

To: Members and observer members of the UNWGT and IASC TT HDN
From: Co-Chairs of the UNWGT and IASC TT HDN

Re: **Invitation - joint UNWGT-IASC TT Workshop on the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus, 20-21 October 2016, New York.**

Geneva/New York, 5 October 2016

Dear colleagues,

As co-Chairs of the *UN Working Group on Transitions (UNWGT)* and the *UN Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on the Humanitarian Development Nexus in protracted crises (TT HDN)*, we are pleased to invite representatives of respective Working Group and Task Team members to the first joint **UNWGT-IASC TT Workshop on the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus**, which will be held **20-21 October 2016 in New York**.

The last 18 months have been marked by major global policy processesⁱ, each of them recommending to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian, development and peace communities of practice. Signing the Commitment to Actionⁱⁱ at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Executive Heads of the United Nations called for a change in the working modalities to adapt to the rapidly changing operational landscape in which humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors find themselves. Only then can the world move towards delivering on the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "leave no one behind" and the core UN task of sustaining peace.

This "New Way of Working" puts the most vulnerable at the forefront of collective efforts. This will involve *operating over multi-year timeframes* and playing to the *individual strengths of each agency and actor* involved to achieve *collective outcomes*. This also entails *sharing of data; joint analysis of needs, response and future risks*; and, where and when possible, *collaborating on planning and programming*. The "Grand Bargain" also includes a further list of commitments towards *greater transparency, strengthening of local and national frontline responders* and *bridging the gap between humanitarian and development work including through multi-year planning and financing*. In addition, the Peace Promise emphasizes the need to *include the peace dimension*. It is now **time to start implementing these commitments and policies in a coordinated and coherent manner**. We need to ensure successful impact on the ground. To this end, **innovative approaches must bring the UN system together across humanitarian, peace and development work**.

The UNWGT and the IASC TT HDN are two natural bodies to advance policy shifts and implementation coherence not only among the UN system entities, including the World Bank, but also with civil society organizations and other partners, such as the ICRC and the IFRC. These two groups, among other key stakeholders, have agreed to take this work forward in a concrete manner. The objective of this first joint workshop will therefore be to weave together lessons from the field and various on-going normative and policy discussions. More specifically, the workshop aims to facilitate **a more collaborative approach and build on the efforts of the two groups to strengthen the humanitarian, development and peace nexus**, especially in protracted crisis situations. Participants will then agree on a post-WHS implementation roadmap, informed by operational considerations, good practices and field realities (see Concept Note enclosed). To this end, the workshop will be an opportunity for both communities to:

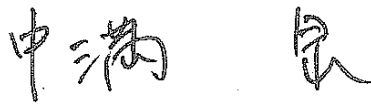
- 1) Identify key elements of the operationalization of the humanitarian, peace and development nexus;

- 2) Identify synergies, barriers and coordination gaps amongst the UNWGT and the IASC TT HDN and harmonize work plans; and
- 3) Suggest a way forward for coordination of work including to ensure coherence in support provided to the countries requesting support for implementation on the ground.

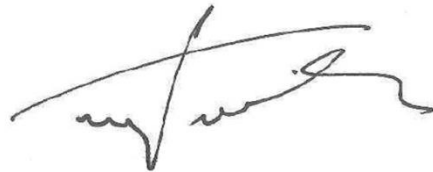
Facilitated by Sarah Cliffe of the Centre on International Cooperation at New York University, the workshop will bring together some 50 members of the UNWGT and the IASC TT HDN. Due to space constraints, participation will be limited to 1 or 2 technical experts per member of the UNWGT and per member of the IASC TT HDN. When planning your participation, please keep in mind that we are aiming for an interactive event that requires active contributions from participants. The participants should be experts knowledgeable on the issues outlined in the agenda. In terms of numbers, some exceptions will be made for the NGO consortia members of the IASC in order to benefit from their field-level perspectives, and the organizers. Those agencies which are members of both the UNWGT and the IASC TT HDN are encouraged to ensure balanced participation to reflect both the UNWGT and IASC perspectives.

The outcomes of this retreat will be informed by the global processes mentioned above and experience on the ground and also aim to reflect back through substantive contributions to the relevant informal and formal discussions tackling these major issues. Accordingly, and as appropriate, the UNWGT and the IASC TT HDN will share the workshop's findings with those interested in the proceedings.

On behalf of the **UN Working Group on Transitions**

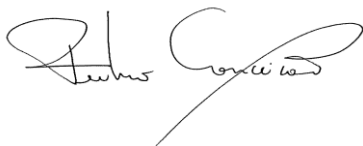


ASG Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
Crisis Response Unit, UNDP

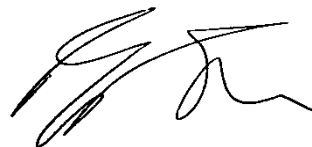


ASG Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco
UN Peacebuilding Support Office

and the **IASC Task Team on the Humanitarian / Development Nexus in protracted crisis**



Mr. Pedro Conceição,
Director, Strategic Policy Unit, BPPS
UNDP



Dr. Richard J. Brennan
Director, Emergency Operations,
WHO

Please **register participation**, including information of your field of work, **no later than 17 October** to simona.chladkova@undp.org

ⁱ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, followed by the Peace Operations and Peacebuilding Reviews, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the COP 21 Climate Conference, the World Humanitarian Summit and the Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

ⁱⁱ Signed on 23 May 2016 at the WHS in Istanbul by: Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO; Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP; Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, WFP; Filippo Grandi, UNHCR; José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO; Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF; Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA; Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; and endorsed by the World Bank and the IOM