

“Investment will need to be increased, diversified and optimized [to] better address growing humanitarian needs.”

Report of the
Secretary-General for
the World Humanitarian
Summit

CORE COMMITMENTS

Significant improvements to the mobilisation, allocation, and use of resources necessary to preserve life and dignity are urgently needed for people affected by conflict and disasters. All stakeholders must act with much greater urgency, coherence and solidarity to better meet the needs of the 125 million people affected by humanitarian crises today. At the same time, all stakeholders must invest more to reduce the risks and manage the impact of humanitarian crises on affected people, while aiming to address the differentiated needs, vulnerabilities and capabilities of women, girls, boys and men affected.

Financing should promote better humanitarian and development planning and programming to improve the use of funds, in line with the “new way of working” outlined in Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity, and represented in the Core Commitments on the Roundtable ‘Changing People’s Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need’. We need to ensure that resources are available to the diverse range of actors best placed to meet and reduce peoples’ needs; and also to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, including as envisioned in the commitments of the Grand Bargain.

The five Core Commitments below reflect principles articulated in Core Responsibility Five of the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity. Each of the Core Commitments represent the key components needed to ensure access to adequate resources necessary to preserve the lives, dignity and safety of people affected by conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies.

- **Core Commitment 1: Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.**
- **Core Commitment 2: Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.**



#1
PREVENT AND
END CONFLICT



#2
RESPECT RULES
OF WAR



#3
LEAVE NO ONE
BEHIND



#4
WORKING DIFFERENTLY
TO END NEED



#5
INVEST IN
HUMANITY



- **Core Commitment 3:** Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, un-earmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.
- **Core Commitment 4:** Commit to invest in risk management, preparedness and crisis prevention capacity to build the resilience of vulnerable and affected people.
- **Core Commitment 5:** Commit to broaden and adapt the global instruments and approaches to meet urgent needs, reduce risk and vulnerability and increase resilience, without adverse impact on humanitarian principles and overall action (as also proposed in Round Table 6 on “Changing Lives”).



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FINANCING – INVESTING IN HUMANITY

HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Sample Commitments

Core Commitment 1: Increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations, where relevant.

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - increasing contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to help ensure its expansion to \$1 billion annually by 2018;
 - significantly increasing contributions to Country-Based Pooled Funds to cover up to 15 per cent of the humanitarian response plans and frontline responses.
- In line with the core responsibility to ensure that No One is Left Behind, [Name of Member State] commits to increasingly focus scarce ODA resources in the most fragile states by:
 - ensuring that development investments are risk informed and contribute to building resilience where relevant, enabling low and lower middle income countries to better manage and finance their own disaster risk;
 - increasing the percentage of ODA targeted at the most fragile and conflict-affected countries;
 - increasing the opportunities for risk sharing among donors;
 - increasing commitments by donors and relevant financial institutions to support the development of Islamic Social Finance instruments focused on resilience building for conflict and disaster affected countries as well as protracted crises.
- Recognising the importance of financing long-term refugee (and IDP) caseloads in protracted crises and of countries hosting these caseloads as a global public good [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - advocating/using position on the Boards of the International Financial Institutions, and particularly the World Bank, to ensure that the forthcoming

Multilateral Development Bank replenishments deliver a relevant, coherent and cost effective set of instruments to respond to the challenge of fragility, disasters, and crises.

- Recognising the potentially transformative power of humanitarian cash transfers [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - ensuring that cash is equally considered alongside other response modalities throughout a humanitarian response and that where feasible, cash is used as the preferred and default modality;
 - significantly increasing the amount of funding available to support cash programming, including multi-purpose cash transfers;
 - building internal capacity to carry out cash programming;
 - systematically carrying out joint cash feasibility assessments as part of preparedness.
- Recognising the potentially transformative power of multi-sectoral humanitarian cash transfers [Name of Private sector] commits to:
 - bringing innovative solutions and expertise to transformative partnerships with humanitarian actors that leads to enhanced cash programming in humanitarian contexts.
 - (donors, private sector and relevant financial institutions) support innovations for mobilizing finance such as capital guarantee funds, social impact bonds and the issuance of an inaugural humanitarian sukuk (social impact bonds) programme, using capital market instruments to reach non-traditional donors.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities, and preparedness planning.

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] endorses the Charter for Change, which commits to implement by May 2018 the following: reaffirming the Principles of Partnership; passing at least 20 per cent of own humanitarian funding to southern-based NGOs; making public in a clear and transparent manner the amount of humanitarian funding which reaches national and local actors; preventing the negative impact of recruiting national NGO staff during emergencies; promoting principled partnerships between national and international actors and humanitarian donors, especially to leverage the value of local organizations in humanitarian response; providing robust organizational support and capacity building; promoting the role of local actors to media and the public.

