

# THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT (Istanbul 23-24 May 2016)

## SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA FINAL REPORT

### GENERAL FEATURES OF THE SUMMIT

**The World Humanitarian Summit.** The first World Humanitarian Summit launched by initiative of the United Nations Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon was held in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016 in response to an unprecedented increase of people affected by conflicts and natural disasters. The Summit convened 9,000 participants from 173 Member States, including 55 Heads of State and Government, hundreds of private sector representatives, international, national, regional organizations, academia, and technical experts, people from civil society and non-governmental organizations, and representatives of those affected by crises. The consultation process leading to the Summit involved 23.000 people over three years. The diverse heterogeneous presence of humanitarian stakeholders testifies the complexity of today's humanitarian system, deeply in need of coordination and mutual cooperation. We should consider, for example, that the number of NGOs that can internationally deploy staff has grown from 50 to 500 in only 30 years, and protracted conflicts concentrating in urban areas, where the main victims are innocent civilians, seem to become the new normal.

If the outcome of the Summit was not a revolutionary one, it is quite clear- on the other hand- that "business as usual" in humanitarian action is no longer possible. A serious reshape producing concrete actions on the ground is urgently needed to prevent the suffering and death of millions of people. The Summit brought to the attention of the world the scale of the challenges to meet in order to reduce the needs of the world's most vulnerable people. The 3-year long preparations enabled stakeholders all over the world to put forward their proposals both in the regional meetings and on-line. These consultations produced a large quantity of new ideas and proposals which now need to be examined and put into context. Some criticisms were focused on the lack of mandatory solutions and concrete results. Other criticisms were directed to the fact that the Summit was not inclusive enough and that many organizations and individuals had to struggle to participate.

But nobody can deny that a good base to face the most serious challenges to humanitarian emergencies has been created. A sound "Everest base camp". Not an end point, in the words of the UN Secretary General, but a turning point. The question is now how "to walk the talk".

The works of the Summit were structured around 7 roundtables, 15 special sessions, 132 side events and a plenary session where the participants declared their engagement in reshaping the global humanitarian architecture through hundreds of commitments. The major outcomes of the Summit are the "**Grand Bargain**" and the "**Commitments**" declared by the participants.

The **Grand Bargain** stems from a proposal made by the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel (HLP) on Humanitarian Financing. It reunites 18 member states, 10 UN organizations, the World Bank and international NGOs. The aim of the exercise is to address the US\$15 billion funding gap. Donors and aid organizations came together to negotiate changes in their working practices which, the HLP estimates, will deliver an extra billion dollars over five years for people in need of

humanitarian aid. The Grand Bargain project will provide transparency, more direct money to local actors, cash based assistance, joint needs assessments, reduction of management costs, multi-year planning, simplifying reporting requirements, bridging the humanitarian-development divide. An opportunity for aid providers to show their support and agree to changes in working practices. Moreover it aims to help countries anticipate and prepare for crisis, respond to them as they hit, and facilitate future development. New ways to meet the needs of people caught up in emergencies by working to free up resources, making systems more efficient and transparent, and by securing long-term financial commitments.

The **Commitments** taken by the stakeholders at the Summit referred to the following issues:

*Political leadership to prevent and end conflicts* (humanitarian action cannot be a substitute for political action). Increase skills-base (technical expertise) and funding for people working on conflict prevention and mediation, take early action to prevent crisis, address root causes of conflicts, sharing best practices.

*Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity* (enhance compliance with humanitarian law). Protect women and girls against sexual violence, train state and non-state actors to respect and monitor the implementation of humanitarian law, reduce civilian victims in conflicts, increase humanitarian access, protect hospitals and medical personnel, strengthen accountability for war crimes.

*Leave no one behind* (give priority to those who are more at risk, in particular the 60 million displaced people and those in areas of conflict). Enhance and implement policies and protection legislation for IDPs, fund education in emergencies, provide particular attention to disabled and elderly people.

*Change people's lives: from delivering aid to ending need* (humanitarian emergency can no longer be viewed in isolation from sustainable development). Involve local people in areas of crisis in decision making processes, reinforce national and local capacity, improve people's health in crisis conditions, increase connectivity for affected populations, lead to more predictable finance to allow early action.

*Invest in humanity* (The Summit reinforced the crucial role of financing as the key enabling meeting and reducing needs). Humanitarian needs must be met by adequate and predictable financing. An agreement was found, the so called Grand Bargain, which will help to get more means - up to one billion dollars in efficiency savings over the next five years- into the hands of people in need.

## **THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA AND THE SUMMIT**

**The Sovereign Order of Malta and the Summit.** The Sovereign Order of Malta has been fully engaged in the WHS right from the beginning of the process, launched by UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon in 2013, focusing on the special role of faith-based actors in areas of conflict. The Sovereign Order of Malta took an active part in the Regional Consultation in Budapest and the Global Consultations in Geneva. It also participated in the third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan 14-18 March 2015). This Conference dealt with some issues on the Agenda of the WHS, especially natural disasters. In addition, together with the WHS Secretariat it organized the Symposium “*Religions together for Humanitarian Action – Reaching out to victims of*

*armed conflicts: the special role of faith-based actors*”, at the UN headquarters in Geneva on 27 May 2015. The Symposium gave the Order unprecedented visibility within the international humanitarian community, resulting in the subsequent invitations to join in the preparations for specific WHS events. The Symposium highlighted the unique role of faith-based institutions in humanitarian action. A theme that was widely acknowledged during the Summit in Istanbul, and that took a prominent role becoming the focus of a number of events such as a Special Session and a Side Event, to which the Order of Malta’s contribution was key.

During the two-day Summit, the Sovereign Order of Malta together with Malteser International (its worldwide relief agency), participated in several events and contributed to the discussions. It endorsed the key commitments of the WHS and renewed its humanitarian mission to save and assist people in need. It committed to alert its diplomatic network to promote dialogue and compliance with international humanitarian laws.

The Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta, H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, delivered a speech during the *Plenary Session* (attachment n. 1). He was also among the speakers at the *Special Session* “Religious engagement - the contributions of faith communities to our shared humanity”, which focused on the role of faith-based institutions and organizations in promoting peace and providing relief in areas of conflict. During the event, he called on faith-based organizations to promote the rules of international humanitarian law and invited the international community to discover the benefits of faith-based actors, to make better use of their unique qualities (attachment n.2). The Sovereign Order of Malta participated in the event along with other leaders of religious communities and representatives of different faiths. *The outcome document* that emerged is entitled “Charter for Faith-Based Humanitarian Action” and reflects the process initiated by the Order with its Symposium held in Geneva in 2015, which has led to a general acknowledgement of the pivotal role played by faith-based institutions. It has to be noted that the UN Secretariat included only 2 internet links into this key document. One of them is the link to the Order of Malta official site (attachment n.3). Prof. Michel Veuthey, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Permanent Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the UN Geneva, was among the speakers in the Side Event “One Humanity, Shared responsibilities: Evidence for Religious Groups’ Contribution to Humanitarian Response” (attachment n.4).

## **COMMITMENTS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA**

The Sovereign Order of Malta and Malteser International subscribed 67 commitments. Based on their different roles as a Sovereign Entity and an NGO, these focused on diplomatic activities for the first, and on action oriented areas for the second. *The Order*’s commitments endorsed the commitments presented by the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat in the High-Level Leaders’ Roundtables: “Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity”, “Political leadership to prevent conflicts” and “Leaving no one behind”. The main aspects attracting the commitments of the Order were: providing to the populations in need unimpeded humanitarian access using its tools as a religious, diplomatic and humanitarian actor; strengthening humanitarian law; promoting dialogue among parties, as well as assisting refugees and migrants in Sub-Saharan Africa and those crossing the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea and providing assistance in the countries of arrival. Other commitments concerned the organisation in 2017 of a meeting between religious actors and other stakeholders with a view to improve dissemination and implementation of international

humanitarian law and to join a coordinated global effort to mobilize States, civil societies and global leaders to enhance respect for humanitarian law, humanitarian principles and the rights of refugees (attachment n.5). *Malteser International* concentrated on commitments facilitating the transition from a leading delivery role to an enabling role to national and local actors and on those endorsing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, to develop frameworks for conflict and risk analysis, including early warning mechanisms (attachment n 6).

