

**Statement on behalf of the European Union and Member States**  
*Delivered by Commissioner Christos Stylianides at the WHS Plenary*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We thank the UN Secretary-General for convening the World Humanitarian Summit, and Turkey for hosting it. With humanitarian needs and global displacement at untenable all-time high, the Summit could not be more timely. The European Union and its Member States have supported the preparatory process and listened to voices of the affected people urgently calling for global unity and solidarity to prevent and end conflicts, address the root causes of crises, make sure no one is left behind.

We welcome the UN Secretary-General's report and we call on all actors gathered here to commit to decisive action that will turn the 'Agenda for Humanity' into a reality. The European Union and its Member States are committed to strong progress on each of the five core responsibility areas.

We confirm our commitment to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and to preventing the politicisation and instrumentalisation of humanitarian aid. We reiterate that humanitarian action cannot be a substitute for political solutions. There is a more urgent need than ever before for decisive political action to address the conflicts causing massive displacement and suffering, not least in Turkey's immediate neighbourhood.

The EU and its Member States will continue to advocate strongly and consistently for the respect of International Humanitarian Law. In a world affected by multiple conflicts, respect for IHL is essential to protect civilians and to enable humanitarian and healthcare workers to do their vital work. We welcome the recent adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 2286, and call for a concerted effort to ensure its full implementation.

We are committed to leaving no one behind, reaching those furthest behind first, and to putting people at the centre of humanitarian action while fully taking into account their specific needs and capacities of groups such as women, children, older persons and people with disabilities. The EU and its Member States are determined to tackle the multi-dimensional root causes of the current global refugee crisis. We will also implement a new development-oriented framework to address forced displacement to ensure that affected people move from aid-dependence to self-reliance. We will further invest in disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

The EU and its Member States will step up their efforts in strengthening partnerships to better assist people in need. We will engage more closely with local actors. We will ensure synergies between our humanitarian and development actions. We will intensify our actions to ensure that the international humanitarian system is able to address current and future challenges in a reliable and predictable way. We will work to make sure humanitarian action is inclusive and makes the best possible use of the comparative advantage of local, national and international actors.

The EU and its Member States welcome the report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the Grand Bargain between donors and humanitarian organisations. We encourage all sides to undertake the necessary reforms to ensure sufficient and efficient funding.

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*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

We expect that the Summit will be the starting point in turning the UN Secretary-General's 'Agenda for Humanity' into a reality. The EU and its Member States call for inclusive, accountable, transparent and efficient follow-up. We commit to holding ourselves accountable and we will report on the implementation of our commitments and encourage all other stakeholders to do the same.

Thank you.