Irish Consultation to the World Humanitarian Summit

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What is the World Humanitarian Summit?

Initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

With **rising humanitarian needs** and our world changing rapidly, the summit will bring together the global community to **forge new partnerships and find better ways to meet humanitarian needs** in the future. The summit will take place in May 2016 in Istanbul

(www.worldhumanitariansummit.org)

What is the World Humanitarian Summit?

How will it be organised?

- Eight regional consultations
- Research around four key themes.
- Results will determine the agenda for the summit.
- Managed by UNOCHA.

Who will be involved?

The WHS will bring together representatives of Governments, humanitarian organisations, people affected by conflicts or disasters, and other partners including the private sector and civil society.

What will the outcomes be?

not predetermined but based on the recommendations from the consultations

Irish Stakeholder Groups

1. **Public Sector** (Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Dept. of Defence, Dept. of the Environment, Dept. of Health and others)

2. **Private Sector** (private organisations involved in humanitarian action)

3. **Diaspora** (focusing on refugees/ asylum seekers in disaster affected countries)

4. **NGO** (HAWG members and other agencies involved in humanitarian action)

5. **Academia**

- General Public (communications strategy)

Four Thematic Areas

1. **Humanitarian Effectiveness** (humanitarian principles; accountability; coordination; leadership; participation; sustainability; context analysis)

2. **Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk** (definitions; managing recurrent/predictable shocks/ future unprecedented shocks; preparedness and resilience; urbanisation)

3. **Transformation Through Innovation** (importance; priority areas; bottom-up innovation; ethical issues)

4. **Serving the Needs of People in Conflict** (sexual and gender-based violence; access/security issues; remote management strategies; proximity with affected populations)

Process for Irish Consultation

Phase 1 (September - December 2014)

- Review current status and formulate positions on key humanitarian issues post 2016
- Stakeholder groups (5) will develop a position paper
- Select representatives for each area in Phase 2.

Phase 2 (January to April 2015)

- Four thematic areas (representatives from each of the five stakeholder groups)
- Output - position/input paper on each thematic area.

Phase 3 (June 2015)

- Irish Humanitarian Summit
- Submission of Ireland's contribution to the WHS in July 2015.

Phase 4 Leading to the WHS and the Summit itself

Phase 5 – implementing the outcomes from this process

Methodology for the different stakeholder groups

- Different methodologies for different stakeholder groups
- Data collection tools:

    Questionnaires;

    Focus Group Discussions;

    Face-to-face meetings;

    On-line surveys;

- Development of position papers – and approval of them

Humanitarian Effectiveness

- Need for greater accountability and adhering to it

- More attention should be devoted to the felt needs

- Other stakeholders should be encouraged to work in a more complementary manner

- Need for wider humanitarian system to respect principled humanitarian action

- Greater flexibility in spending humanitarian budget

Reducing Vulnerability, Managing Risk and Future Trends:

- Climate Change highlighted as the major threat and challenge – need for much more research and focus

- More research/training on issues related to DRR, state-building and governance. More investment in education required. Education is vital for long-term development and hope

- More investment in early warning systems, and adherence to them

- Building trust and engagement of affected populations are prerequisites to enabling counties to better prepare for and mitigate conflict-induced displacement

Transformation through Innovation

- Data collection, analysis and information sharing (real-time) – help decision-makers make decisions

- Greater private sector involvement – provision of venture capital. More research

- More ownership over early warning mechanisms (community level)

- Need for ethical standards

- Empowerment of affected communities – inclusive training

Serving the Needs of People in Conflict

- Conflict sensitivity – avoid worsening the situation

- Adherence to Code of Conduct/standards

- Security/protection along with basic needs are predominantly the primary needs. Military involvement – importance of CIMIC

- Psychosocial support strongly emphasised and requires more attention