## **THE BILATERAL MEETINGS**

The Summit offered a unique platform for numerous bi-lateral contacts and interviews of H.E. the Grand Chancellor and H.E. the Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta with important personalities.

The bilateral meetings, which have the important function of fostering relations between the Order and some interlocutors instrumental in the humanitarian action worldwide was also a source of ideas, inspirations and new projects.

## **THE WAY AHEAD**

The Summit's appeal for a better and more sustainable humanitarian action in the world should mobilize political leaders and other stakeholders to produce concrete results to be assessed by a new Summit in 2020. In this framework the engagement of the Order should be long term to follow up the proceedings from the Symposium held in Geneva in 2015, its active participation to the process leading to the Summit and the Commitments expressed in Istanbul by the Grand Chancellor and Malteser International.

**The Secretary General** of the UN will publish his own report, which will be submitted, in September, to the UN General Assembly. He will, on that occasion, "propose to take the Istanbul Commitments forward through inter-governmental processes, inter-agency forums and other mechanisms" for implementation. On 19 and 20 September, two Summits will take place in New York in the margin of the UN General Assembly concerning migrants and refugees. The first Summit held by the United Nations is called "UN Summit on managing large-scale movements of migrants and refugees".

The second conference hosted by President Obama is called "The Leader's Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis" and is organized in order to galvanize significant new global commitments, to increase funding for humanitarian appeals and international organizations, admit more refugees through resettlements or other legal pathways, and increase refugees self-reliance and inclusion through opportunities for education and legal work.

**The Order of Malta** will participate in the main events programmed by the United Nations, like the one on migration mentioned above (19 September in New York), and in other relevant meetings at international level. The Order will, moreover, plan its own follow-up events whenever possible in partnership with other Governments, UN Agencies (UNHCR, OCHA), IOM, ICRC, NGOs, Academia, Religious leaders, FBOs.

In the meantime, the Order will continue to strengthen its cooperation with its partners and pursue its contacts with the President of ICRC, EU Commissioners, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Director General of International Organization for Migration.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

In Istanbul the Order achieved its main objective, i.e. to contribute to the recognition and the affirmation by governments and humanitarian stakeholders of the impact FBOs and religious institutions have in reducing human suffering through their material and spiritual assistance to communities in need. Even non-religious organizations like the UN and its agencies have now recognized that FBOs have a unique comparative advantage in humanitarian contexts, as they enjoy a relationship of trust with local populations in which they are embedded. The WHS was a perfect opportunity to highlight and emphasize the importance of this component of humanitarian action on which the Order can build in the search for new approaches and cooperation initiatives.

## **ORDER OF MALTA DELEGATION**

H.E. Baron Albrecht von Boeselager, Head of Government and Minister of Foreign Affairs (Grand Chancellor) of the Sovereign Order of Malta

H.E. Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel, Minister of Health and International Cooperation (Grand Hospitaller) of the Sovereign Order of Malta

H.E. Ambassador Stefano Ronca, Diplomatic Adviser to the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta

H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to United Nations Office in Geneva

Prof. Michel Veuthey, Deputy-Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to United Nations Office in Geneva

Mr Sid Peruvemba, Vice-Secretary General of Malteser International

Mr Ivo Graziani, Chief of Cabinet of the Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta

Dr. Juergen Clemens, Senior Program Advisor of Malteser International

Ms Marianna Balfour, Press Officer for Diplomatic Affairs

Ms Cecilia Amendolea, Secretariat of the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta

## **VIEWING**

<http://www.orderofmalta.int/>

[www.ungeneva.orderofmalta.int](http://www.ungeneva.orderofmalta.int)

[www.un.int/orderofmalta](http://www.un.int/orderofmalta)

<https://www.facebook.com/OrdineDiMalta/?fref=ts>

<https://twitter.com/orderofmalta>

<https://youtu.be/8abqLaXsj8Q>

[www.worldhumanitariansummit.org](http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org)

**Statement delivered by H.E. the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta during the Plenary Session at the World Humanitarian Summit**

**Istanbul, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Sovereign Order of Malta welcomes this opportunity to reaffirm its over 900-year old commitment and its present global outreach to people in need. The Sovereign Order of Malta adheres through its daily action to the Secretary General's call to leave no one behind.

This service to humanity has and is being carried out without distinction of religion, origin and age in 120 countries.

In order to guarantee a productive outcome of the WHS, we need to ensure that our statements and the commitments we are adhering to translate into concrete action on behalf of all persons that are expecting protection and assistance from us. Their lives and dignity depend on our action or inaction.

In this spirit, one of 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.

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.

We look forward to cooperating with governments and civil society in this field.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is also keen to share its long and worldwide experience by participating in the ongoing humanitarian dialogue, as well as contributing to the training and education of humanitarian staff. The lessons that we and others have learnt can be of valuable assistance in the reform of to-day's humanitarian architecture which requires permanent adaptation and reassessment.

It is only by a constant effort and attention towards the evolution of the needs of assistance and protection that we can try to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Speech by H.E. the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta to  
the WHS Special Session “*Religious Engagement*”**

**Istanbul, 23 May 2016**

Let me first thank you for the opportunity to speak. When the Order of Malta was preparing for the Summit, we never believed that the issue of religion would have come such a long way on the agenda. The fact that we are gathering here today is already a success in itself, but one that must not stop here.

On the question about what we do that is unique, we first need to ask what makes us as religion-based actors distinct from secular actors. Do we do different things, or do we do the same things differently? Many faith-based organizations have professionalized to the point of having no differences to secular actors.

However, there are three elements, by means of which we try to translate faith into concrete commitments:

Firstly, we are prepared to remain in the field for longer periods, and our enduring presence means that we are trusted by the local population. For example, in Lebanon, the Order of Malta has been active for over three decades and reaches out to as many Christians as Muslims. Being open to everyone, providing food and shelter and offering medical services during times of war has created a sense of trust and deep respect for the Order by all denominations. Something we still enjoy today. Our centers across Lebanon have become a symbol of solidarity and coexistence.

Secondly, humanitarian aid is about needs, but often spiritual needs are neglected. We fill this gap by providing individuals with a sense of purpose, and by lifting our assistance beyond the material component.

Thirdly, when it comes to conflicts and assistance in societies that are strongly characterized by religion and traditions, people are sometimes very suspicious of a mere secular agenda. It is then easier to negotiate and find common grounds with parties opposing assistance if we play the religious card.

Moving now to the calls to support faith-based action, I would like to give two quick messages:

To my faith-based colleagues, I strongly encourage to recognize the importance of promoting the rules of International Humanitarian Law. We all can use our religious ‘trust capital’ to amplify humanitarian diplomacy, particularly to secure access to people in need. To this end, we also should establish inter-religious links on the ground and develop new networks for cooperation.

To the international community, I would like to invite you to discover the sometimes hidden benefits of faith-based organisations and to make better use of the unique qualities of local FBOs and faith communities. For instance, I am thinking of more direct funding to local FBOs and a better integration of voices of local religious communities into the decision-making processes.

I stop here and I hope that this special session is only the beginning of an improved engagement between faith-based actors, affected people, governments and international humanitarian organisations.

Thank you!

