

**Statement at the Plenary Session of the World Humanitarian Summit
Istanbul, May 24th, 2016**

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Distinguished co-chairs, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

It is an honor to participate in this first World Humanitarian Summit on behalf of the International Monetary Fund. I would like to note that Managing Director Christine Lagarde announced the IMF's key commitments on humanitarian issues in a press statement on the Summit, issued on Friday, May 20th and available on the IMF's website.

(See <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr16234.htm>)

The holding of this summit is particularly timely in light of the surge in humanitarian assistance needs to levels not seen since the Second World War. Increased support for humanitarian relief from all countries that can afford to contribute is called for, accompanied by greater efficiency in the organization and delivery of this assistance.

The IMF has several instruments, and long experience, in moving quickly to support governments facing humanitarian crises. These include:

- Quick disbursement of funds through special facilities with minimal conditionality—the Rapid Financing Instrument and Rapid Credit Facility. Countries that have benefited from such support in the last year include Nepal and Vanuatu.
- Increasing financing for countries with whom we already have lending arrangements, adjusting economic programs to accommodate new demands on budgets and foreign reserves—as we have recently done with Jordan.
- Using our Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust to provide grants to low-income countries to meet debt service payments, as was done for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in the wake of the Ebola outbreak.
- Assisting governments design macroeconomic policies to contain the economic fallout from humanitarian crises.

Many speakers have underscored the importance of preventative actions to contain or avoid humanitarian crises. As part of its support for the 2030 development agenda, the IMF has committed to:

- deepening its engagement with countries in fragile and post-conflict situations—with particular emphasis on building public institutions that deliver key economic services, whether it be putting in place effective domestic tax system or implementing sound investment projects;
- working with countries exposed to natural disasters to design macroeconomic policies that enhance resilience and expand room for maneuver to respond to adverse shocks.

Managing humanitarian crises requires action on many levels—upstream engagement to contain/prevent crises, speedy action to deliver relief, policy adjustments to enable those affected by crises to rebuild livelihoods. Let me underscore that the IMF is committed to playing its full part in this collective endeavor—working collaboratively with governments and international agencies and maintaining an open dialogue with civil society and NGOs.

Thank you for your attention.