

Mrs. Elvina Quaison, WHS Announcement Plenary speech

Honourable Heads of State, Excellences, Civil Society Delegates, fellow Humanitarians and Diasporans, ladies and gentlemen

It has been gratifying to see the level of involvement and contributory space that has been made for the diaspora within this consultative and sharing process. The working together of the diaspora organisation African Foundation for Development with the Berghof Foundation and the international humanitarian organisation Danish Refugee Council has provided a great deal of lessons learned for all of us, working towards enhanced outcomes in our work in the humanitarian space.

It is imperative that humanitarian responders work with diaspora and vice versa as together our work is truly holistic, further reaching and will increase more effective use of resources time, knowledge, human and finance. Backing this, we as diaspora are committing to provide transparent financial tracking and reporting, and to produce documented knowledge that qualifies humanitarian programming and response and influences policy.

As a partner in the Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination project working with other diaspora organisations, conventional actors, donors, private sector, media and individuals we can see that meaningfully, honestly and openly working together is the only way forward for a humanitarian system to respond to the needs of our time. As diaspora, we therefore commit to jointly support the establishment of an independent diaspora coordination body that facilitates concrete cooperation between diaspora organisations and the wider humanitarian community.

The diaspora have produced a commitments paper that at its core recognises the importance of understanding and finding effective ways to cooperate with the humanitarian system. It would serve all participants at this summit to commit to do the same with the diaspora. Thank you.