

**Statement by VOICE President, Nicolas Borsinger at the World Humanitarian Summit
(23-24 May 2016)**

check against delivery

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered here to improve the fate of victims, and in particular victims of conflict. Their first need and right is to cease being victims. This requires an unwavering commitment to article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, political courage and firm action. Their next burning need and right is for justice for having become victims in the first place. Justice must not be unattended. Their third need and right is for humanitarian assistance and protection. This is within the grasp of humanitarian actors. This is where NGOs have an expertise and track record.

As the European network of humanitarian NGOs, VOICE wishes to stress, that humanitarian intervention is not the key solution to humanitarian crises but only a marginal answer. May we collectively always act for the misery of victims to be addressed at appropriate levels of responsibility.

We expect the European Commission and EU Member States to lead collectively in making the *Agenda for Humanity* a reality. We call on the EU to ensure that the *European Consensus on Humanitarian aid* is supported as the cornerstone of cooperation and of the promotion of needs-based and principled humanitarian aid.

With others, humanitarian NGOs have voiced concerns about the recent EU -Turkey deal on refugees, for eroding crucial international protections. It may be seen as leaving conflict affected people with no option but to remain within the context of violent conflict. It is a regrettable instance of short term political agendas trumping the fundamental duty to « respect and ensure respect » of the Geneva Conventions.

If we seriously expect respect for humanitarian principles and IHL to be at the centre of this Summit, which VOICE does, we have to recognise setbacks or else we will always be unable to fathom progress. The recent international red cross and red crescent conference was a clear setback for enhanced respect for IHL. We must take stock. Despite the Secretary General's clear call – too few Heads of State are showing political leadership to take this forward and their commitments may not create a momentum to strengthen existing frameworks. Conflict drives needs, whilst IHL violations reduce access, and aid workers' safety lessens, thus aggravating a vicious cycle. Leaders are failing to effectively address the direct responsibilities of States and parties to conflict. May this Summit's legacy be the emergence of a shared political will to end conflict.

On financing, there is a positive sign for what lies ahead: the Grand Bargain. Donor States and the UN have shown their willingness to negotiate. The challenge is now to ensure that the benefits are felt by the first responders in the field; often NGOs. VOICE calls for a level playing field in which donor expectations are the same for all. Re-granters, such as UN agencies, should not expect more from their grantees than they are themselves ready to provide to their donors.

The UN remains the main coordinator of the humanitarian ecosystem and has to be more active in pursuing a UN aid architecture reform. This summit's underlying justification is that our shared « *humanitarian building* » is in urgent need of repair. In such cases, an able architect has to prioritise his work; is it not senseless to address electrical issues when the roof is leaking? Is it not a shameless waste to refurbish floors when the plumbing is rotten? VOICE, among others, has repeatedly called for a robust analysis of the shortcomings in the humanitarian system and for priorities to be set. By refusing to recognize that the main problem is a leaking roof, rather than a degree of disorder in the garden shed, the whole building is threatened. At present the concerns of roofers and gardeners, plumbers and painters are pretended as equally important. Inevitably, the way forward remains unclear.

Article 1 centred intergovernmental follow-up to this Summit is absolutely essential. ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly must take on their responsibilities. Many of us have often listened patiently to profound considerations on the sovereignty of nations. We hope to soon see more Sovereign Nations exerting together their full sovereign right to stop bloodshed.



Investing in rural people

IFAD Statement, World Humanitarian Summit

Josefina Stubbs, Chief Strategist and Associate Vice President

1. Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
2. When we think of humanitarian emergencies, we most often think of natural disasters and conflicts - events that seem to explode into crisis overnight. But often they have their roots in problems and situations that go back years, or even decades.
3. We cannot ignore human suffering. It demands an immediate, collective response. But we cannot forget that *development* – a long-term process involving sustained investments of time and money – is a key response to crisis, and especially to the *cycle* of crisis. People caught up in humanitarian disasters need relief and emergency services, but they also need strategies that solve underlying problems over the long-term.
4. My organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, or IFAD, sees this Summit as a key moment - not just for commitment, but for consensus. It offers us the opportunity to bridge the gap between humanitarian and sustainable development responses.

5. For almost 40 years, IFAD has been investing in rural areas where disasters have a disproportionate impact. Most of the poor people who live there depend on natural resources for their food and livelihoods, leaving them vulnerable to the impact of shocks.
6. When people can no longer earn an income or feed their families, they migrate - often leading to local and regional instability. And when people are pushed away from rural areas and farming, it can threaten the food security of entire countries.
7. Almost half of IFAD's ongoing operations are in countries with fragile and conflict-affected situations. Our approach is to start with the people, investing in them so they can overcome poverty, grow their businesses and build dignified and sustainable futures. This is only possible if we invest in resilience and ensure people have the resources to cope with shocks and bounce back from them.
8. IFAD is well-positioned to serve as a key partner to bridge the gap between humanitarian and sustainable development responses in rural areas.
9. We commit to invest US\$3.5 billion of our core resources in the rural sector over the next two years to provide access to finance, promote food security and create job opportunities, especially for young people.
10. Under our Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme, or ASAP, we commit to invest US\$583 million by 2020 to enhance the capacity of at least 8 million smallholder farmers to adapt to a changing climate.

11. And through our projects and programmes, we commit to support disaster risk reduction and the improvement of community preparedness plans.
12. IFAD recognizes that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the closely interlinked issues of forced displacement, migration and stability. Therefore, we also commit to mobilise an additional US\$100 million to specifically invest in rural areas in the Near East and North Africa region, to create livelihood opportunities for host communities and displaced people.
13. With Agenda 2030 we set ourselves a goal to leave no one behind. We need to feed people today, but we also need to ensure that they continue to feed themselves tomorrow.
14. Ladies and gentlemen, we no longer have the luxury of time. We need to go beyond talk. We need to take action. Thank you.