

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

23-24 May 2016

Istanbul

Round Table - Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

.....Summary of Statements

❖ Mr. Sam Worthington, InterAction

InterAction, as an alliance of U.S based non-governmental organizations working toward strengthening human rights and civilian participation in the peace processes is urging the States to ensure that the protection of civilians is a core priority. Moreover, States should **reinforce accountability** in case of non-respect of the principle of discrimination in populated areas, and should **respect the principles of necessity and proportionality** when it comes to the adoption of counterterrorism laws.

Secondly, InterAction is making a priority the fact that every State should end their commercial relations with any other State violating International Humanitarian Law, and any regulation on the use of weapons in populated areas.

❖ Mr. Carlos Raúl Morales, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guatemala

Guatemala is requesting the **end of impunity for grave violations of Humanitarian and Human Rights Law** and is committed to do, to further cooperate with the International Criminal Court and is urging the States to include in their national legislation the prosecution of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

What's more, Guatemala stresses out that sexual crimes, violence against women and children must be dealt with a zero tolerance policy. Guatemala considers that impunity in that matter weakens the rule of law.

Finally, Guatemala underlines that all States should be part of a **Global Network on the Responsibility to Protect**, which promotes three pillars: protect the populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; encourage and help the States in that matter; and finally use the diplomatic, humanitarian and any other channels in order to protect the population against those crimes.

❖ **Mr. Peter Launsky, Director General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs**

Based on the message of Peter Maurer “people in war deserve nothing else but action” Austria has adopted **three main core commitments**.

First, Austria insists on the necessity to provide **training on IHL and Human Rights Law for foreign armed forces**. In particular, Austria will continue to offer the **Vienna Course on International Law for Military Legal Advisers**, under the auspices of the European Security and Defense College. Moreover, Austria is committed to cooperate with the Austrian Red Cross to organize seminars on IHL for professionals, volunteers, journalists and any other opinion leaders.

Secondly, Austria is following the lead of making grow an international awareness about conflicts side effects on the civilian population. As a matter of fact, Austria made an **international political statement on International Humanitarian Law** supported by Costa Rica, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Mozambique and Spain. Austria is also supporting pledges with regards to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Finally, Austria is **committed to support the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists**.

❖ **Mr. Didier Burkhalter Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland**

No matter the circumstances, it remains essential to continue to work to ensure respect for norms that safeguard humanity. In this respect, Switzerland is submitting four core commitments.

First, following the agreement made by the States at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to work towards establishing a dedicated forum for International Humanitarian Law, Switzerland shows its will to **create a body in order to facilitate the application of the Geneva Convention** and a better exchange between the Member States.

Secondly, Switzerland is highly encouraging all States to create an **inter-ministerial national authority for International Humanitarian Law** in order to ensure the effective application of the law at a local level. Switzerland is even proposing to go further, with the cooperation of the ICRC, and is considering a large collaboration between the national Committees.

Third, taking up the **2286 Resolution of the Security Council** of May the 3rd of 2016 on the **protection of medical and humanitarian personnel**, Switzerland is reaffirming its will to strengthen the respect and protection of said actors.

Finally, Switzerland renewed its commitment to ensure that even when countering terrorism and armed groups that abide by no rules, the rules of war, humanitarian and human rights law still apply and must be upheld.

❖ His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, Holy See

During the Roundtable the Holy See reaffirmed its support to all actions that could be taken in order to prevent and end acts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Holy See also promotes the prevention and deterrence of crimes, the prosecution of criminals and access to victim assistance.

The Holy See is committed to **promote the respect for the centrality of the human person in the context of humanitarian assistance**, and it must be guaranteed by various humanitarian actors in the distinct situations of armed conflicts, social crises and natural disasters, according to three criteria:

- 1) integral service to the human person, including both **material and spiritual assistance**;
- 2) **support for the family**, the natural and fundamental unit of society; and
- 3) **access to education**

Moreover, the Holy is committed to promote and enhance increased **respect and protection of civilians and civilian objects**, in particular hospitals, schools, places of worship, cultural objects and patrimony, especially during armed conflicts with a view to preventing civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas or from the use and destruction of civilian infrastructures for military operations.

