

## **Commitments and Follow-up to the World Humanitarian Summit Youth, Disabilities and Gender-based Violence**

*Annual NGO Consultations Food-for-Thought Session (Room 6)*

*17 June 2016, 13h15 to 14h15*

*Panelists: Ms. Joan Timoney from the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) and Ricardo Pla Cordero, Handicap International*

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) was held in Istanbul from 23 to 25 May 2016. In follow-up to this historical event, attention has now turned to the 1,500 commitments made at the summit. Our food-for-thought session will therefore focus on three post-WHS initiatives: the Youth Compaq, the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. Panelists will describe these initiatives and highlight concrete ways they can be brought forward by UNHCR and its NGO partners.

### ***Youth Compaq***

Fifty percent of people living in countries impacted by crises and fragility are under the age of 20. In the processes leading up to the WHS, there was broad recognition that the international community cannot achieve its humanitarian goals without the full engagement of young people. This was affirmed at the global Youth Consultation in Doha in 2015 and throughout the Global Consultations with Refugee Youth in 2015-16. At the WHS, the theme of the Special Session on Youth captured exactly what we need to do together: "Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People". During this Special Session, multiple stakeholders came together to launch the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action. The Compact lays out six actions that signatories pledge to take to ensure that the priorities, needs and rights of crises-affected youth are addressed, and that young people are informed, consulted and meaningfully engaged in all stages of humanitarian action.

### ***Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action***

Guided by the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a consultative process with over 70 stakeholders, a Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action was developed for a WHS Special Session. Announced at the WHS, the Charter was endorsed by over 100 states, civil society organizations and UN agencies. It is an important statement of commitment and political will to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities. One of its key principles is participation by persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of humanitarian action. As a next step, globally endorsed guidelines for inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action will be developed with a multi-stakeholder approach. Efforts will also focus on getting broader endorsement of the Charter as well as its implementation. Other actions to support implementation include improving disability data collection and analysis, establishment of focal points for disability within organizations and systematizing processes for participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian programming.

### ***Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies***

A multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2013, the Call to Action aims to transform the way sexual and gender-based violence is addressed in humanitarian emergencies. It seeks to drive change and foster accountability so that every humanitarian effort, from the earliest phases of a crisis, includes policies, systems and mechanisms to mitigate SGBV risks, and to provide safe and comprehensive services for those affected by SGBV. At the end of 2015, the Call to Action five-year roadmap was launched, including collective goals and focusing on systemic changes necessary in policy and practice to transform humanitarian response to SGBV. UNHCR has made 10 commitments to realize the outcomes and key action areas reflected in the roadmap, aimed at changing UNHCR's internal institutional policies, improving inter-agency systems and implementing SGBV prevention and response programmes from the onset of emergencies. UNHCR invites all the international and local partners to join the Call to Action, as partnership is key to succeed collectively in the fight against SGBV. Every organization working in humanitarian settings must commit and engage in protecting the communities and ensure survivors safety.