SPECIAL SESSION  
RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT



Photo: Islamic Relief/Haseeb

**DATE**

23 May 2016

**TIME**

16.00 – 17.00

**LOCATION**

Beylerbeyi

**MODERATOR**

**Azza Karam**, Senior Advisor, Culture (UNFPA)

**SPEAKERS**

**Mr. Vinya Ariyaratne**  
Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka

**His All-Holiness Bartholomew I:** Patriarch of Istanbul

**His Excellency Mr. Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Muaammar**, KAICIID

**His Excellency Mr. Albrecht Boeselager**  
Chancellor, Sovereign Order of Malta

**Ms. Deborah Boudreaux**  
Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation

**Dr. Hany El-Banna**  
The Humanitarian Forum

**Mr. Benjamin Laniado**  
Cadena, Mexico

**His Excellency Mr Gerd Müller**  
Minister, Federal Republic of Germany

**Ms. Alaa Murabit**  
Islamic Action Group, Sierra Leone

**Mr. John Nduna**  
Act Alliance

**Mr. Allen Ottaro**  
Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability, Kenya

**Mr. Antti Pentikäinen**  
Network of Religious and Traditional Leaders and Peacemakers

**Her Excellency Ms. Anne Richards**  
US Department of State

**Sheikh Ibrahim Sesay**  
Islamic Action Group

**Cardinal Antonio Tagle**  
Caritas Internationalis

Many religious institutions and faith-based NGOs (FBOs) have a unique comparative advantage in humanitarian contexts: they have an established relationship of trust and familiarity with most local communities in which they are embedded. Due to their presence before a crisis they are first responders and key providers of assistance and protection during crises, and they will stay after international organizations leave. This Special Session will seek concrete commitments from religious leaders and other humanitarian actors to increase the impact of faith-based actors in reducing humanitarian need and suffering, and their inclusion within policy- and decision-making at all levels of humanitarian response.

**OUTCOMES**

**1**

Commitment to the principles of compassion, humanity and impartiality in the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection

**2**

Commitment to prevent and resolve conflicts, whether or not these have a religious component, and to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation

**3**

Building on faith assets and faith infrastructure in communities, contribute to sustainable solutions to humanitarian crises

**RELATES TO CORE RESPONSIBILITIES**

#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



[whsummit.org](http://whsummit.org)

[#faithWHS](https://www.facebook.com/faithWHS)

[Whsummit](https://www.instagram.com/Whsummit)

[@whsummit #ShareHumanity](https://twitter.com/whsummit)





## SPECIAL SESSION RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT

### IN A NUTSHELL

Religious institutions and faith-based NGOs are often first responders in crises. Utilizing their localized networks, resource mobilization, trust and influence with local communities and commitment to peace and dignity, they provide critical and sustainable contributions to all aspects of humanitarian response as well as subsequent development needs.

More than 250 faith-based leaders and representatives of the world's largest humanitarian organizations, representing all major world faith traditions, gathered at the World Humanitarian Summit's Special Session on Religious Engagement on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. These included representatives from all regions of the world, both religious leaders as well as NGOs, actively engaged in humanitarian relief work in all corners of the globe.

The speakers called upon the international community to recognize and affirm their significant and often unique holistic contributions to humanitarian work, to consider them as equal partners in humanitarian and development work, and to scale up efforts to support their important work in communities around the globe.

In turn, these major faith-based humanitarian actors committed, **together**, in an unprecedented and historic fashion, to: serving the most vulnerable in humanitarian settings; upholding and expanding the significant humanitarian response of faith-based organizations; overcoming the manipulative and abusive attempts to link religion with violence, terrorism, or exclusion of others; keeping affected persons at the center of all assistance planned and provided; maintaining robust beneficiary feedback mechanisms; ensuring that women and girls' rights are protected, their needs are met, and their ability to engage in decision making is enhanced; and continuing to play an active role in response coordination.

Many of the faith based actors were actively engaged in producing content in line with the indications and guidelines received for the WHS social media campaign some of which can be accessed through these links:

<http://www.orderofmalta.int/>

[www.walls.io/faithWHS](http://www.walls.io/faithWHS)



## SPECIAL SESSION RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT

### SUMMARY OF SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Each of the distinguished speakers responded in their presentations, to two questions:

- 1. What does your own organization do in the humanitarian field that is unique to its faith-based identity - please answer through a concrete instance; OR, for our governmental speakers - what does your own office see as the unique or added value of faith-based engagement in humanitarian work?*
- 2. Based on this, what is the call you would make of your fellow faith-based colleagues, but also of all non-faith-based humanitarian actors?*

During the Special Session ‘Religious Engagement: The Contributions of Faith Communities to our Shared Humanity’ religious leaders and faith-based humanitarian actors discussed how to increase the impact of faith-based actors in reducing humanitarian need and suffering, and urged for the inclusion of faith-based humanitarian service deliverers within policy- and decision-making at all levels of humanitarian response. The session was moderated by Ms. Azza Karam, Coordinator of United Nations Task Force on Religion and Development.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I called upon the Members of the Orthodox faith to increase humanitarian action as an expression of their faith. The Patriarch called upon all Christians to make humanitarian action a pillar of unity for the Christian churches and upon all faith based communities to mobilize their constituencies to reach out to those in greatest need and affected by humanitarian crisis. Finally he called upon the international community to increase the synergies between FBO and the international organizations in their common goal to bringing relief to affected communities.

His Excellency Gerd Muller, Minister of Development Cooperation, Federal Republic of Germany pointed to the unifying factor of Religion and the vast and deep reach of FBOs into the communities. He noted that the large majority of people are affiliated to a religion. FBOs are among the first responders and have the ability to attend to the needs of people where and when the State is unable to do so. While the Minister highlighted the importance of religions as partners for the effective change, and the consecutive need for the UN to include them in the implementation of the agenda 2030, he also stressed FBOs’ obligation to combat violent extremism in their own



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ranks. “FBOs need to hold themselves accountable to internationally agreed humanitarian standards” he said. Finally the Minister stressed the importance of safeguarding the freedom of religion as fundamental human right. He renewed Germany’s commitment to support and help locally faith based organizations to build their capacity in humanitarian action.

Cardinal Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis, also started his intervention by highlighting how deeply rooted his organization is in the local communities. “Caritas strives for a world that does not inflict fear”, he said. The Cardinal noted that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has doubled. Genuine international cooperation must engage local communities. “Yet the UN”, he noted “may often fail to recognize and engage with faith based institutions”. FBOs, noted the Cardinal, are in the communities before, during and after the crisis. Caritas is convinced that an essential responsibility of the humanitarian system is to put people the center and involve them in the response. But one size does not fit all. The WHS is an opportunity to transform the humanitarian system and needs to include FBO’s as trusted partners. Only in so doing, stressed the Cardinal, can we seize “a wisdom of compassion and reconciliation”.

Ms. Anne Richards, from the United States Department of State, affirmed the US government’s view of the important role FBOs play in humanitarian action. FBOs have been at the forefront of developing and innovating humanitarian action. The US is recognizing the professionalism, commitment and effectiveness of FBO saving lives around of the world. She noted that many Americans are supporting humanitarian action by giving charity contribution to FBOs. She listed the added values which the FBOs bring to the table: - vast resources and capacities, powerful local presence from the onset of the emergencies and a unique relationships with communities. FBOs are well placed to bridge the gap between humanitarian response and longer term development.

The Order of Malta commended the fact that the WHS it dedicating a special session on religious engagement. The speaker indicated three elements which translate faith into a real asset for humanitarian action.

- FBOs are prepared to stay in the field for a longer period and hence are well accepted by the communities.



SPECIAL SESSION  
RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT

- Humanitarian needs are also spiritual needs – lifting the assistance beyond the material needs of the population and creating a sense of purpose can alleviate much suffering.
- The religious background of the relief workers makes them trusted partners in difficult times.

The Chancellor of the Order of Malta stressed the importance for the FBOs to respect humanitarian law and establish inter-religious links on the ground. He urged the international community to make better use of FBOs in relief efforts, and, in turn, urged the international community to direct more humanitarian funding to local partners.