The Holy See is committed to promote in the international community the principle that **humanitarian assistance must always be guaranteed as a lifesaving necessity**, and therefore, it should never be used as an instrument of pressure by any actor either before, during or after hostilities.

❖ Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The large gap between commitments and actual practice when it comes to International Humanitarian law must be urgently filled: ICRC is here recalling every State on their **duty to respect the law** and to denounce or work to end every violation witnessed. ICRC, to make all this possible, is willing to commit on finding the best ways regarding each State's specificities for an efficient application of International Humanitarian Law.

❖ Mr. Salil Shetty, Secretary General, Amnesty International

Amnesty International will continue to investigate abuses of international law wherever they happen. Amnesty will **pursue accountability for perpetrators**, and truth, **justice and reparations for victims** and will call on all States to support Security Council action aimed at preventing or ending mass atrocities. Amnesty is campaigning to ensure States live up to their obligations to the unprecedented numbers who are displaced, and **establish a global responsibility-sharing system for refugees** that is up to the scale of the task. It is high time the richest countries live up to their flaunted claims of respect for human rights.

❖ Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

One of the core aims of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts is to provide relief for those affected by armed conflict. The United Nations commits to **deliver rapid humanitarian assistance**, including to hard to reach areas. In these responses, priority is put on making people safer, preserving their dignity and reducing vulnerabilities.

The United Nations also commits to **intensify monitoring, investigating and reporting human rights violations and abuses**, as well as **violations of international humanitarian law**, with particular attention to the plight of women and children. The UN pledges to use this monitoring to strengthen its advocacy with parties to conflict to stop and prevent violations.

In accordance with the Secretary-General's Human Rights up Front Initiative, the UN commits to use all appropriate fora to speak out and systematically condemn serious violations of international law. The UN will also provide **strong support to national and international accountability efforts**. In this regard, the United Nations reiterates its full support for the International Criminal Court and urges Member States to fully cooperate with the institution.

❖ Ms. Kimberly Brown, International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)

In his Statement at the World Humanitarian Summit INEW stated that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas are the primary killer of civilians in conflict.

The International Network on Explosive Weapons made commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit:

- **continuing to document this pattern of harm**
- building recognition of the problem,
- **developing and advocating assistance to victims**
- growing the group of stakeholders taking action on this issue
- **providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations**
- working with others to build an international political commitment to stop the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide area effects.

Finally, INEW urged states to take up the UN Secretary General's recommendation to start work to **develop an international political declaration** with concrete measures to prevent harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

❖ Mr. Hichem Khadhraoui, Head of Operations, Geneva Call

Geneva Call reaffirmed that Non-State armed groups are key actors in today's armed conflicts and that they have a direct impact on the lives of millions of civilians. Therefore, efforts to assist and protect victims of armed conflict must address not only the conduct of States, but also that of non-State armed groups.

Therefore, Geneva Call made the following commitments during the High-level Leaders' Roundtable:

1. To **further develop training sessions** to 60 non-state armed groups.
2. To collect public individual commitments from non-State armed groups to **respect norms of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law** and to monitor their implementation.
3. To promote the implementation of the « **Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict** » to 35 non-State armed groups.
4. To encourage non-State armed groups to refrain from using explosive weapons in densely populated areas.
5. To initiate **dialogue with non-State armed groups** on the protection of displaced persons and promote respect of the medical mission.
6. Geneva Call will also report on its commitments and the outcomes achieved during the next follow up Summit meeting.

Special Session on Humanitarian Principles

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The special session on “Humanitarian Principles” was moderated by Sorcha O’Callaghan, Head of Humanitarian Policy at the British Red Cross. Panellists were Manuel Bessler, Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid; Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); Fatima Gailani, President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society; Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council; and Noha Yahya, Executive Director of the Humanitarian Forum Yemen.

