CONCEPT NOTE
Joint workshop on the
Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

The UN Working Group on Transitions and
The IASC Task Team on Humanitarian and Development Nexus in protracted crises

1. Background

The years of 2015 and 2016 have been marked by major global policy developments with 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 to be held later this year. Each of these major global processes have contributed to the new momentum in improving humanitarian action by strengthening the linkages between humanitarian, peace and development communities of practice.

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), in particular, galvanized the international community in a united call to change working modalities to respond to the rapidly changing operational landscape in which humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors find themselves. The summit outcomes recognized that crises have evolved, both in sheer number and in complexity; with countries and ever growing number of affected communities facing several simultaneous shocks coming from climate-related hazards, violent conflict, pandemics, unstable economic markets or population growth. We also continue to face protracted crises, affecting a larger number of people over the long term; they increasingly impede the prospects for peace and development, and compromise opportunities for national capacity building. In addition, they fundamentally challenge humanitarian and development assistance, with insufficient emergency resources coupled with programming difficulties to pursue development objectives. In short, we must rethink how to ensure a greater overall coherence necessary to respond to those in need over the long-term whilst working on the causes of people’s needs.

As an outcome of the WHS, through the Commitment to Action1, UN agencies have taken steps towards delivering on the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity and the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “leave no one behind”, by effectively putting those furthest behind at the forefront of their collective efforts and across the spectra of humanitarian, peace and development work. This new way of working will involve operating over multi-year timeframes and playing to the individual strengths of each agency and actor involved to achieve collective outcomes for the most vulnerable people. This commitment entails a significant increase of the sharing of data relating to vulnerability; undertake joint analysis of needs, response and future risks; and collaborate on planning and

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1 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.
programming, backed up by financing modalities and stronger leadership in support of collective outcomes.

Moreover, the “Grand Bargain” includes a further list of commitments towards greater transparency and a vision towards the strengthening of local and national frontline responders in a spirit of partnership and complementarity collectively using our respective strengths and comparative advantages whilst ensuring the principles of humanitarian action. In addition, “the Peace Promise” manifested the need to include the peace dimension to the humanitarian-development nexus. The implementation of the Agenda 2030, the sustaining peace resolutions and the WHS recommendations and commitments can therefore not be implemented as business as usual or in siloes. It needs greater coherence between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors to achieve results in support of collective outcomes – from delivering aid to changing people’s lives by ending needs on the path towards a sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

Against the backdrop of these global processes, and equipped with the significant step changes in normative thinking that they have produced, it is now time to start implementing policies in a coordinated and coherent manner to ensure successful impact on the ground. To this end, it will be key to look into new innovative approaches that can bring the “system” together across the board of humanitarian, peace and development work, and how together we work with national authorities, the private sector and other key local partners. Importantly, in the spirit of the Secretary-General’s movement to leave no one behind, it will be key also, that work on strengthening the nexus is kept light, in process and architecture, building on the good practices that already exists, whilst ensuring that vulnerable people are central to its cause. The international support system, inspired by processes such as the Grand Bargain or the Chief Executive Board’s High Level Committee on Management, must ensure greater effectiveness in programming as well as to improve efficiencies in procedures with an overall objective of lowering transaction costs and increasing implementation rates. Ensuring a complementary responsibility between humanitarian, peace and development actions will promote sustainability, bolstered by resilient practices that protect and sustain the gains made by people and the efforts and investments of the international community.

The UN Working Group on Transitions (UNWGT) and the newly established Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on the Humanitarian Development Nexus in protracted crises (TT HDN), are two natural bodies to promote policy shifts and implementation coherence not only among the UN entities but also civil society organizations and other partners such as the World Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

These two groups, among other key stakeholders, have agreed to take this work forward in a concrete manner by weaving together lessons from the field and various on-going normative and policy discussions. The ultimate vision is ambitious. It is a vision that champions the principle of moving towards “one country, one UN framework”, as articulated in the SG’s report on the QCPR (August 2016), grounded by an overall commitment from all stakeholders to ensure -- where feasible and where context allows -- a single framework towards collective outcomes built around shared strategy, analysis and accountability in support of the sustainable development agenda.