Dr. Hany El-Banna, Secretary General of The Humanitarian Forum, reminded the audience that “all prophets are calling us to save humanity”. He stressed the importance of partnership and genuine cooperation. “Saving humanity is partnership in action” he said.

Mr. Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muammar, the General Secretary of KAICIID, highlighted the importance of religion and of religious leaders. “Religion is part of the solution” he said. KAICIID also expressed their support to the outcome document of the session.

Mr. John Nduna from the ACT Alliance reminded the audience that his organization represents 140 churches and FBOs working in humanitarian action. 70% of the member organizations are local responders based in the global south. As part of the WHS process ACT Alliance submitted a report in which it made among others following observations: 1) when states experience fragility people identify increasingly with traditional and spiritual structures 2) when the State collapses – the FBOs often fill the gap and are at the sides of the communities .

Moving forward the Alliance is committing to

- using their influence with their constituencies to promote stability and strengthen social cohesion
- Using their reach to design the response with the inclusion of the local communities
- Implementing humanitarian relief in the full respect for humanitarian principles



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Sheikh Ibrahim Sesay of the Islamic Action Group from Sierra Leone, recalled that his country is emerging of a long civil work and the Ebola epidemic. He called upon FBOs and the international community to support the FBO-led humanitarian work.

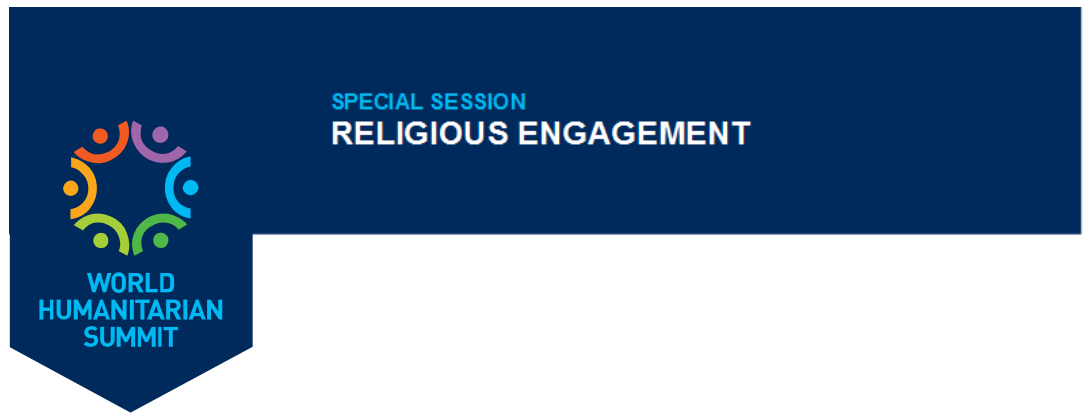
Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, General Secretary of Sarvodaya based in Sri Lanka, advocated for a holistic and integrated approach- based on compassion, love and kindness. The uniqueness of this approach is that it's principles work across all faith as it is focusing on spirituality and not on the specific religious nomination. "We can only affect the population on the ground effectively if spirituality is part of our daily life", he said.

Mr. Benjamin Laniado, from Cadena, based in Mexico, called upon all FBO's to work a single unit – the work in the field needs to be geared to prevention and development of resilience. He cited the three philosophical pillars his organization is observing– help those who need it, educate youth and give more than you receive. Mr. Laniado hoped for an increasing understanding of the premise that God cannot be served if the believers do not support our neighbors who need our help. "We need to use all our fora to develop an army of defendants of humanitarian principle" he said. There is a need to unite the different cultures and overcome institutional interests for which the World Humanitarian Summit is a great opportunity, he concluded.

Ms. Deborah Boudreaux from the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation offered her support to the WHS focus on religious engagement "we are only one voice, only one humanity" she said.

Mr. Allen Ottaro from the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability spoke about young people as the future also in FBOs. He characterized faith as a [German] "Gabe"- a gift but also a [German] "Aufgabe"- a task. For him young people are the greatest assets of FBOs in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as young people are effective peacebuilders and can be part of the solution if involved effectively in the response.

Mr. Antti Pentikäinen from the Network of Religious and Traditional Leaders and Peacemaker reiterated the point made by previous speaker of the deep connection of the FBO with the communities they serve. This aspect is of vital importance as in future the success of humanitarian action will depend on how well we can work with the local communities, he deducted. "Even when the bravest NGOs leave, the FBOs stay, because they are part of the community" he said while calling upon all to not only do what is in their interest but to do what is right. He expressed hope that in each and



every conflict there are people rooted in the community who know how to fix it, the challenge of the international community and the UN is to find them and involve them effectively in the response.

The moderator Dr. Azza Karam from UNFPA ended the session by summing up the diverse presentations in one simple key message from the faith communities to the international gathering at the WHS “see us, hear us, know us and work with us”.

### COMITMENTS MADE at the WHS

In addition to the historic Outcome Document, several commitments were articulated by the diverse speakers, ranging from the Order of Malta’s ongoing extensive work on faith engagement and actual service delivery, to the global policy-oriented infrastructure announced (and realized) by the German Ministry of Development Cooperation in tandem with USAID - the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD).

[Commitments Extracted from the Outcome Document]

We, faith-based organizations and religious leaders, commit to:

...Upholding the principles of compassion, humanity and impartiality in our provision of humanitarian assistance and protection in alignment with fundamental humanitarian principles.

...Upholding and expanding the significant humanitarian response of faith-based organizations and to overcome the manipulative and abusive attempts to link religion with violence, terrorism, or exclusion of others. By so doing, we aim to resolve conflicts and work to promote reconciliation.

...Working together to better contextualize humanitarian response, leveraging our added value to reach people in need of assistance and protection, and using our influence to mobilize our local communities in support of these efforts.

...Ending hunger and serving the most vulnerable in humanitarian [by] bringing our intimate knowledge of community needs, practices, fears, and hopes to humanitarian work.



## SPECIAL SESSION RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT

WORLD  
HUMANITARIAN  
SUMMIT

...Keeping affected persons at the center of all assistance planned and provided, maintaining robust beneficiary feedback mechanisms.

...Ensuring that women and girls rights are protected, their needs are met, and that their ability to engage in decision making is enhanced; as this is a proven strategy for increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian action as a means of building resilience for all members of families and communities.

...Continuing to play an active role in response coordination, while we reinforce organizational systems and structures to allow us to meet growing humanitarian needs.

...In addition to material assistance and other services, we [therefore] commit to facilitating spiritual assistance which can significantly contribute to the population's sense of hope during and after a disaster, while prohibiting pressuring people into any religious practice.

... Continuing to work with national governments to recognize and affirm the role of faith and faith based organisations to provide faith-based assistance to communities in need.

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See Annex of the full OUTCOME DOCUMENT **which was referenced and duly endorsed at the Special Session.**



### **Provision of aid to all those who need it**

Our religious teachings, although diverse, teach us the importance of compassion and of one common shared humanity, where each human being is important in him/herself. Human dignity and the welfare of all people are the main objectives of faith and religion, with the principal role to serve other people. Learning from faith-based organisations, which are known to provide selfless service to all in need, irrespective of their faith, ethnicity, gender, and geography, we (faith-based organisations and other humanitarian actors), **commit** to upholding the principles of compassion, humanity and impartiality in our provision of humanitarian assistance and protection in alignment with fundamental humanitarian principles.

### **Contribution to peace and reconciliation**

In a world where conflicts, violence, and natural disaster affect millions of people, faith-based entities share a critical responsibility and role in working for peace, both at local and national or international levels. We facilitate sustainable behavior and relationship changes based on faith and worldview, offering mediation and sacred space for dialogue between parties.

We **commit** to uphold and expand the significant humanitarian response of faith-based organizations and to overcome the manipulative and abusive attempts to link religion with violence, terrorism, or exclusion of others. By so doing, we aim to resolve conflicts and work to promote reconciliation.

