliver on these responsibilities. The Secretary-General urges global leaders at the Summit to commit to taking the Agenda forward.



This should be a framework for action, change and mutual accountability to measure progress over the next three years and beyond.

The High-Level leader's roundtable on "Changing People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need" is an early opportunity to commit to taking forward Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity.

### CONTEXT

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 constitute a new era in national and international cooperation and provide a comprehensive, transformational, 15-year results framework for all actors to work to meet the needs of people. Success will now be defined by the achievement of measurable reductions in people's risk and vulnerability and their ability to become more self-reliant rather than simply attain basic needs for years on end. This will put people and their humanity at the centre of all our efforts.

Conflict and fragility remain the biggest threats to human development, with nearly 1.4 billion people living in fragile situations. This population is expected to grow to 1.9 billion by 2030. These contexts are home to the majority of the world's poor and are also the areas most vulnerable to internal and external shocks, including conflict and natural hazards. While international humanitarian and development approaches bring relief and support to millions, they too often fail to sustainably improve the prospects of many people in fragile and crisis-prone environments.

As the Secretary-General's report notes, "Achieving ambitious outcomes for people, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected environments, requires a different kind of collaboration among governments, international humanitarian and development actors and other actors." International assistance continues to operate in silos created by mandates and financial structures, rather than toward collective outcomes for people, over multiple years, and based on comparative advantage. The international community also has an obligation to respect and further strengthen national and local capacity and local leadership in crises wherever possible, rather than putting in place parallel structures that may undermine it.

The Summit is the opportunity for the international community to come together and firmly commit at the highest political levels to truly transcend the humanitarian-development divide. The international community, humanitarian and development agencies, donors and host countries and other stakeholders need to commit to work together across mandates, sectors and institutional boundaries and with a greater diversity of partners toward supporting local and national actors to end need and reduce risk and vulnerability in support of the 2030 Agenda.

This High-Level Leaders' Roundtable will bring together global leaders to respond to the Secretary-General's vision for a new approach of working together towards collective outcomes, over multi-year timeframes, and based on comparative advantage to shift from delivering aid to ending need, and secure concrete commitments to achieve the Agenda for Humanity and its Core Responsibility Four.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on "Changing People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need" is to identify and secure concrete policy and operational commitments aimed at advancing Core Responsibility Four of the Secretary-General's Agenda





for Humanity.

In line with the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, the roundtable will seek concrete commitments from leaders on questions such as:

- *How can the Secretary-General's vision for a new approach to transcending the humanitarian-development divide be taken forward over the next few years?*
- *What measures do the international community need to take to ensure that international engagement reinforces and strengthens rather than replaces, existing local and national capacities?*

In answering these questions, leaders at the roundtable are expected to offer commitments which operationalize the Agenda for Humanity and ensure a shift from delivering aid to ending need.

## FORMAT AND STRUCTURE\*

The High-Level Leaders' Roundtable will be convened and moderated by a Chair and supported by a Rapporteur. The roundtable will result in a Roundtable Summary which will include the individual and collective commitments made by participants and a way forward. The Roundtable Summary will contribute to the Chair's Summary of the World Humanitarian Summit.

This High-Level Leaders' Roundtable will last for two hours, with interventions from between 35 and 50 global leaders. Each leader may be accompanied by two advisors. Leaders will speak from assigned seats (roundtable format) and their interventions should not exceed three minutes. The roundtable will be open to media and be broadcast and webcast live. The time and location for this session will be made known shortly.

## REGISTRATION AND ROUNDTABLE PREPARATIONS

The objective of this roundtable will be for Member States and other stakeholders to announce commitments to make tangible progress against the recommendations under Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity. Please register your interest in the roundtable and the level of participation you envisage for this event at [leadersroundtables@whsummit.org](mailto:leadersroundtables@whsummit.org) by March 11, 2016.

The WHS secretariat will contact interested Member States and other stakeholders over the next two months to work together to prepare each High-Level Leaders' Roundtable, including by identifying and securing concrete commitments aimed at making progress against each of the five Core Responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity. This interaction will build upon and expand existing partnerships with Member States and stakeholders.

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\*The format and structure of the roundtable are subject to modification.