In discussions among the co-chairs of these two groups in the run up to the WHS, a joint workshop was proposed as the first of several opportunities to take stock of, and harmonize progress towards achieving

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2 A/70/RES/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)
this ambitious vision. The suggestion was endorsed by the members of both groups which, in turn, put forward a planning group consisting of DOCO, EOSG’s Analysis and Planning Capacity, FAO, OCHA, PBSO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to elaborate the framework and suggested agenda for a 1½-2 days joint UNWGT - IASC TT HDN retreat. Further to this, it is envisioned that the outcomes of this retreat and subsequent events will be informed by the global processes mentioned above 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 its findings with those interested in the proceedings of this as well as any further collective events.

Therefore with the recognition that frequent and consistent collaboration as well as pragmatic introspection will be required, the sections that follow outline the key elements of this first joint workshop.

2. Objectives

The objective of the joint workshop is to facilitate a more collaborative approach and build on the efforts of the IASC TT HDN and UNWGT to strengthen the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, especially in protracted crisis situations, and agree on a post-WHS implementation roadmap, informed by operational considerations, good practices and field realities. To this end, the workshop should:

1) Be an opportunity for both communities to **jointly drill down on the key elements of the operationalization of the humanitarian, peace and development nexus**, using as a base the think piece “Better Humanitarian-Development Cooperation for Sustainable Results on the Ground”, as well as being informed by progress made through the transformative agenda;

2) Identify **synergies, barriers and coordination gaps amongst the IASC HDN TT and UNWGT** and harmonize work plans;

3) Given the plethora of ongoing processes at the global level on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and based on a **mapping of the processes, suggest a way forward for coordination of work**, including ensuring coherence in support provided to the countries requesting support for implementation on the ground.

3. Content

The content and agenda of the workshop is suggested to partly focus on i) a **normative discussion** and gaining a common understanding of the key elements of the humanitarian, peace and development nexus: and ii) **substantive conversations** on identifying key elements for joint analysis and planning, that is risk-informed, focusing on different response scenarios (with cross-border considerations where necessary), based on lessons learnt and experiences and the development of a roadmap for how to reflect these advances in field guidance. This means developing a generic process that can then be adapted by national UN country teams and their partners to meet the specificities of each context.

The IASC HDN TT started mapping relevant humanitarian processes and documents to see how they apply to protracted crises and the nexus. An analysis is undertaken to see what needs to be strengthened or put
in place for the strengthening of the nexus. This process helps to identify where and what kind of connections are required with peacebuilding and development, and thus topics to discuss at the retreat.

Discussions should be informed by field perspectives. The workshop should be an opportunity for each community of practice to demonstrate current work and thinking. The meeting should be seen as the beginning of ongoing and close dialogue amongst the two groups. The agenda should therefore be pragmatic with regards to its ambitions, avoid overloading but constructively outline further steps in a road map that may see annual or biannual retreats to take stock of the progress made as the work develops.

4. Main outcomes

- Drill down and **ensure a common understanding of the key elements of a strengthened humanitarian, development and peace nexus** at global, regional and country levels, with particular attention to different response scenarios, good and promising practices and field realities;
- **Recognise good practices currently in place** that encourage a coherent response between humanitarian, peace and development actors and practices, as well as challenges and the identification of barriers encountered.
- **Map out the countries** that have requested support in implementing the new way of working, and agree on how to move forward collectively and coherently;
- **Develop a Roadmap** for supporting the implementation of the Commitment to Action, focusing on analysis and planning (with clear roles, responsibilities, deliverables and timeframes), to be further discussed with other relevant stakeholders, platforms, groups and forums working on the same/similar issues;
- **Identify areas** addressing the humanitarian, development and peace nexus **that could inform and strengthen the Interim UNDAF Guidance and the HRP guidelines**.
- **Agree on a light structure** building on existing good/promising practice and institutional processes that will oversee the implementation of the roadmap;
- **Identify and encourage partnerships**, with the aim to share findings and advancements contributing to practice and policy development.

5. Date, Duration, Location and Format,

A day and a half on **20-21 October 2016**, in New York City (venue tbc).