We **call** upon religious communities to use their social capital to amplify humanitarian diplomacy and to promote compliance with International Humanitarian Law as this contributes to the maintenance and restoration of peace.

We call upon the United Nations, international organizations, regional and national authorities to acknowledge and support these roles, and to encourage them.

### **Proximity to communities**

Through local faith communities and grassroots NGOs, faith-based actors are uniquely placed to engage in humanitarian action: faith-based actors often enjoy close proximity to, or are part of the populations affected by wider crises, and have therefore developed special relationships of trust, as well as insights and access to community members compared to many other actors; we are often present before crises, and are first responders when disasters hit. We are key providers of assistance and protection during crises and their aftermath.

We **call** upon international organizations to recognize and affirm the significant, and often unique contributions of religious communities and NGOs, and to consider them to be equal partners, opening up access to adequate funding to support our efforts.

We (faith-based and other humanitarian actors) **commit** to working together to better contextualize humanitarian response, leveraging our added value to reach people in need of assistance and protection, and using our influence to mobilize our local communities in support of these efforts.



### Direct humanitarian contribution

In addition to their social and spiritual work, faith-based organizations conduct humanitarian action in situations of crises, for the benefit of all people affected, those sharing their faith as well as those of other faiths and non-believers.

We **call** for this support to be recognized by international and national actors, and government and donor organisations, as a contribution to alleviating needs and the effects of humanitarian crises.

We **call** for constructive dialogue between faith and non-faith players in the larger interest of communities in need.

We **call** upon leaders of communities, other community-based religious organizations, to educate faith and community leaders in humanitarian action in collaboration with faith-based humanitarian organizations, as we expect humanitarian actors to be educated in the unique ways of working and perspective of the faith community.

Our commitment to end hunger and to serve the most vulnerable in a humanitarian setting depends on knowledge and sensitivity to cultural and religious norms. We **commit** to bringing our intimate knowledge of community needs, practices, fears, and hopes to humanitarian work.

We **commit** to keeping affected persons at the center of all assistance planned and provided, maintaining robust beneficiary feedback mechanisms.

We **commit** to ensuring that women and girls rights are protected, their needs are met, and that their ability to engage in decision making is enhanced; as this is a proven strategy for increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian action as a means of building resilience for all members of families and communities.

We **commit** to continuing to play an active role in response coordination, while we reinforce organizational systems and structures to allow us to meet growing humanitarian needs.

### Spiritual assistance

Religious communities and faith-based organisations are uniquely positioned to provide spiritual assistance to people affected by conflict and disaster.

We **request** all actors to recognise the right of communities in need to access the best of spiritual service and seek to collaborate with faith leaders and faith based organisations to provide for the same.

In addition to material assistance and other services, we therefore **commit** to facilitating spiritual assistance which can significantly contribute to the population's sense of hope during and after a disaster, while prohibiting pressuring people into any religious practice.

We **commit** to continuing to work with national governments to recognize and affirm the role of faith and faith based organisations to provide faith-based assistance to communities in need.

**World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, 23 May 2016  
Side-event “One Humanity, Shared Responsibilities:  
Evidence for Religious Groups’ Contributions to Humanitarian Response”<sup>i</sup>**

**“Religions & Humanitarian Law and Action: A much needed dialogue and mutual support”**

**Speech By Professor Michel Veuthey,  
Deputy Permanent Observer of the Order of Malta to United Nations in Geneva  
Vice President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law  
Professor of International Law, Webster University, Geneva**

Today, a **better dialogue** between religions and international humanitarian law (IHL) is much needed for the following three main reasons:

First, in order to explore the anthropological sources of IHL in **all civilizations**;<sup>2</sup>

Second, at a time when limits of positive law are clear in the practice of States and Non-State actors, we need to **deepen the motivations to abide by IHL** in a multidisciplinary and intercultural approach. We must look beyond the letter of legal instruments and implementation mechanisms. We need to find deeper, more personal and more local motivations for individual combatants and parties to conflicts to respect the fundamental rules and principles of IHL;

Third, in order to reach a true universality of IHL (not only through the universal ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions), we shall **reaffirm fundamental rules and principles of humanitarian law** in the “public conscience” of all civilizations and religions<sup>3</sup>.

This being said, I would now like to focus on the contribution of religions and FBOs to the protection of war victims in four points:

First, the **historical sources of rules** regulating hostilities and providing for humane treatment of war victims are to be found in religions of all civilizations<sup>4</sup>.

These religion-based rules are of two types :

A taboo by which it was forbidden to attack women and children, destroy sacred places, to kill priests or people in religious orders

The Golden Rule, which can be found in most civilizations, and which can be summarized as: “Do unto others what you would like them to do to you”

These rules were set to ensure the survival of the group. These limits to violence and the notion of responsibility for others were, for the most part, only valid within the group. They need to be understood and implemented in an inclusive rather than exclusive way.

Second, **religions, yesterday and still today, remain in many parts of the world the inspiration, the reference, for assisting and protecting war victims**. We cannot separate religion from the implementation of international humanitarian law. Indeed, in 1999, the ICRC produced a survey, for the 50th Anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, on the reasons which motivate civilians

and military to implement IHL. One of the most astonishing results was that the reasons generally quoted were religious convictions.

Third, in case of loopholes or failure of positive law (including rejection by States or Non-State actors), **religions are the safety net for up-holding essential considerations of humanity** included in international humanitarian law (such as protecting civilians), human rights law (such as the prohibition of torture), refugee law (asking for a humane treatment for asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced persons)<sup>5</sup>.

Last, in many cases, away from the spotlight of international public opinion, **religious leaders and FBOs are actors in reconciliation and reconstruction**. An example can be found in the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Africa, Latin America and in others parts of the world. Most of them were the work of spiritual leaders who had the trust and respect of all parties to the conflict. Religions even helped former enemies to go beyond confrontation, beyond criminal justice, by bringing them together for reconciliation and reconstruction, not only of buildings but more in a sense of communities<sup>6</sup>.

And eventually religious leaders could **reaffirm two fundamental provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Common Article One and Common Article 3**. Both provisions were highlighted by the International Court of Justice<sup>7</sup> and their essential message could usefully be promoted by religious leaders worldwide and by local religious communities.

- According to **Common Article One** the States Party undertake to “respect and ensure respect” for the Conventions in all circumstances.” “Respect” clearly refers to the individual obligation to apply it in good faith. “To ensure respect”, according to the ICRC Commentary to the 1949 Conventions, “demands in fact that the States Parties should not be content merely to apply its provisions themselves, but should do everything in their power to ensure that it is respected universally”<sup>8</sup>.

- **Common Article Three** was qualified by the International Court of Justice in 1986 as “elementary considerations of humanity” binding all parties to conflicts, States and Non-State actors<sup>9</sup>.

In conclusion, as the previous examples have demonstrated, religious leaders and FBOs need to **be more creative and bold in applying remedies** to promote the respect of fundamental values in all situations.

The Symposium “*Religions Together for Humanitarian Action*”<sup>10</sup> organized by the Order of Malta in collaboration with the WHS Secretariat in Geneva last year formulated Proposals for Action in particular to:

- establish new approaches for **cooperation between faith-based actors**;
- start discussions with religious leaders on the **convergence of shared values**;
- set up a **Charter for humanitarian action by FBOs/institutions**;
- agree on a ‘multi-faith compact’ to reaffirm humanitarian principles (including **Common Articles 1 and 3 of 1949 Geneva Conventions**).

