**WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT**

# REGIONAL CONSULTATION EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

## PRETORIA, 27-29 OCTOBER 2014

### Co-Chairs' Summary

The World Humanitarian Summit regional consultation for Eastern and Southern Africa was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 27-29 October 2014. It was co-hosted by the Government of South Africa, the Government of Ethiopia and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and sponsored by the Government of Norway. The consultation was co-chaired by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was preceded by preparatory stakeholder consultations with 3286 individuals representing their wider constituencies. The meeting brought together 170 participants from 23 countries[1] in the two sub-regions representing Member States, local, national and regional civil society organizations, affected communities, United Nations agencies, the private sector and academia. Six Member States that have or will host other World Humanitarian Summit consultations were present as observers.[2]

Participants voiced their appreciation to the co-chairs and Regional Steering Group members for an inclusive and consultative process consisting of broad stakeholder consultations and the subsequent regional consultation meeting in South Africa. Participants agreed that the meeting in Pretoria constituted not the end of the region's engagement with the World Humanitarian Summit, but the beginning.

The main recommendations articulated by participants at the regional consultation are summarized below. A more detailed report will follow and can be found on www.worldhumanitariansummit.org.

---

[1] Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar

[2] Germany, Japan, Jordan, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey

1. **Reinforcing states' duty to address urgent humanitarian needs and to protect, as well as be accountable, to affected communities:**

   - Strengthening government leadership with appropriate legal frameworks that articulate roles and responsibilities, and accountability at the local and national levels;

   - Creating government-led coordination mechanisms with all key humanitarian stakeholders, including international partners, civil society and the private sector, and their alignment around government structures and plans;

   - Reinforcing governments' management and analysis of data on the full range of risks and vulnerability;

   - Increasing the level of government investment in building resilience to disasters, in particular scaling up cash-based social protection and associated contingency finance, and setting a percentage target of GDP for this;

   - Emulating good practices within the region by governments meeting a set of minimum standards for effective preparedness and response;

   - 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.

2. **Strengthening the role of regional organizations:**

   - Promoting national-level disaster risk management, including through the adoption of accountability frameworks to measure progress in meeting minimum targets.

3. **Empowering affected communities by strengthening their resilience to withstand shocks:**

   - Engaging affected communities in the identification of underlying risk and designing programmes to address them;

   - Scaling up cash transfers and social protection programmes to give affected communities the choice to determine the best way to meet their urgent humanitarian needs;

   - Amplifying and listening to the voice of affected communities by engaging them in each stage of humanitarian preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

4. **Harnessing the comparative advantage of the private sector for humanitarian innovation:**

   - Building partnerships with the private sector, such as engaging telecommunication and other sectors, to enhance peoples' voice regarding their needs and whether they are met;

   - Establishing an Africa innovation fund to build the infrastructure, such as technical hubs, to stimulate humanitarian innovation.

5. **Building a coherent approach to risk management, accelerating investment by development and climate change communities, and allowing the international humanitarian community to adopt exit strategies:**

   - Promoting joint risk assessment, planning and financing between humanitarian, development and climate change communities, including through linkages with post-2015 development and disaster risk reduction processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2, HABITAT III, and the Climate Change Conference;

   - Allocating a percentage of the budget of each international humanitarian response to build local preparedness capacities;

   - Building the evidence base of the efficiency and impact of investing in disaster risk management.

**6. Making finance fit for purpose:**

- Improving speed and scale of response to catastrophic shocks by building a new global rapid response mechanism or reinforcing existing ones;

- Harnessing the potential of diaspora and economic migrants in support of humanitarian action, including through financial contributions;

- Removing the middle man and localizing first response by building a regional preparedness and response fund for local organizations and including finance for capacity building.

**7. Pushing urban risk up everyone's agenda:**

- Strengthening analytical capacities to understand better vulnerability in urban settings in order to prioritize investment in preparedness;

- Increasing commitment by national and local governments in integrating risk in urban planning;

- Adapting the humanitarian system and tools to better fit local urban preparedness and response;

- Building on regional and other initiatives to enhance the exchange of knowledge and experiences in urban risk management, including through mayors.

**8. Building the resilience of communities caught in protracted crises:**

- Undertaking joint context analysis by humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors, which looks at multiple risks and evolving needs faced by affected populations;

- Developing an integrated strategy that takes a longer term yet flexible approach to meeting the needs of affected communities, particularly in situations of protracted conflict;

- Achieving greater multi-year and risk tolerant investment by donors;

- Scaling up durable solutions for internally displaced and refugee populations, including the option of early integration into host communities and building the necessary local capacity to enable this.

**9. Reforming coordination structures, including the cluster system:**

- Adjusting coordination mechanisms in different contexts to better address multifaceted short and longer term needs of affected communities, particularly displaced populations and host communities.

**10. Strengthening the resilience of pastoralists:**

- Establishing partnerships with the private sector to support pastoralists in the whole spectrum of value chain creation, including in communication on weather forecast, markets and water sources;

- Strengthening the role of regional bodies by establishing dedicated capacity and clear policies to ensure that the needs of pastoralists are addressed.

**11. Reducing the negative impact of counter-terrorism legislation on humanitarian action:**

- Convening an international dialogue on this issue to remove barriers for the receipt of funds by particularly faith-based organizations and the transfer of remittances to specific countries;

- Establishing an accreditation system for NGOs at local, national and regional levels, especially from the global South, to allow the flow of funds.

**12. Promoting the role of youth in humanitarian affairs:**

- Supporting youth in educating and sensitizing their peers on the importance non-violence and respect to women and girls;

- Encouraging youth to advocate for social and humanitarian issues using social media;
- Building linkages between governments, humanitarian agencies and youth networks to explore practical ways that youth can support humanitarian and development agendas.

## 13. Ratifying and implementing conventions protecting people in conflict and other situations, notably the Kampala Convention on internally displaced persons:

- Getting governments to disseminate the provisions of these treaties to their security agencies;
- Getting civil society to do the same for other stakeholders, particularly communities, humanitarian organisations and armed groups.

## 14. Putting protection at the forefront of humanitarian response in conflicts:

- Respecting International Humanitarian Law by all parties to a conflict to ensure better protection and access to local communities;
- Systematically including protection concerns in all assessments and programming by humanitarian organizations, paying special attention to threats specific to various population groups, including women, men, boys and girls, the elderly and less able, and sharing information on trends to allow common monitoring;
- Strengthening affected peoples' and communities' capacities for self-protection by humanitarian organizations.

## 15. Putting an end to conflicts:

- Facilitating the speedy resolution of conflict by regional organizations and governments;
- Emphasizing the active role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, including mediation;
- Increasing mediators' engagement with humanitarian organizations to include consideration of humanitarian impact of conflict during peace negotiations.

## 16. Enhancing access of affected people to humanitarian assistance and protection:

- Enhancing dialogue by humanitarian organizations with governments, other parties to conflicts, faith leaders, diaspora and communities to enhance acceptance of humanitarian action;
- Using remote management as a last resort by humanitarian organizations because of inherent risks of aid diversion and the significant difficulty of protection, and when used to deliver life-saving assistance, ensuring that strict and robust accountability mechanisms are in place;
- Keeping the safety and security of humanitarian workers high on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as addressing the issue at the country level.

## 17. Ensuring humanitarian principles are respected and understood by everyone:

- Promoting humanitarian principles by a broad set of actors, including civil society;
- Ensuring that decisions are made according to existing needs and without supporting a party to a conflict.

The co-chairs' summary was endorsed by the co-chairs of the Regional Steering Group: the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.