During the interactive discussion, speakers addressed current challenges and growing concerns. A representative of **InterAction**, speaking on behalf of 64 non-governmental organizations, said that it was only because of the **humanitarian principles** that those groups could operate. Otherwise, he said, humanitarian groups would depend on Government armed forces, which would hinder access to areas of conflict to reach those most in need.

In a similar vein, a representative of the **Action Contre La Faim** said her organization had committed to **reinforcing respect and understanding of the humanitarian principles** through the channelling of donor funds and **adapting organizational strategic plans** to support **training for all staff** and to sensitize local communities and relevant actors.

Government representatives also shared their perspectives, addressing some of those concerns. A representative of **Canada** was committed to providing timely and effective humanitarian assistance. Deeply concerned that providing such assistance in situations of conflict was becoming more dangerous, she said the **international community must support the efforts of humanitarian workers** and ensure their **safety**.

International humanitarian law must be upheld and perpetrators held accountable. Condemning attacks against medical personnel and facilities, she said such practices must end

immediately. **“We must ensure that those who protect the vulnerable are themselves protected,”** she concluded.

A representative of **Germany** said national initiatives for humanitarian assistance were rooted in the **principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence**, enshrined in **General Assembly resolution 46/182**. Agreeing that people working in the humanitarian, development, stabilization and peacebuilding field had to work together, she said the Summit had to send a strong signal of respect for those principles.

Representatives of **WFP, Humanitarian Exchange and Research Centre (HERE)-Geneva** and Sphere Project were also among the session’s participants.

Plenary Segment 23 May

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❖ **The Sultanate of Oman**

The Palestinian people, due to the ongoing Israeli occupation and its settlement policies, become **displaced in their own country** and refugees in their own land. Unfortunately, the world has been watching the tragedy of these people for the last sixty-five years without taking any action. These people are target for expulsion at any time by flimsy pretexts and excuses. Moreover, the **resolution of the International community** proposed by the United States of America, offering a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on **two states living side by side**, has not been achieved until now and has just become a mere of promises. The Sultanate calls for both leaders of Palestine and Israel to accept the vision of interlocked neighborhood in the west bank and Israel and interlocked neighborhood in Gaza-strip and Israel.

❖ **Professor Gilles Carbonnier, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva)**

There are serious ethical issues involved, which need to be addressed. As a priority, the Graduate Institute calls on **States to commit to protect the integrity and dignity of the communities** where we conduct research, including key informants and local research partners.

The Graduate Institute therefore commits to:

- **Better localize research.** This means developing fair, transparent and equitable partnerships with **national and local researchers** in crisis-prone countries.
- Paying greater attention to humanitarian expressions under **different religious and secular traditions**. It is time to **take into account the rich diversity of knowledge ecologies**, including local knowledge production.
- **Teach and train students and humanitarian practitioners.**

❖ **H.E. Iyad Ameen MadanIslamic Cooperation (OIC)**

Islamic values and principles are at the **heart of humanitarian action and humanity** and should be recognized as such by the international community.

Preparedness and conflict prevention should play a vital role in any humanitarian strategy and program.

The **fundamental humanitarian principles** (humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality) constitute the **cornerstone of humanitarian action**. It is not satisfying just to reconfirm these principles but **ensuring that they are honored and respected** is the most important.

❖ **Mrs. Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, OXFAM International**

OXFAM, represented by its Executive Director insists on the **necessity of redesigning the humanitarian system**. Indeed, it is fundamental that power and resources are directed into the hands of local actors, and at least **10% of the funding** given by the UN and NGOs must be **given to local actors by 2020**. Oxfam itself **commits to triple that by 2018** and significantly increase funding for women's organizations.

