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**Note to the Secretary-General  
(through the Deputy Secretary-General)**

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**UPDATE ON THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON HUMANITARIAN FINANCING**

1. I wish to inform you on the progress and next steps in the work of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.

*The* *revolve around five main*  
2. **Emerging findings:** During its last face-to-face meeting in London on 29-30 October, the Panel has coalesced around the structure and main recommendations of the upcoming report. *The main elements are:* a) a reaffirmation of humanity along with a push for political solutions to crises; b) the need for reforms and improvements in the humanitarian system in view of a fast changing world, focusing on transparency, effectiveness, joined-up approaches with the development community; c) proposals for an efficiency win-win pact between donors and implementing agencies around key parameters; d) specific recommendations around bridging the humanitarian-development divide; e) recommendations for raising more resources through the private sector, Islamic social finance, new donors, innovative financial instruments, and coordinated fundraising from individuals. *1P*

3. Encouragingly, the Panel sees a catalytic role for the UN to demonstrate leadership by implementing meaningful reforms in the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit that can then galvanize and unlock major support from all other stakeholders, *not just Member States* (in light of our inclusion, non Inter-Governmental process for the WHS). The Panel members have been very active in outreach to garner support for their emerging ideas, notably with co-chair Georgieva taking part in the WHS Global Consultations, addressing all EU Development Ministers, the Board of the World Bank, various think tanks and foundations as well as the Elders. This month, co-chair Shah will address the World Islamic Economic Forum and a number of communications to influential CEOs will be sent to encourage greater engagement from the private sector. *2P*

*3P*  
4. **Next steps:** The Panel plans to submit its report as foreseen, in early December. Panel members made progress in planning the public launch of the Report in Dubai on or around 17 January together with the Ruler of Dubai and Prime Minister of the UAE, as part of their strategy of engagement with new donors, and looks forward to your participation. I have attached the concept of the event to this note *and hope you can consider their request.* The Panel's secretariat will also liaise with your office for the invitations to the event. *O'Brien writes that the report will be with a*

5. The Panel has reiterated their willingness to continue to serve you in garnering concrete commitments between December and the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 and is already planning a number of initiatives in this regard. With your agreement to the Panel's continuation, my office will ensure the continuation of a small secretariat to support its work until the Summit *in Istanbul.* *at the Sq, O'Brien's carry out the*

*ahead of*  
*will working to generate*  
*the*  
Stephen O'Brien

Stephen O'Brien  
12 November 2015

cc: Mr. Eliasson  
Ms. Malcorra

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**Draft Concept Note**  
**High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Report Official Launch**

**1) Purpose:**

One of the most important challenges the humanitarian system is facing is the **growing gap between the increasing number of people in need and the lack of sufficient resources** to assist them. Over the last decade, the demand for humanitarian assistance has risen dramatically. Since 2004, the estimated number of people in need has essentially tripled to over 100 million. This rise is the result of different compounding factors: conflicts have intensified and are increasingly protracted and intra-state, resulting in record numbers of displaced people. Water scarcity; food insecurity; demographic shifts; rapid urbanization; and climate change all contribute to rising humanitarian needs. In addition, humanitarian actors are asked, and needed, to stay longer and longer in countries of protracted crisis.

These growing needs have translated into rising financial requirements. Humanitarian requirements, measured by the size of UN-coordinated appeals, have increased by more than 500 per cent from US\$3.5 billion in 2004 to \$20 billion ten years later. The gap between required resources and received resources increased more than five-fold from \$1.3 billion to \$7.2 billion.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed a **High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing**. The Panel is co-chaired by the Vice-President of the European Commission, *Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)*, and HRH *Nazrin Shah (Malaysia)*, Sultan of Perak. The other members of the Panel are: *Hadeel Ibrahim (United Kingdom)*, Executive Director of Mo Ibrahim Foundation; *Badr Jafar (United Arab Emirates)*, Chief Executive of the Crescent Group; *Walt Macnee (Canada)*, Vice-Chairman of MasterCard Worldwide; *Trevor Manuel (South Africa)*, Senior Adviser to the Rothschild Group; *Linah Mohohlo (Botswana)*, Governor of the Bank of Botswana; *Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah (Sri Lanka)*, Secretary General of CIVICUS; *Margot Wallström (Sweden)*, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Panel is currently developing **bold yet actionable ideas to close the widening gap between rising humanitarian needs and available resources**. Its work will notably feed into the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016. The Panel is examining solutions for how to mobilize more funding – more timely and predictable funding – as well as how to improve the way money is spent, and the way the impact of spending is monitored. The success of the Panel to bridge this gap depends heavily not just on the increased generosity of people, businesses, and institutions, but also on concerted effort to address the root causes of humanitarian need – resolving conflicts, managing environmental hazards, mitigating the effects of climate change, and preparing better for natural disasters.

The Panel will present its recommendations to the Secretary-General in late 2015 and wishes to launch officially its report in a High-Level event, chaired by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai at a date to be mutually agreed during the week of 17 January 2016.



## 2) Participation

- The launch will aim for high-level participation at the Heads of State/governmental level, Heads of regional organizations, heads of Agencies/organizations, IFIs, Foundations, CEOs (among others: Google, IKEA, Mastercard, Deloitte, Microsoft, Facebook, Swiss Re Ltd, Linktellers, LEGO group, UNILEVER, Uniqlo, UPS, and Western Union), and other eminent individuals.
- Should aim at about 400 – 500 participants.
- Invitations will be sent jointly by the Secretary-General and HH The Ruler of Dubai to all invitees to encourage their participation and expressions of commitment during the event.

## 3) Format

The launch will be a **two to three hour event** dedicated to present the findings of the Panel and expressions of support by the participants.

- *Opening:* <sup>hope is that the</sup> The event would be opened by His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, followed by a statement of the UN Secretary-General (UN-SG) as Chair of the Conference ] cut A
- *Presentation of the high-Level Panel's finding:* Co-chairs Ms Kristalina Georgieva and HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah to present the major findings of the High-Level Panel supported by visuals
- *Senior Panel discussion on Engagement of the Gulf in Humanitarian Financing:* Two members of the High-Level Panel and four to five eminent representatives of Gulf region (Governmental, Business, Heads of humanitarian organizations from the region).
- *Participants from the Floor:* Participants (who will have already expressed interest in speaking) would be invited to comment, ask questions to the Panel or announce commitments and calls for action against some of the recommendations (max 15)
- *The road to the World Humanitarian Summit: short presentation by Stephen O'Brien, USG and Emergency Relief Coordinator and High-Level Panel members on work to be done by the Summit to make it a success.*
- *Closing:* Closing remarks to be delivered by the Ruler of Dubai and the UN Secretary-General.
- *Press Conference:* participants to be determined.
- *Lunch Hosted by HH Ruler of Dubai with the Secretary-General and selected participants*