Allow me to refer to the **Commitments of the Order of Malta** to the High Level Round Tables of this WHS, in particular to the RT entitled “Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity”

Firstly, the Order will use its unique position as a religious, diplomatic and humanitarian actor **to strengthen and promote international humanitarian law and other legal instruments protecting human life and dignity.**

Secondly, the Order commits to organizing **a meeting in 2017 to explore how FBO can better assist civilians in time of conflict and to assess the connection between conflict, religion and humanitarian action**

Thirdly, the Order of Malta will continue to **use its diplomatic network** and status to provide support in implementing humanitarian aid and to promote dialogue among parties.

In conclusion, I would like to say: as the spiritual dimension was at the origin of universal fundamental human values, we now need to **bring back the spirit of humanity into the letter of international humanitarian law.**

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8abqLaXsj8Q&feature=youtu.be>

<sup>2</sup> See « International Humanitarian Law and Spirituality » Refugee Survey Quarterly, Geneva, UNHCR, Vol. 21, Nr. 3, 2002, pp. 45-110

[www.academia.edu/4373064/INTERNATIONAL\\_HUMANITARIAN\\_LAW\\_AND\\_SPIRITUALITY](http://www.academia.edu/4373064/INTERNATIONAL_HUMANITARIAN_LAW_AND_SPIRITUALITY)

« Religions et droit international humanitaire : histoire et actualité d'un dialogue nécessaire », in Anne-Sophie Millet-Devalle (Ed.) Religions et Droit International Humanitaire. Paris, Pedone, 2008, pp. 9-45

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<sup>3</sup> See the dissenting opinion by Judge Weeramantry in the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Nuclear Weapons Dissenting Opinion p. 478

<sup>4</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross, People on War. ICRC worldwide consultation on the rules of war. Country Report. Parallel Research Program, CICR, Genève, 1999, p. 14

[https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc\\_002\\_0758.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc_002_0758.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> See Hunsinger, George (Ed.)

Torture is a Moral Issue: Christians, Jews, Muslims, and People of Conscience Speak Out. Grand Rapids, Michigan, William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2008, 272 p.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/torture/upload/TortureIsAMoralIssueCatholicStudyGuide.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> See Priscilla B. Hayner, Unspeakable Truths: Facing the Challenge of Truth Commissions, Routledge, New York, 2002, 344 p., as well as Justice and Reconciliation. An Integrated Approach. Current Problems of International Humanitarian Law. Sanremo, 7-9 September 2006. Proceedings. San Remo, 2007, 2008.

[www.iihl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Justice-and-Reconciliation.pdf](http://www.iihl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Justice-and-Reconciliation.pdf) and “The Imam & the Pastor. A documentary from the heart of Nigeria” [www.iofc.org/imam-pastor](http://www.iofc.org/imam-pastor)

<sup>7</sup> Article 1 in the Nicaragua Case (1986) and in the Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2004). Article 3 in the Nicaragua Case (1986), p.14, par. 218

<sup>8</sup> See Knut Dörmann and Jose Serralvo “Common Article 1 to the Geneva Conventions and the obligation to prevent international humanitarian law violations” International Review of the Red Cross (2014), 96 (895/896), 707–736.

<sup>9</sup> International Court of Justice, Case concerning the military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America), Judgement of 27 June 1986 (Merits), Vol. 114, Para. 218 <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/70/6503.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> See the full Report online :

<https://consultations.worldhumanitariansummit.org/node/502313>

<http://bit.ly/1LJz1o>



## **Commitment of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the WHS High-Level Leaders Roundtables, in particular the Roundtable entitled “*Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity*”**

The Sovereign Order of Malta endorses all the Core Commitments presented by the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat in the framework of the seven High Level Leaders Roundtables.

On the topic “Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity” (to be covered in Roundtable No. 5), the Sovereign Order of Malta endorses in particular Core Commitment number 3 (“**Commit to ensure populations in need receive timely and unimpeded humanitarian access**”) and will pay special attention to the following:

**Firstly**, the Order will use its unique position as a religious, diplomatic and humanitarian actor to strengthen and promote international humanitarian law and other legal instruments protecting human life and dignity and their implementation and compliance. In particular we will promote Common Article 1 and 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and, in general, promote the protection of humanitarian and medical personnel, as strongly urged by Resolution S/RES 2286 (2016) recently adopted by the Security Council.

**Secondly**, in the spirit of the Symposium “*Religions together for Humanitarian Action*” organized with the United Nations in Geneva in 2015, the Order commits to organizing a meeting in 2017: 1) to explore how faith-based organizations and humanitarian actors can better assist and protect civilians in times of conflict and 2) to assess the connection between conflict, religion and humanitarian action.

**Thirdly**, the Order of Malta will continue to use its diplomatic network and status to provide support in implementing humanitarian aid and to promote dialogue among parties. In 2015, it provided a neutral setting for opposing parties in Libya to convene and discuss the main humanitarian emergencies. The Order commits to a facilitating role wherever there is a possibility of exchange and cooperation between different parties.

On the topic “Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts” (to be covered in Roundtable No. 1), the Order of Malta will identify supportive religious leaders of all faiths and religions to act together to influence communities to promote peace. We will make our network and diplomatic means available to ensure that religious actors use their sphere of influence and their moral obligation to promote and bring into force the fundamental principles and basic rules of human rights at both State and community levels. We believe that religion in this way will be a driver for peace.

On the topic “Leaving No One Behind – A Commitment to Address Forced Displacement” (to be covered in Roundtable No. 4), the Order of Malta will continue to protect and assist refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea. To this end, it will continue to provide medical, psychological and rescue teams on board the Italian Navy, Coast Guard and private vessels. It also commits to ensuring long-term assistance, from medical care to integration projects, for the benefit of the thousands of refugees arriving in Europe, based on ongoing effective programs. These programs include medical and social assistance, legal assistance to apply for asylum requests, and educational projects to enhance integration into the social fabric of migrants who remain in European countries.

## **An overview of the Order of Malta's current projects for refugees**

In December 2015, the Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta launched the **Aegean SAR** Operation to rescue the migrants crossing the sea in often overcrowded and makeshift boats from the Turkish coasts. A particularly perilous journey due to very low temperatures of the water and the presence of many under sea rocks. Since the beginning of the year, the doctors of the Order of Malta have saved about 1.500 people at risk of dying of hypothermia and chemical burns. In the **South Mediterranean**, the **Italian Relief Corps** doctors, nurses and psychologists have been actively present, round the clock, since 2008.

The worldwide relief agency of the Order of Malta, Malteser International, has been present in the Middle East area – Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria- since 2012, and currently assists circa 80,000 people in need. Through its local partners, a field hospital provides medical first aid in the Bab Al Salam camps in northern **Syria**.

In **Turkey**, at the Syrian border, a field hospital has been running for over 3 years, treating wounded and sick refugees. Staff of the Order of Malta also provides psychosocial assistance to the many displaced, often severely traumatized by the experience of war and of leaving their homeland. Educational programs in schools are also offered to the young refugees .in the Vali in Karhamanmaras, in southern Turkey. With the support of Malteser International, its Syrian partner organization has recently opened a branch in Istanbul providing educational services.

In **Lebanon**, since 2012, the Order of Malta has been distributing first aid kits, medicines, blankets and food to the refugees. The programs are aimed not only at the refugees living in the improvised camps in the country but also at the impoverished within the Lebanese population. In the Akkar province, a mobile unit provides medical aid and health prevention campaigns, which are run regularly. Socio-medical centers in Khaldieh and in the Bekaa Valley run by the Order of Malta provide free medical consultations and care to the many refugees hosted in the country.

In the Kurdistan region, in **Northern Iraq**, the Order of Malta implements and coordinates activities in the health care sector providing medicines and offering assistance in a health care centre for IDPs. About 150 people are treated every day. Medical teams including specialists in psychological assistance areas are also deployed in health care centers in the Bersevi and Khadia camps where many Yazidis have found refuge.

