

Mr. Zeydoun Al-Zoubi, WHS Announcement Plenary speech

Dear Leaders of the World

When one has the power to help, it becomes imperative to do so... As diaspora organizations, we have practiced and will keep practicing that!

As people belonging to “here and there”, we diasporas are a bridge for the resources, but more importantly the values and cultures of affected communities. We are able to communicate and deliver our humanitarian response in local language and with full acknowledgement and respect for the local cultural context, and we commit to do so.

Being at the heart of the crises, we learnt the importance of sharing resources, that helping people in need needs everyone's support regardless of geography and language, and that in fact, everyone can help.

This summit is a rare and extremely important moment to bridge the gap between need and aid, donors and beneficiaries, and we are always there to serve as part of that bridge...

We understand the needs because we are with the people in need, and we understand the challenges of providing aid because we are with the people offering aid. We serve as the translators of both language of need and language of aid, and we commit to ensure that voices of affected communities influence decision-making processes within the humanitarian system.

There is no doubt the world needs to revisit the way humanitarian aid is provided, and here we are. Leaders, Local NGOs, INGOs, and diaspora organizations. Let us make this world safer, let us join forces to stop the targeting humanitarian organizations and personnel, the bombing of hospitals and schools, the besieging civilians, and the denying access to aid...

Together with our fellow humanitarians, we as diaspora commit to align our humanitarian action with the core humanitarian principles, and to ensure that our responses protect people’s safety and dignity and does no harm.

I am sure we will be after the summit more effective and efficient than before it, but this needs action – we are counting on you, and we want you to count on us.

Thank you