

**World Humanitarian Summit
Istanbul, May 23-24th
Announcement Plenary**

Statement by H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius

Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,
[Lithuania aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.]

We thank the Secretary-General for convening the Summit and Turkey for hosting us here in Istanbul. We pay tribute to all humanitarian workers putting themselves at risk daily in conflict settings as they bring lifesaving assistance.

This is a timely meeting given the changing global context and increasing complexity of crises. The promotion of real global partnership and shared responsibility with common framework for humanitarian effectiveness becomes more relevant than ever.

The ambitious “Agenda for Humanity” sets a clear vision. It is our turn to commit for a bold action to make the global humanitarian system fit to face 21st century challenges. Particular focus is needed on conflict prevention and resolution, as 80 percent of ever-highest humanitarian needs is for those in conflict settings.

Therefore, Lithuania is announcing the commitments to:

First, continue active political engagement to prevent and end conflicts and build a sustainable peace, including in the EU Eastern neighborhood. Humanitarian action is important, but it is not a substitute for political solutions of conflicts. We will continue to use our experience of non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2014-2015 to this end.

Second, advocate and promote full respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and the principles that guide humanitarian action: humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law must be ensured bringing perpetrators promptly to justice. We would like to congratulate the members of the cross-regional Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group and in particular Liechtenstein for spearheading the initiative of the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. It is a timely and useful initiative, and Lithuania fully supports it.

Third, advocate for women’s leadership and participation in humanitarian programmes and policy-making spaces. All peace processes must encompass strong involvement and leadership of women. Lithuania commits to support the “Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action” launched this year in New York.

Fourth, continue to be a responsible donor using all possible means to contribute to humanitarian assistance. UN led humanitarian system responds decisively to all major challenges – we highly value the work of OCHA, UNHCR, other UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs. However, it does not receive enough resources and needs to become more innovative. The scale of the refugee crisis unseen since the World War II is another big reason to seek synergy between the humanitarian aid and development and to use innovative ways to build self-reliance and resilience. Education is one of the core areas in need of more investment. Currently Lithuania is preparing the Development Cooperation Action Plan for 2017-2019 which lines up development and humanitarian actions and funds to implement Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania hopes these two days in Istanbul is a stepping stone for a new humanitarian action that puts people at its heart and enables them as primary agents of their own response.

Thank you.