OXFAM is also demanding that all States should **help end the crimes and humanitarian law violations** committed in several areas like Yemen, Syria and South Sudan, and that all parties should comply with the **Arms Trade Treaty** to end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

❖ **Grand Chancellor Albrecht Boeselager of the Sovereign Order of Malta**

The Sovereign Order of Malta's priorities is to **strengthen the synergies between all humanitarian stakeholders**, including faith-based organizations of all religions. Within this framework, the **role of religious communities and faith-based actors** has been widely recognized in the fields of **prevention, assistance, resilience and reconciliation**. It is therefore necessary to include them in the decision making process at all stages before, during and after crises, i.e. risk assessment, disaster preparedness and response, emergency aid, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

To achieve this in a dignified and principled manner, the Sovereign Order of Malta is committed to pursuing its engagement for the **respect of international humanitarian law and fundamental humanitarian principles** as recently strongly underlined by the Security Council Resolution 2286.

Furthermore, the Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to **reinforce and expand its humanitarian diplomacy** both on a bilateral and multilateral level with the following aims:

- Obtain access to victims
- Ensure the security of humanitarian workers
- **Promote the codification and implementation of humanitarian law** in the broadest sense

- Work towards ensuring the **concrete respect of humanitarian law**, by both governments and non-state actors. We are witness to an increase in the violation of these rules on behalf of all parties including states, not just armed forces and non-state actors. This implies the protection of hospitals, schools and health workers at all times. Finally, the Order of Malta is committed to share its long-lasting experience by **participating in the humanitarian dialogue and by contributing to the training and education** of humanitarian staff.

❖ **Mr. Nicolas Borsinger, President, Voluntary Organizations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)**

First of all, Mr Borsinger insists on the need to improve the fate of victims, which requires an unwavering **commitment to article 1 of the Geneva Conventions**, courage and firm action. Secondly, VOICE raises its concerns, along with other NGOs about the recent EU-Turkey deal on refugees. Indeed, their critics rely on the **non-respect of international protection** of conflict affected people, and therefore, the non-respect of the Geneva Conventions. Moreover, VOICE regrets that too few Heads of State are showing political leadership to take forward an enhanced respect for IHL, and their commitments may not create a momentum to strengthen existing frameworks. Thus, VOICE is **calling upon all States to end the vicious circle**: conflict drives needs, IHL violations reduce access, aid workers' safety lessens. However, among its different critics, VOICE still recognize one promising commitment: the **Grand Bargain**. Indeed, Donor States and the UN have shown a strong willingness to negotiate and to ensure that the benefits are felt by the first responders in the field.

❖ **Commissioner Christos Stylianides, on behalf of the European Union and Member States**

The EU wishes first to confirm its **commitment to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence**, and to preventing the politicization and instrumentalisation of humanitarian aid. The EU also reiterates that humanitarian action cannot be a substitute for political solutions. Indeed, there is a more **urgent need** than ever before for **decisive political action to address the conflicts** causing massive displacement and suffering, not least in Turkey's immediate neighborhood.

Moreover, the EU and its Member States are committed to advocate strongly and consistently for the respect of International Humanitarian Law. In a world affected by multiple conflicts, respect for IHL is essential to protect civilians and to enable humanitarian and healthcare workers to do their vital work. In that sense, the EU welcomes the recent adoption by the UN Security Council of **Resolution 2286**, and calls for a concerted effort to ensure its full implementation.

The EU and its Member States are committed to:

- step up their efforts in **strengthening partnerships** to better assist people in need.
- **engage more closely with local actors**.
- ensure synergies between humanitarian and development actions.

- **intensify its actions** to ensure that the international humanitarian system is able to address current and future challenges in a reliable and predictable way.
- work to make sure **humanitarian action is inclusive** and makes the best possible use of the comparative advantage of local, national and international actors

Finally, the EU welcomes the report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the **Grand Bargain** between donors and humanitarian organizations, and encourages all sides to undertake the necessary reforms to ensure sufficient and efficient funding.