In the wake of the influx of refugees in the summer of 2015, the Eastern European associations of the Order of Malta (**Hungary, Austria and Germany**) scaled up their programs to provide medical assistance to the refugees taking the Balkan route. Here activities are aimed not only at responding to the emergency needs but also at facilitating integration in the social fabric. In **France**, a long-standing project provides legal assistance to immigrants detained in prison and helps them in the asylum request procedures.

Compilation of Commitments for alignment by Malteser International on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Summit on the basis of Core Commitments to the 7 High Level Leaders' Roundtables as well as samples of additional Commitments laid out in WHS-Commitment documents with references to these Roundtables and last but not least Commitments and equivalents "action areas" (charters, platforms etc.) laid out with the 15 Special Sessions.

These aligned commitments will be reflected within our internal strategy development and thereupon in our programming design as well as in our monitoring and reporting procedures.

Cologne, Istanbul May 24, 2016

Sid Peruvemba  
*dpty. Secretary General*

Dr. Jürgen Clemens  
*Senior Program Advisor*

## **HLL-RT (1):**

### **Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts**

#### **Core Commitment 1:**

**Commit to act early upon potential conflict situations based on early warning findings and shared conflict analysis.**

Malteser International will strengthen and if necessary, develop comprehensive, shared frameworks for conflict and risk analysis including early warning mechanisms at the local, national, regional and international level.

Malteser International declares its support for the Code of Conduct on mass atrocities

Malteser International will systemize Gender and Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk analysis in conflict analysis including the use of community and wo-men informed local early warning mechanisms to identify and defuse conflicts early.

## **HLL-RT (2):**

### **Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity**

**Core commitment 3: Commit to ensure all populations in need receive rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance.**

Malteser International commits to actively promote the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence in humanitarian action in its programming, liaison with partners and stakeholders on the ground, reporting and publications.

Malteser International commits to ensuring that all humanitarian response activities have the aim of making people safer, preserving their dignity and reducing vulnerabilities by building the skills of staff according to their duties in areas such as protection, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and adhering to humanitarian principles.

**Core commitment 4: Commit to promote and enhance efforts to respect and protect medical personnel, transports and facilities, as well as humanitarian relief personnel and assets against attacks, threats or other violent acts.**

### **HLL-RT (3):**

#### **Leave No One Behind: A Commitment to Address Forced Displacement**

**Core Commitment 1: Commit to a new approach to addressing forced displacement that not only meets immediate humanitarian needs but reduces vulnerability and improves the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees and IDPs. Commit to implementing this new approach through coherent international, regional and national efforts that recognize both the humanitarian and development challenges of displacement. Commit to take the necessary political, policy, legal and financial steps required to address these challenges for the specific context.**

#### **Core Commitment 3:**

**Acknowledge the global public good provided by countries and communities which are hosting large numbers of refugees. Commit to providing communities with large numbers of displaced populations or receiving large of number of returnees with the necessary financial, political and policy support to address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact. To this end, commit to strengthen multilateral financing instruments. Commit to foster host communities' self-reliance and resilience, as part of the comprehensive and integrated approach outlined in core commitment 1.**

By 2018, Malteser International will direct 20% of its international assistance and financing towards national and local systems that address the needs of IDPs, refugees and host communities.

Malteser International will provide technical support and funding to its partnership network to collect data disaggregated by sex, age and other social factors, and assess needs of urban IDPs/refugees and the impact of displacement on host communities in urban areas, and enhance coordination with local actors and implement solutions that benefit the displaced and their host communities in urban areas.

### **HLL-RT (4):**

#### **Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality**

#### **Commitment 1:**

**Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women-led groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.**

Malteser International commit to ensuring that women access equally cash assistance programmes, sustainable and dignified livelihoods, vocational and skills training opportunities throughout humanitarian programme cycle by 2020.

Malteser International commit to ensuring meaningful participation of women and adolescent girls in all formal and informal decision-making from refugee camp committees to peace processes, reaching parity with men and adolescent boys by 2030.



Malteser International commit that 25% of implementing partners are women's organizations by 2020, and are 30% by 2030.

**Commitment 3:**

**Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.**

Malteser International that has not yet signed on to the Call to Action and its Roadmap, including those from crisis-affected countries commits to do so by 2017 and make commitments commensurate with their mandates, capacities, and resources.

Malteser International commit to developing and implementing strategies for the engagement of men and boys as part of the solution to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis settings by 2018.

Malteser International commit to fully implementing the IASC GBV Guidelines by 2018.

**Commitment 4:**

**Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive**

Malteser International commits to apply the IASC, ECHO or other gender and age markers to 100% of their humanitarian funding allocations by 2018.

**Commitment 5:**

**Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights.**

Malteser International commits to comply with existing gender equality norms enshrined in international legal frameworks governing conflicts, including the Geneva Conventions, its Additional Protocols, customary international law as well as international refugee law with immediate effect.

**HLL-RT (5): Changing People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need**

**Commitment 1:**

**Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes.**

***Anticipate, Do Not Wait:* to invest in risk analysis and to incentivize early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of known risks and hazards on people.**

Malteser International commits to promote lessons learned, best practice and evidence based innovation through the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation.

***Reinforce, Do Not Replace:* to support and invest in national and local leadership and response systems wherever possible, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms.**

Malteser International commits to support the Humanitarian Partnership Platform to better utilize the contributions and comparative advantage of businesses in addressing risk and vulnerability at national and regional levels.

Malteser International commits to transition systematically from a leading delivery role to an advisory/ enabling role to national and local actors in its operational areas by 2025, wherever the context allows.

Malteser International commits to translate into operational terms the goal of cash-based delivery of assistance as preferred method, where context allows.

***Preserve and retain emergency capacity: to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles.***

***Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides: work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years and based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors. The primacy of humanitarian principles will continue to underpin humanitarian action.***

Malteser International commits to adopt a new model of working, based on a coordinated analysis of vulnerability as well as other tools and processes such as multi-year planning that enable humanitarian-development collaboration to meet humanitarian needs, and reduce people's risk and vulnerability and increase resilience at national levels.

Malteser International commits to support the UN Resident Coordinator /Humanitarian Coordinator's leadership on the coordination of international engagement and to mobilize resources to support the delivery of collective outcomes.

## **HLL-RT (6):**

### **Natural Disasters & Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crises Differently**

#### **Core Commitment 1:**

**Commit to accelerate the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as other relevant strategies and programs of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.**

Malteser International commits to increasing its own funding for disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities.

#### **Core Commitment 3:**

**Commit to improve the understanding, anticipation and preparedness for disaster and climate-related risks by investing in data, analysis and early warning, and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action.**

Malteser International commits to systematically collect, analyse and use data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors and incorporate a gender analysis when developing, implementing and monitoring disaster risk reduction and management programs.

#### **Core Commitment 4:**

**Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.**

Malteser International commits to join a new coalition to strengthen the resilience of 1 billion people by 2025.

Malteser International commits to align its support behind national and local resilience efforts, and provide vulnerable people with a mix of short term assistance to address immediate needs and longer-term assistance to improve self-reliance.

Malteser International commits to increase substantially cash-based assistance to enable people to exercise choice and be more self-reliant, and make this the norm for humanitarian relief wherever feasible.

Malteser International commits to the participation of civil society, including the private sector, in the design, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk management policies and programs.

Malteser International commits to stimulate locally devised strategies and services, including livelihood generation and employment opportunities, to reduce dependency and vulnerability before, during and after shocks.

## **HLL-RT (7):**

### **Financing: Investing in Humanity**

#### **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.**

Recognising the potentially transformative power of humanitarian cash transfers Malteser International 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.

#### **Core Commitment 2:**

**Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the financing available to local and national actors, and providing support to enhance national delivery systems, organizational capacity, and preparedness;**

#### **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 Malteser International 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

- 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.

