



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: A COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS FORCED DISPLACEMENT

HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Core Responsibility Three of the Agenda for Humanity

“One of the most visible consequences of conflict, violence and disasters has been the mass displacement of people.”

Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit

BACKGROUND

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit will take place from 23 to 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. Three years of extensive consultations reaching more than 23,000 people in 153 countries clearly called for change in how the international community addresses humanitarian need and suffering and called for a renewed commitment to humanity. Istanbul is the moment to demonstrate global unity and solidarity to prevent and end suffering, and to take all steps necessary to make humanity the driver of decision-making and collective action.

In his report for the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to accept and act upon five core responsibilities that he believes are critical to delivering better for humanity. His Agenda for Humanity outlines the key actions and strategic shifts necessary to deliver on these responsibilities. The Secretary-General urges global leaders at the Summit to commit to taking the Agenda forward.

This should be a framework for action, change and mutual accountability to measure progress over the next three years and beyond.

The High-Level Leader's Roundtable on "Leaving No One Behind: a Commitment to Address Forced Displacement" is an opportunity to commit to taking forward Core Responsibility Three of the Agenda for Humanity.

CONTEXT

Around the world more than 60 million people have fled their homes due to conflicts and violence, the highest number since World War II. However, current approaches to large scale movements of displaced populations – internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers – have proven inadequate and unsustainable. They also ignore the need for better sharing of our collective responsibility for such populations.

The 2030 Agenda declaration recognizes the importance of addressing forced displacement as part of sustainable development. For the millions of displaced persons, refugees and internally displaced persons, not being left behind means the ability to return to their homes, to be better integrated into their host communities, or to be settled elsewhere if needed. It means the difference between a continued life of aid dependency and the chance of a better life with dignity and self-reliance.

Forced displacement is neither a short-term challenge nor primarily a humanitarian one: it is a persistent and complex political and development challenge. While humanitarian assistance to displaced populations in a crisis is essential, humanitarian organizations are often left to provide repetitive short-term assistance to millions of displaced persons, for decades. A fundamental shift in our approach to forced displacement is therefore needed, one that goes from meeting immediate humanitarian needs to one that preserves the dignity and improves the lives and self-reliance of displaced persons and addresses the impact on host communities. This change requires political resolve at national and international levels to address the causes of displacement and to work towards sustainable solutions for displaced persons to improve their lives and livelihoods. Humanitarian and development actors must work together differently to reduce displacement, and national governments must make the necessary policy shifts.

The World Humanitarian Summit is the moment for us to act. This High-Level Leaders' Roundtable will bring together global leaders to respond to the United Nations Secretary-General's call to demonstrate decisive and sustained leadership to reduce forced displacement and secure concrete commitments to achieve the Agenda for Humanity and its Core Responsibility Three.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on "Leaving No One Behind: a Commitment to Address Forced Displacement" is to identify and secure concrete policy, legal and operational commitments aimed at reducing forced displacement by addressing its humanitarian, political, economic and social dimensions more coherently, and to ensure that host countries and host communities receive adequate and sustained support, including through better sharing of responsibilities.

In line with the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, the roundtable will address the following issues and seek concrete commitments from leaders on questions such as:

- *What programmatic, policy and financial measures are needed to reduce the number of internally displaced persons by 50 per cent by 2030?*

- *How can host countries and large communities of displaced populations be better supported?*
- *How can a new cooperation framework on predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing for major refugee movements be achieved?*
- *How can national, regional and international legal and policy frameworks on internal displacement be strengthened and/or effectively implemented to better protect displaced people?*

In answering these questions, leaders at the roundtable are expected to offer commitments to operationalize the Agenda for Humanity, in particular on meeting the ambitious target to reduce new and protracted internal displacement, in a dignified and safe manner, by 50 per cent by 2030. The concrete commitments made during this roundtable should support the new approach of meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of displaced populations, while at the same time working to reduce long-term vulnerability of refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities, and strengthening their self-reliance.

Commitments should also promote responsibility-sharing and strengthen support to host countries and communities. They should aim to better align humanitarian and development strategies, increase self-reliance and promote durable solutions as well as ensure the participation of local institutions and communities. The commitments should reaffirm, or put in place, the necessary legal and policy frameworks.

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE*

The High-Level Leaders' Roundtable will be convened and moderated by a Chair and supported by a Rapporteur. The roundtable will result in a Roundtable Summary which will include the individual and collective commitments made by participants and a way forward. The Roundtable Summary will contribute to the Chair's Summary of the World Humanitarian Summit.

This High-Level Leaders' Roundtable will last for two hours, with interventions from between 35 and 50 global leaders. Each leader may be accompanied by two advisors. Leaders will speak from assigned seats (roundtable format) and their interventions should not exceed three minutes. The roundtable will be open to media and be broadcast and webcast live. The time and location for this session will be made known shortly.

REGISTRATION AND ROUNDTABLE PREPARATIONS

The objective of this roundtable will be for Member States and other stakeholders to announce commitments to make tangible progress against the recommendations under Core Responsibility Three of the Agenda for Humanity.

Please register your interest in the roundtable and the level of participation you envisage for this event at displacement.roundtable@whsummit.org by March 25, 2016.

The WHS secretariat will contact interested Member States and other stakeholders over the next two months to work together to prepare each High-Level Leaders' Roundtable, including by identifying and securing concrete commitments aimed at making progress against each of the five Core Responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity. This interaction will build upon and expand existing partnerships with Member States and stakeholders.