

Toespraak door Lilianne Ploumen, minister voor Buitenlandse Handel en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking, bij Plenary Session

The Kingdom of the Netherlands supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

This Summit is about three things:

- First, it's about political commitment: ensuring aid reaches those in need.
- Second, it's about inclusiveness: ensuring the most vulnerable are protected.
- Third, it's about getting things done: ensuring the system delivers.

We cannot stand by when humanitarian assistance fails.

Because aid workers are denied access or even targeted.

Because funds are lacking.

And because aid is not organized as efficiently as it should be.

Political commitment first and foremost concerns access. Stephen O'Brien rightly warns about the unravelling of humanitarian law. Modern cities are besieged in medieval ways.

Aid workers are denied access in Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and elsewhere. They even find themselves being targeted. No one should get away with such brutal crimes.

Every violation of humanitarian law, every obstruction to assistance, also targets our resolve. The Netherlands fully supports the UN secretariat's call for a watchdog to track, collect data and report on violations of international humanitarian law. We support national justice systems, and we call on all parties to strengthen the International Criminal Court, to end impunity.

Inclusiveness is our second priority. Women and girls are at special risk. That's why, with every euro spent on humanitarian aid, the Netherlands aims to improve their situation. Women and girls have more to fear than crisis alone. Once societies start to unravel, they are disproportionately affected, facing sexual violence and infringements on their rights as equal citizens.

In conflicts, the need for sexual and reproductive health is even greater. The Netherlands will work towards better services for women and girls in crises, to providing them with adequate medicines, contraceptives, and ways to prevent or terminate unwanted pregnancies.

Our third priority is making sure we get things done. Three reforms are key.

- First: out with tradition, and in with innovation. Tear down the walls between traditional and new partners, between humanitarian and development partners and between the aid sector and the private sector.
- Second: out with one-year financial contracts, and in with multi-annual commitments. People in conflict situations remain displaced for 17 years on average. Funds need to be predictable and stable to support programming and purchasing; otherwise we are throwing money - and people's futures - down the drain.
- Third: out with excessive reporting, and in with non-earmarked, flexible funding. Humanitarian partners have worked hard in unpredictable and dangerous crisis situations - they deserve our trust. They know how best to help people. And in return for our trust, we expect results.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We must ensure access of humanitarian aid, and increase its impact.
Impact without access is impossible; access without impact is an empty shell.

We owe it to the world's most vulnerable people.

We know what to do.

Let's get on with it.

Thank you.