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to contribute to a reconfiguration of the international humanitarian financing system to allow critical front-line responder to access adequate, timely and quality funding on a fair basis by:
 - empowering national NGOs to play a central role in programming and delivering principled and coordinated humanitarian assistance;
 - reducing barriers to accessing funding by simplifying and harmonizing partner capacity assessments and application and reporting requirements;
 - ensuring front-line responders are included in collective coordination platforms and response processes have a seat at the table in collective response processes, thereby promoting stronger partnerships and increased direct access of local and national front-line responding NGOs to humanitarian funding;
 - enabling funding from non-traditional sources such as from faith-based funds to play a significant role in making funds available to local organizations that form the frontline of humanitarian response yet which are often unable to directly access funds.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to invest in the capacity of frontline responders: commits to investing in the ability of front-line responding actors to play a leading role in crisis anticipation, response and recovery by:
 - creating incentives for international actors to work in strategic partnerships with local and national civil society organizations that build the long-term organizational and responsive capacity;
 - providing front-line responders with fair and realistic levels of overhead costs in funding awards;
 - supporting the development of national and regional networks of front-line responders and other related capacity-strengthening initiatives including national and regional research and training centres.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to provide support to the affected state: work with governments of at-risk and crisis-affected states to play a leading role prioritizing and financing crisis-response by:
 - supporting governments to make adequate financial preparedness against risk. (Disaster risk financing and use of insurance);
 - supporting the development of risk-sensitive social protection schemes, which can serve as conduits for international financial support to government-led response;
 - ensuring governments have access to adequate international financial support (grants and where appropriate concessional finance) to meet:
 - post-disaster response and recovery needs
 - needs of countries hosting refugees
 - replicating good practice re: bilateral funding (government to government);



- providing greater visibility of international financing investments through improved transparency and data analysis to enable better targeting of resources.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, un-earmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - endorsing the commitments under the Grand Bargain¹;
 - agreeing to reporting requirements that are simplified, proportionate, and coherent (harmonized to best practice);
 - building strong and transparent data systems to track all financial flows towards common outcomes in crisis contexts with a view to better reflecting the generosity of all financiers;
 - (UN) enhancing system-wide capability and architecture to enable the receipt of funding from non-traditional actors, platforms and instruments such as private sector, faith-based, diaspora remittances and crowd-funding sources.

Core Commitment 4: Invest in risk management, preparedness and crisis prevention to build the resilience of vulnerable and affected people.

- Recognising that there is a range of tools that be used to finance reduction of risks and anticipatory approaches to responding to crises [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - expanding the use of tools and approaches that strengthen systemic shifts toward better risk management and financial planning and preparation, including national contingency reserves, shock-responsive social protection mechanisms, insurance and catastrophe bonds;
 - working with private sector, academia and the scientific community to help forecast the anticipated scale and frequency of crises in order to inform the design of ex-ante financial planning measures;
 - exploring financial opportunities through further piloting social impact bonds, scaling up of insurance, among other solutions;

¹ The 10 commitments under the Grand Bargain relate to: transparency, frontline responders, cash, management costs and functional reviews, needs assessments, participation revolution, multi-year planning and funding, earmarking, harmonized/simplified reporting requirements, humanitarian-development nexus.

- putting in place adequate emergency reserve funds and funds for risk-reduction activities and investments to reduce the drivers of fragility and conflict;
- creating incentives for more coherent approaches built on common understanding of the need to manage risk, both as a moral imperative and as an expedient investment to protect development investments and assure sustainable development outcomes.
- In line with the Secretary-General's Climate Resilience Initiative: Anticipate, Absorb and Reshape by [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - scaling insurance coverage for countries against natural disasters;
 - scaling up appropriate and cost effective risk pooling and risk transfer tools.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to broaden and adapt the global instruments and approaches to meet both urgent needs and reduce risk and vulnerability and increase resilience, without adverse impact on humanitarian principles and overall action (as also proposed in Round Table 6 on “Changing Lives”).

- Recognising that, within a country context, humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, stabilization and climate finance should be more coherent [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to:
 - increasing contributions to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), which provides rapid financing to support sustaining peace over the long-term especially in protracted crisis countries;
 - increasing support to multi-year multi-stakeholder financing, including effective funding instruments for protracted crisis countries, which combine national actors, UN, IFIs, and MDBs, with a clear division of responsibilities based on comparative advantage to deliver on collective outcomes;
 - ensuring that organisational structures and internal processes foster coherence between humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, stabilisation and climate finance;
 - removing the internal institutional barriers between humanitarian and development finance, both in capitals/headquarters and at country level, in order to mobilize the right mix of humanitarian and development finance;
 - strengthening the mechanisms for coordination at country level and globally to maximise policy coherence;
 - committing to increase by xx% the overall portion of ODA invested in multi-year financing based on multi-year plans that reduce risk and vulnerability by [year];
 - committing to financing collective outcomes, based on multi-year plans and to the actor/s that have demonstrated comparative advantage, piloting this approach in [## countries] by [year];

- (donors) using positions on the boards of international organisations, agencies and financial institutions to ensure a comprehensive approach to the management of man-made and natural hazards;
- applying a common theory of change that underpins all financial mechanisms and funds at country level in order to reduce risk, vulnerability, and overall humanitarian need.