❖ **Mrs. Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor, Germany**

Germany, represented by its Federal Chancellor stresses four urgent actions that need to be addressed.

First, Mrs. Merkel insists on the **need to renew a global consensus on humanitarian principles**, and deplore that we have to talk about the need to respect international law. Indeed, the systematic bombing and destruction of hospitals and health care centers, and the killing of doctors in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere are a flagrant breach of humanitarian principles. Those **violations must end** and the International community must be successful in ensuring humanitarian work can be carried out on the ground.

Secondly, Germany emphasizes the need for a **cohesive system of humanitarian aid**. Above all, it is essential that those supporting humanitarian assistance are reliable. This is why Germany supports the **proposal to increase the volume of the Central Emergency Response Fund** to one billion US dollars.

Third, it is necessary to learn from one another, and give **insurance models** a chance alongside classic financing, for example, insurance models connected to the risks associated with climate change or global epidemics. The advantage is that assistance can be given quickly. Those with an insurance claim are no longer perceived as people with their hand out but as people who have claims. Insurance models could thus really bring a turnaround.

Finally, Mrs. Merkel stresses that **prevention, development cooperation and implementing Agenda 2030** that was adopted last year **have to go hand in hand**, in order to tackle the problem from different angles.

❖ **Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl, UNRWA**

UNRWA has subscribed to the **Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing** and is willing to enhance engagement with Palestine refugees receiving aid to ensure that they take greater part in the decisions which affect them.

UNRWA is also committing to:

- ensure the fundamental **right to education** in situations of conflict.
- implement the **Charter and Action Plan on Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action** and ensure that its policy and strategic frameworks, including in relation to emergency preparedness and contingency plans, include provisions for the needs of persons with disabilities including for women and girls.
- further efforts to **implement more effective emergency response strategies** inspired by the principles of universal health coverage.

- **Protect Palestine refugees through compliance with international law**, protection of UNRWA personnel during conflict and strengthen its safety and security policies and procedures for all staff.
- Put humanity at the center of all considerations

❖ **Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director General, FAO**

Shocking **violations of humanitarian principles, human rights, refugee rights and international humanitarian law** are occurring on a daily basis, and the basic human right to food is also violated every day. This is why the FAO is underlining the **need for an independent and impartial humanitarian assistance** to save lives and livelihoods and protect those who have their rights denied. There is no substitute for the primacy of political solutions to prevent and resolve conflicts, for States to uphold their responsibilities and obligations, and for transgressors to be held to account.

The FAO is therefore designating four key commitments:

- **developing a corporate policy and guidelines** on its role in contributing to conflict prevention, sustainable peace and stability
- the FAO will scale up its work on **social protection and cash transfer programs**, linking them to **agriculture and rural development**. FAO recognizes that scaling-up cash-based programming and [risk-informed and shock responsive] social protection systems are a strategic priority – both in leaving no one behind and moving from delivering aid to ending need
- hunger and climate change must be addressed hand-in-hand. FAO commits to scaling-up its engagement in **promoting the food security/climate change adaptation nexus**.
- FAO commits to working towards an **integrated framework for protracted crises** that supports greater alignment among humanitarian, development, peace and human rights actors. This means **increased investments** and also incorporate various and innovative sources of financing to end the vicious cycle of protracted crisis.

❖ **Government of Turkey**

The global aid system must be reviewed with a perspective that places the human beings in the center, and the International community must ensure that current conflicts are ended before all and that new conflicts are prevented.

In order to do so, Turkey is proposing four key targeted actions:

- step up efforts **to bring end to violations of international law**, as witnessed in Syria.
- **pursue blood-shedding dictators** and ensure that the crimes committed against humanity do not remain unpunished.
- provide more **assistance to displaced women, children, disabled people and others in need**.
- ensure that every Nation can stand on their own feet in order to **reduce dependency on aid**.

Compiled by Anna Requejo, Dominika M. Kianickova, Yasmine Garaouchi