## **Special Session: People at the Centre**

There was a strong call from the World Humanitarian Summit consultations for all humanitarian action to put affected people at the heart of humanitarian action by making changes which:

- recognize people and communities affected by crises as the primary agents of response, increasing their voice, choice and leadership in humanitarian assistance and protection
- support individual and community-based self-protection coping strategies, systems and mechanisms, reducing dependency and vulnerability
- increase accountability to affected people

Please check the appropriate box below to make the following commitments:

- Adopt the Core Humanitarian Standard and International Aid Transparency Initiative Standard, with clear benchmarks for achieving these through the CHS Alliance self-assessment tool.
- Adopt the IASC statement on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the individual agency level
- Establish a common approach to providing information to affected people and collecting, aggregating and analysing feedback from communities to influence decision-making processes at strategic and operational levels.

## **Special Session: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into Humanitarian Action**

Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized in crisis affected communities. They are often unable to access assistance and are rarely included in decision-making processes. **To address these challenges, the Special Session will launch a Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, as well as a concrete action plan to implement it.**

- Ensure full participation of persons with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian response
- Participate to the development of global guidelines and standards, aiming at improving the practices of humanitarian actors towards emergency preparedness and responses that are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities
- Strengthen cooperation among all humanitarian actors to improve their response in terms of inclusion, facilitating cross-learning, training programmes, sharing of information and best practices

Please indicate your organisation's support for the charter and its associated action plan by checking the boxes below

- Endorse the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
- Endorse part or all of the action plan to implement the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

## **Special Session: The Education Crisis Platform *Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises***

The **proposed Education Crisis Platform** addresses one of the greatest development challenges of our day – that of restoring the hope and futures of new generations whose lives have been shattered by crises. Fixing the system will require more than piecemeal reform. The proposed Education Crisis Platform is about taking decisive action on behalf of children and young people in emergencies and protracted crises. The Platform is framed to deliver early, cost-effective results while building for the future. Rather than create a new institution and more fragmentation, it harnesses and weaves together the expertise, energy and capabilities of a range of actors. It requires additional funding and the proposal is relatively modest. By scaling up towards a funding target of at least US\$3.85 billion by 2020, the Platform could restore education opportunities to some 13.6 million children and young people – more than 15% of those in need – over the next 5 years, rising to reach all 80 million affected by crises by 2030. It's a shared problem, with massive potential to

make progress by working collaboratively: every contribution, whether financial or non-financial, will make a difference. What does it mean to commit to the Education Crisis Platform?

- Political commitment - Draw attention to and mobilize support, across all stakeholders, for education crises. Work at all political levels to support national governments on education response and to facilitate efficient ways of working across the humanitarian and development architecture.
  - New and additional funding - Mobilize additional funding and new investments, offering up-front and medium-term help to those responsible for providing, maintaining or reconstructing education.
  - Contribute to innovative solutions - Promote new solutions and incentivize existing systems to improve data and evidence, build capacity and strengthen accountability, with an emphasis on sustainable initiatives.
- To register your organization as a supporter of the Education Platform, please check here

## **Special Session: Global Health in Crisis Settings**

**A global accord to enable the provision of an essential package of services for protecting and promoting the health of crisis-affected people through an inter-connected set of actions:**

- Promote health outcomes at the centre of collective humanitarian action
  - Build national core capacities required under the International Health Regulations, as part of sustainable national health systems
  - Improve the reliability of collective health emergency response by transforming international health co-operation and more predictable financing arrangements
  - Bridge the humanitarian-development divide and strengthen the links between health and humanitarian actors
  - Prevent attacks and protect healthcare delivery
- To register your organization as a supporter of the Global Accord please check here

## **Special Session: Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI)**

The Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI) aims to help the global community more effectively and efficiently meet humanitarian needs by promoting the use and application of innovative tools, approaches, partnerships, and processes and by

engaging a diverse and valued group of thought leaders, practitioners and innovators. The GAHI's purpose is to address the innovation needs of the humanitarian sector which cannot be effectively tackled in isolation or by individual actors working on their own. Furthermore, by stocktaking and connecting existing initiatives, associations and networks under the umbrella of a global alliance and matching their capacities against our shared humanitarian challenges; the GAHI can ensure that efforts in addressing humanitarian challenges are not duplicative but rather building on existing solutions. The GAHI will function to ensure that the lessons, effective practices and networks of disparate humanitarian innovation initiatives that have trialed novel ways to engage and work with businesses and affected communities are promoted, connected and leveraged on a wider scale. The launch of the GAHI will mark a critical shift in how humanitarians collectively engage with those outside of their traditional circles, through an alliance approach with a common goal: to overcome humanitarian challenges by using innovation to build bridges between actors with different expertise and comparative advantages. This new alliance will be uniquely positioned to bring together people and organizations from across different areas and expertise to collaborate on innovative and transformative solutions to the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.

- ☑ To register your organization as a supporter of the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI), please check [here](#).

## **Special Session: Humanitarian Principles**

The first goal of the Summit is to reaffirm and re-inspire our shared commitment to humanity and the universality of humanitarian principles. This is the only way we can hope to alleviate the suffering of the 125 million people in our world who are at risk of being left behind. Ensuring universal respect for the humanitarian principles is a critical element for taking the Agenda for Humanity forward, while recognizing the different responsibilities of different stakeholders in relation to those principles. The objective of the Special Session on humanitarian principles will be to identify a series of commitments on how to better respect and more consistently apply those principles, as a major contribution towards the Agenda for Humanity.

- Malteser International commits to greater transparency on how it upholds humanitarian principles in practice, including on the constraints faced in applying them, through peer-to-peer lesson learning or other relevant accountability mechanism

***Commitment type: – Policy***

## **Special Session: Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People**

Recognizing the humanitarian responsibility to protect the rights and address the specific needs of young people, including adolescents, and to engage them and their unique capacities in humanitarian action the Special Session will launch a “Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action” that will work towards ensuring that the priorities and needs of all affected young people, including forcibly displaced and host community youth living alongside them are addressed, and that young people are consulted, informed and engaged in humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery. The Compact will be operationalized through a multi-stakeholder platform that will build upon the work of existing inter-agency groups.

- To register your organisation as a supporter of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, please check here

## **Special Session: Connecting Business Transforming Private Sector Engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery**

Connecting Business is a multi-stakeholder initiative that replicates and scales effective structures for private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery in high risk countries and regions, and operates a global portal connecting businesses with each other and other actors. It is transforming the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises to create more resilient communities, increase local capacity and alleviate human suffering. The Connecting Business initiative is meeting the demands of the private sector and other actors heard during consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to create and strengthen business networks, to engage the private sector holistically and to create a clear entry point for the private sector. The initiative is managed by a secretariat, operating a global portal and supporting business networks. The Connecting Business initiative will be formally launched during a Special Session at the WHS, where institutional and joint commitments will be made by Connecting Business partners and delivered over the next three to five years. The Connecting Business initiative has multi-tiered partnering opportunities for businesses, governments, civil society organizations and international organizations. New and existing stakeholders are invited to register their commitments.

- I / my organization wishes to participate in and support the Connecting Business initiative by

5 ) registering to use the global portal.

Malteser International wishes to participate in and support the Connecting Business initiative by 5) registering to use the global portal.



## **Special Session: Risk and Vulnerability Analysis**

The objective of the **Special Session on Risk and Vulnerability Analysis** is to call for urgent action to improve collective understanding, analysis and action for future crisis in order to avoid precipitation of multi-causal, complex humanitarian, political, social, and economic crises - at all levels and most importantly, to generate a range of commitments and concrete actions to establish a global community space which does not currently exist.

**The Global Risk Platform** is an innovative, interlinked, integrated global community space for stakeholders and practitioners from all relevant disciplines to map, unite the existing risk, vulnerability and threat analysis initiatives, to share data, strategies and resources – human, material or financial – backed by political action in building resilience to evolving risks.

To register your organization as a supporter of the **Global Risk Platform**, please check here.