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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Note to the Secretary-General

UPDATE ON WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

1. I participated in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Eastern and Southern Africa regional consultation in Pretoria, South Africa, on 27-29 October which was co-hosted by the Governments of South Africa and Ethiopia and sponsored by the Government of Norway. The consultation was co-chaired by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) alongside OCHA. The regional consultation brought together over 200 participants from 23 countries representing Member States, regional organizations, local, regional and international civil society organizations, affected communities, United Nations agencies, private sector and academic institutions. The meeting was preceded by preparatory stakeholder consultations with 3286 individuals representing a wide range of constituencies.
2. The meeting confirmed the leadership of Eastern and Southern African communities and countries in finding solutions to current and future humanitarian challenges. Learning from the experiences of these two regions will be vital in the global effort to reform humanitarian action.
3. The following recommendations emerged from the meeting:
- a) The duty of states to address urgent humanitarian needs must be reinforced, as well as their duty to protect and be accountable to people affected by conflicts and disasters. In particular, strengthening government leadership through appropriate legal frameworks that articulate roles and responsibilities, and accountability at the local and national levels was emphasized.
 - b) Affected communities must be supported to strengthen their resilience to withstand shocks. States and international humanitarian actors should enable this by engaging affected people in each stage of the humanitarian preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation cycle. Participants also called upon governments to increase investment in building resilience to disasters, in particular by scaling up cash-based social protection and setting a percentage target of GDP for this, and by adopting mechanisms, including cash transfers, that give affected communities the choice to determine the best way to meet their urgent humanitarian needs;
 - c) There was a strong call for greater support to enable countries and communities to manage natural disaster risk and response by themselves. Regional and national mechanisms for disaster preparedness and response should be backed, including through increased investment from the post-2015 and COP processes. The international humanitarian community should aim to adopt exit strategies for all but the most catastrophic events. Setting clear triggers for incremental response by the different layers of governments and the international community, built around strong early warning and early action mechanisms, was also emphasized.
 - d) It is critical to create a joint approach to risk management by humanitarian, development and peacebuilding communities, particularly in protracted crises in fragile and conflict-affected situations, with a view to provide longer term support to affected communities.

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- e) More efforts must be put towards resolving conflicts, and mediators' engagement with humanitarian actors must increase to ensure that humanitarian needs are taken into account during peace negotiations. The role of women in conflict resolution should be recognized;
- f) Humanitarian actors, including governments, must prioritize increased access of affected people to humanitarian assistance and protection in both natural disaster and conflict situations;
- g) Governments should ratify and implement conventions protecting people in conflict and other situations, notably the Kampala Convention on internally displaced persons; All stakeholders in humanitarian action, including civil society, should be actively involved in promoting humanitarian principles and ensuring that decisions are made according to needs and without supporting a party to a conflict;
- h) Humanitarian financing must be fit for purpose, allowing for rapid and large-scale response to catastrophic shocks. It must also be made more cost-efficient by enabling humanitarian funds to go directly to national and local organizations;
- i) Adapting to urban humanitarian preparedness and response must be a priority;
- j) Humanitarian multilateral coordination structures must be reformed to respond to different situations;
- k) An international dialogue should be convened to address reducing the negative impact counter-terrorism legislation has on humanitarian action;
- l) Humanitarian actors should work with and support the role of youth in humanitarian action.
4. Participants agreed to take some of the recommendations forward ahead of the summit in 2016. To support this momentum, the Regional Steering Group will identify priority areas for action.

5. The next regional consultation for the WHS will take place on February 3-4 2015 in Budapest, covering Europe and the Others Group.

Valerie Amos

Valerie Amos
12 November 2014

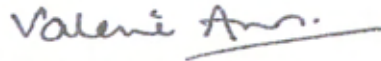
cc: Mr. Eliasson
Ms. Malcorra
Mr. Feltman
Mr. Gilmour

Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

UPDATE ON THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General on the world humanitarian summit regional consultation.

I would appreciate if you could kindly submit this to the Secretary-General.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Valerie Amos" with a horizontal line underneath.

Valerie Amos
12 November 2014