



نظرة التعاون الإسلامي

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT
Istanbul – Republic of Turkey
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Statement by H.E Iyad Ameen Madani
Secretary General of the OIC

At the Plenary of the WHS

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is privileged to participate in this important global event in the historic city of Istanbul to discuss challenges facing the humanitarian world and chart the way forward for humanitarian action for years to come.

Since the end of World War II, the world has faced growing and unprecedented humanitarian challenges. Humanitarian crises due to armed conflicts, forced displacements, complex emergencies and natural disasters have taken center stage in the last few decades and in the last few years in particular.

The global humanitarian system has been stretched beyond its limits. Financial resources are becoming scarcer as a result of the global economic situation and humanitarian demand is skyrocketing. The humanitarian community is finding it difficult to keep pace with the ever-increasing humanitarian demands due to prolonged conflicts with far reaching implications on the social fabric of societies, the environment, and hard earned development gains.

That is the reason why the OIC welcomed the invitation of the United Nations Secretary General to hold this important Summit to allow all the stakeholders to deal collectively with these challenges and work on shaping a new road map and agenda for humanitarian action on the global, regional and local levels. The OIC also welcomes the report of the UN Secretary General presented to the Summit “One humanity: shared responsibility”.

The OIC is a unique organization in as far as humanitarian issues are concerned as it includes amongst its members some of the most generous global humanitarian donors and at the same time a number of countries that constitute the biggest humanitarian challenges for the international community. Seven out of the ten largest refugee populations are hosted by OIC Member States. Moreover, the needs of its members vary from those generated by political crises and protracted conflicts to recurrent crises and countries that are vulnerable to various kinds of natural disasters.

Humanitarian NGOs in the OIC Member States are also quite varied in their abilities and contribution. Some of them are donors, even to the UN system, others are active in providing humanitarian assistance on the ground and large numbers are national NGOs with varied capacities and capabilities.

I am glad to inform you that the OIC Secretariat has already submitted a document containing its provisional commitments to the WHS Secretariat for distribution.

In this context, the OIC aims to capitalize on the culture and traditions of Islam of giving a religious and moral value and priority to humanitarian action to save lives, alleviate the suffering of those in need and to support the efforts of national and local humanitarian organizations. It is worth stressing that Islamic values and principles are at the heart of humanitarian action and humanity and should be recognized as such by the international community.

We believe that preparedness and conflict prevention should play a vital role in any humanitarian strategy and programme if we are to be successful, inclusive and for the outcome of our effort to be sustainable. It is only a few days ago that we convened the Wise Persons Council that consists of a number of former OIC presidents to assist our efforts in conflict resolution. Their efforts will be shared among the OIC Member States and brought to the attention of the UN system and our partners.

We all agree that the fundamental humanitarian principles (humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality) constitute the cornerstone of humanitarian action. We should not be satisfied by reconfirming these principles but go further by ensuring that they are honored and respected. Regrettably, humanitarian principles are faced with huge challenges by the stark realities on the ground.

We also need to examine how to bridge the humanitarian/development gap; and how to advance localization. The financial gap is another crucial issue. However, I will not address this issue here as I will have an opportunity to do so in the special session on Islamic social finance.

The OIC Secretariat will work closely with its Member States to address the issues raised at the WHS, as they will have profound implications on their interests and on the future of humanitarian action. It will compile the commitments, proposals and ideas presented by its Member States at the Summit and will examine in consultation with them how best to follow up these commitments and the outcome of the Summit, perhaps through the initiative presented by the Secretariat to Member States to establish a committee of high officials in the humanitarian domain to address humanitarian issues of interest and concern to the OIC.

I wish every success to the proceedings of this important Summit for the benefit of the millions and millions who are suffering all over the globe. All along, while we should always be alert for the impacts of the politics of military intervention, war by proxy, domination to and as well as the role of the ever expanding notion of the state; a role that invariably leads to conditions of conflict.