



## Regional Action for Global Challenges

### SPECIAL SESSION SUMMARY

All Core Responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity



**“With the formal launch of ROHAN, ASEAN commits to deepen and broaden regional partnerships, learn from one another and capitalise on each other’s strength to improve regional resilience.”**

**Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General, ASEAN**

### I. Overview

The objective of the WHS Special Session was to highlight the important role played by Regional Organizations in humanitarian action and to mark the formal launch of the [Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network \(ROHAN\)](#). ROHAN is an informal group of regional organisations involved in humanitarian action that started in 2015 as an outcome of the first global meeting involving 13 regional organisations, supported by ODI’s Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG).<sup>1</sup>

### II. Key outcomes/themes

Regional Organisations committed to the establishment of the Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN). ROHAN members aim to:

- 1) improve collaboration between regional organisations;
- 2) uphold International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles;
- 3) strengthen local systems and;
- 4) increase investment in data and risk analysis.

Regional organisations agreed to work together to determine ROHAN's operationalisation, governance and mandate, and its interaction with the international system.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.odi.org/regional-humanitarianism-action](http://www.odi.org/regional-humanitarianism-action) for the Humanitarian Policy Group’s latest research on ROs

Speakers voiced agreement with the four broad aims of the members of ROHAN and committed to continue to support this network and the strategic intent upon which it was founded. Members agreed to work through ROHAN to share experiences and advance learning, as well as to use organizational tools, services and regional mechanisms to support this structure.

### III. Way Forward

ROHAN will continue to work primarily through a virtual network of focal points among the Regional Offices, and through ad hoc meetings including on the margins of other events. Future meetings hosted by ROHAN members will develop and implement a shared framework for action for the network. The group agreed to meet formally once per year. In the margins of the WHS, it was agreed that the next formal meeting of ROHAN will take place in November 2016, to be hosted by ASEAN (TBC).

ROHAN is being initially supported by an informal secretariat hosted by the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) at the Overseas Development Institute.

### VI. Participants

#### Moderator:

- Dr. Sara Pantuliano, Overseas Development Institute

#### Speakers:

- His Excellency Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Ms. Monique Pariat, Director-General, European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)
- Her Excellency Dr Aisha Abdullahi, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AU)
- His Excellency Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Her Excellency Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow, Commissioner for Social Affairs, Economic Community of West African States Commission (ECOWAS)
- His Excellency Badre Eddine Allali, Assistant Secretary-General, League of Arab States
- Ambassador Tewolde Gebremeskel, Director Peace and Security Division, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)



- Mr. Mosese Sikivou, Corporate Management Specialist, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Mr Roy Barboza Sequeira, Executive Secretary, Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC)
- Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR