



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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To: Delegations

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Subject: World Humanitarian Summit preparatory process
- Council Conclusions (10 December 2015)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on the World Humanitarian Summit preparatory process, adopted by the Council at its 3436th meeting held on 10 December 2015.

World Humanitarian Summit preparatory process

Council Conclusions

1. The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) convened by the UN Secretary General in Istanbul in May 2016 presents a historic opportunity to build a global partnership among a wide range of actors within and beyond the existing humanitarian system so as to prevent and end human suffering, address the root causes of crises and make sure no one is left behind. The Summit should commit to mobilising all instruments – in particular humanitarian, developmental as well as diplomatic – to reduce vulnerability and fragility, resolve conflicts and build resilience in communities. The Summit marks a decisive moment to ensure that humanitarian action – based on the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – delivers more effectively and ensures a sustainable future for the millions of people affected by conflicts as well as by natural and man-made disasters.
2. The Council welcomes the inclusive WHS consultation process and takes note of the contributions made by a wide range of humanitarian and other actors. The Council welcomes the Commission Communication "Towards the World Humanitarian Summit: A global partnership for principled and effective humanitarian action", which sets out key recommendations for action. The Council looks forward to the European Parliament's report "Preparing for the World Humanitarian Summit: Challenges and opportunities for humanitarian assistance" as a valuable contribution ahead of the Istanbul Summit.

3. The Council calls on all actors to set aside other interests and enable substantial change to make the humanitarian system more inclusive and one of true partnership that includes the people affected by crises. The Summit should produce practicable outcomes and specific commitments made by all relevant actors, in particular as regards:
- safeguarding humanitarian access and respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Impunity for IHL violations can no longer be tolerated. In the spirit of Solferino, the Summit should lead to a collective commitment by the international community to put respect for IHL at the top of the international agenda.
 - driving significant reform. Humanitarian assistance should become more efficient and effective. This requires improvements on the part of all actors who contribute to humanitarian efforts – including donors and implementing organisations – in order to achieve greater coordination and transparency. Humanitarian assistance should demonstrate increased accountability towards the people it aims to serve, and take into account local capacities and innovative instruments. The impact of a growing number of crises, in particular those resulting in the protracted and forced displacement of people, requires strengthened coherence between humanitarian and development financing and programming. This should not jeopardise the unique, neutral, independent and impartial nature of humanitarian work.

In this regard the Council welcomes USG/ERC O'Brien's statement of 24 November 2015 on the preparation of the WHS and looks forward to the Secretary-General's report and the recommendations by the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.

4. The EU and its Member States are committed to helping to make the Summit a success. All actors should remain fully engaged in the preparatory process and be present in Istanbul at the highest level possible. The EU and its Member States stand ready to play their part – at humanitarian, developmental and diplomatic levels – to develop a compelling vision for transformative change and specific initiatives to deliver that change.