Facilitation by Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Centre on International Cooperation (CIC at New York University), plenary with a mix of preassigned presentations, inter-active discussion and group work as necessary. **Participation limited to 1 or 2 technical experts** per participating organization/agency with exception for organizers demanding additional staff.

Relevant DSA rates by **participant’s parent organization to cover travel, accommodation and meals**. Arrangements for venue, facilitation and coffee breaks by HDN TT and WGT organizers.
6. Proposed background documents to be developed (draft leads)

- Draft mapping of relevant processes and policy documents on the humanitarian-development-nexus (WHO)
- Mapping of field level efforts and pilot countries associated with these efforts (all agencies)
- Draft Paper on Typologies of Response Scenarios, based on the HDAG think piece (WHO)
- Peace placement in the Nexus, one pager on the inclusion of Peace into the Humanitarian Development Nexus (PBSO)
- A summary of financing implications (FAO, MPTFO)
- Share work plan + Draft ToRs of IASC HDN TT & UNWGT (DOCO, WHO, UNDP PBSO)³
- Two pager, summary of planning tools and process mapping of tools (UNDP, DOCO, OCHA)
- Draft Principles of ‘Advancing Collective Outcomes’ (FAO, UNDP, OCHA)
- Compendium of Relevant Documents with links (UNDP)

7. Existing background documents

- Commitment to Action, Istanbul, May 2016.
- IASC Principles paper - Making the Links Work: how the humanitarian and development community can help ensure no one is left behind (the World Bank and FAO)
- Interim UNDAF Guidance
- UN Strategic Framework for Lebanon, Sudan (draft)
- The Wilton Park Principles on New Approaches to protracted forced displacement (April, 2016) and the UN New York Declaration on refugees and Migrants (September 2016)
- .......

8. Time line - planning and action points – (to be continuously updated)

- Draft Concept Note circulated to IASC TT HDN and UNWGT by TT HDN chairs and UNWGT secretariat, by 15 Sept.
- Revised concept note discussed and finalised by planning group, 30 Sept. and shared back w/ groups.
- Draft agenda and draft invitation developed by UNWGT secretariat and TT HDN chairs, for review and comment by retreat planning group, by Friday 30 Sept.
- Background documents compiled and organised in adherence with suggested draft agenda by IASC TT chairs.
- UNWGT secretariat to contact facilitator(s) and confirm UN FF building as venue for the retreat.
- Planning group meeting 30 Sept. with agenda to:

³ With the understanding that individual work plans may change after the retreat.
o review and finalise CN,
o review draft agenda and retreat format,
o finalize list of invitees,
o review progress of production of background docs,
o discuss further guidance and introduction for facilitator(s),

- UNWGT Secretariat and TT HDN co-chairs to advance in finalizing outstanding elements in accordance with planning group discussion incl.
  o circulation of invitation together with CN and agenda by 5 Oct., and advise participants on the circulation of further background documents,
  o liaise with facilitator(s) for finalization of programme, incl. intro to scenarios and respective resource people, (Lebanon, Sudan, etc. (tbc))
  o contact respective resource people: a) intro with facilitator(s) and b) travel arrangements
  o in cooperation with facilitator(s), finalise background package and circulate to participants by 12 Oct.

9. Potential target countries

There is scope to enhance humanitarian, peace and development linkages across all countries, as appropriate and based on the context. A number of countries have tested / are testing different approaches related to different aspects of the nexus. Several countries have furthermore demonstrated an interest in doing more to strengthen the nexus and have sought support from HQ and expressed interest in being part of further discussions. Some field based colleagues could be invited to the retreat to help inform the discussions. Country examples can help identify and elaborate necessary frameworks and the need for a clear methodology for sharing data, undertaking joint analysis of needs and risks, and collaboration on planning and programming, where possible, backed by financing modalities and stronger leadership in support of collective outcomes. Going forward, the IASC HDN TT and UNWGT will help ensure coordinated HQ support prioritized to countries that express an interest for such support. The two groups should agree on other criteria for providing practical support to self-identified countries, as some contexts will be more appropriate than others. For each country, it should be clear what specific areas and issues the country would like to focus on and what type and level of support can be provided. The IASC TT and UNWGT should agree how they will work together and what they aim to achieve, to avoid duplication, and to work through existing mechanisms where possible.

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