



**Economic and Social Council
Humanitarian Affairs Segment
Palais des Nations, Geneva, 24 to 26 June 2019**

Draft Programme (as of 25 June)

On 11 April ECOSOC adopted a decision that the theme for the 2019 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) will be “Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General”.

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment will be held on 24-26 June at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Since 1998 the Segment has been an essential platform for discussing issues related to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including assessing progress and identifying emerging issues, obstacles and challenges. It also promotes the sharing of experiences and lessons learned at the national and regional level. The organization of the HAS will include a General Debate, including action on the annual ECOSOC humanitarian resolution, two High-Level Interactive Panels, and approximately fifteen side-events.

The HAS will be preceded by the annual informal ECOSOC Event on the Transition from Relief to Development, which links discussions between the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment and the HAS, in the morning of 24 June.

Day 1 - Monday, 24 June

- 9:30 - 11:00 am** Side-event: *Operationalising Joint Needs Assessments and Accountability to Affected People* (Room XXI)
- Side-event: *Humanitarian Action in the Digital Age* (Room XII)
- Side-event: *Children and Armed Conflict – Protecting children during and after war* (Room XXII)
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm** **High-Level Side Event: “Towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949: achieving collective commitment to international humanitarian law and putting fundamental protections into practice”** (Room XVIII)
- 1:15 - 2:45 pm** Side-event: *Safeguarding humanitarian space in counterterrorism contexts* (Room XXI)
- Side-event: *Youth – Advancing the agenda* (Room XII)
- Side-event: *Progress and Actions to Protect from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse* (Room XXII)

3:00 - 6:00 pm

ECOSOC event on the transition from relief to development: “Recent advancements, challenges and best practices of the collaboration between the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in Africa” (Room XVIII)

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination

Panellists (TBC):

- H.E. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (opening message)
- H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of the Central African Republic
- Mr. Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
- H.E. Minata Cessouma Samate, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union Commission
- Ms. Diarietou Gaye, Director, Strategy and Operations for the Africa Region at the World Bank
- Ms. Metsi Makhetha, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Burkina Faso
- Mr. Edward Kallon, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Nigeria

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Official Reception (Concordia Space)

Day 2 - Tuesday, 25 June

8:30 - 10:00 am

Side-event: *From Commitment to Action: Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises post-Oslo conference* (Room XXI)

Side-event: *Anticipatory humanitarian action and effective financing* (Room XXII)

10:00 – 1:00 pm

Opening Session of the Segment by ECOSOC Vice President of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, followed by General Discussion (Room XVIII)

The Opening Session provides Member States with the opportunity to make statements during the General Discussion and reflect on the theme of the Segment “Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the

Secretary-General". The General Discussion also provides Member States with the opportunity to offer their perspectives, priorities, and experiences on humanitarian challenges. Logistical information pertaining to the arrangements for General Discussion will be made available through the Journal in the usual way.

1:15 - 2:45 pm

Side-event: *Addressing Unmet Needs: Humanitarian Funding Trends and Gaps* (Room XXI)

Side-event: *Attacks on Health Care – Prevent, Protect, Provide* (Room XXII)

Side-event: High-level event on *the Situation in the Central African Republic* (Room XI)

3:00 – 5:30 pm

Panel discussion: Preparing for the future in the face of climate change and weather-related disasters: strengthening preparedness and humanitarian response and collaborating to build resilience and address escalating risks and challenges (Room XVIII)

Climate- and weather-related disasters already exert a heavy toll on communities and this burden is expected to grow. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2018 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C brings a new sense of urgency for our efforts. If insufficient action is taken, the possibilities to adapt will decline and may trigger displacement, migration and humanitarian needs on an unprecedented scale.

The high-level panel will discuss ways for the humanitarian system to better prepare for and respond to escalating climate and disaster risks and the impact of increasingly severe and frequent extreme weather events, and how the system can cope with the increasing strain and demand on its capacities. The discussion will focus on the current and projected challenges leading into to the Climate Action Summit and the need for ambitious and concrete action. The panel will identify effective strategies and anticipatory approaches and highlight recent lessons and best practices and new approaches in preparedness, early warning and early action, resilient recovery and risk-informed sustainable development, in particular in the most vulnerable communities and countries where the adverse impacts of climate change are already a grim reality. The panel will investigate ways to ensure the needs and rights of people affected and displaced by disasters and climate change are effectively met and no one is left behind.

The discussion will focus on the opportunities for humanitarian actors and partners to work differently and scale up their ambition, outcomes and collaboration to reducing need, risk and vulnerability in the short, medium and long term, through strengthened preparedness, response and resilience building as well as the use of technology, risk analysis and data, predictive analytics, forecasting and early warning. The panel will also explore the enabling role of leadership, financing and partnerships.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists (TBC):

- Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms. Augusta Maita, Director-General, National Institute of Disaster Management, Mozambique
- Ms. Monique Pariat, Director-General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Ms. Adelina Kamal, Executive Director, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
- Mr. Ricardo Mena, Chief, Supporting and Monitoring Sendai Framework Implementation Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

5:45 -7:15 pm

Side-event: *Conflict and Hunger: Implementing United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2417 for Humanitarian Impact* (Room XXI)

Side-event: *Addressing internal displacement associated with disasters and conflict* (Room XXII)

Day 3 - Wednesday, 26 June

8:30 - 10:00 am

Side-event: *Localization under the looking glass: what we have learned and where we are headed* (Room XXI)

Side-event: *Making Gender Equality a Reality: from Standards to Transformation* (Room XXII)

10:00- 12:30 pm

Panel discussion: Strengthening humanitarian action: next steps to advance localization and engage communities for a more inclusive and effective humanitarian response (Room XVIII)

This panel will focus on critical next steps needed to reinforce local systems, empower local actors and better engage crisis affected communities for a more inclusive and effective humanitarian response.

Panelists will share their experiences of delivering humanitarian action in different operational contexts, highlighting opportunities and challenges in working with the international humanitarian response system and offer concrete actions that can be taken by local actors, the international community and donors to improve partnerships and ultimately deliver better outcomes for people in need. In particular, the panelists will discuss how international actors and structures can better work with, complement and strengthen local capacity, in-country leadership and mechanisms; how local actors can be better represented in international decision-making processes and coordination structures, the important role of sustained and multi-year

funding and capacity building of local partners, and provide proposals on how the voices of communities, particularly women and girls and persons with disabilities, can be better reflected in global processes and throughout the humanitarian program cycle.

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists (TBC):

- Mr. Ricardo Romero Sanchez, Mayor of Ipiales, Colombia
- Ms. Naomi Tulay-Solanke, Executive Director, Community Health Initiative (CHI) in Liberia, and member of the Liberian Women Humanitarian Network (LWHN)
- Ms. Rahmawati Husein, Vice Chair, Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC), Indonesia
- Ms. Achayo Rose Obol, Chair of the Board of the National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU)
- Ms. Fine Tuitupou-Arnold, Secretary-General, Cook Islands Red Cross Society

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Side-event: *From global policies and guidelines to local engagement: including persons with disabilities in humanitarian action* (Room XXI)

Side-event: *Cyclone Idai – The Ongoing Needs* (Room XXII)

3:00- 6:00 pm

Continuation of the General Discussion, action on draft resolution and closing of the Segment, including the Chair’s Summary of the Discussion over the course of the deliberations (Room XVIII)

Documents:

- [E/2019/L.18: Draft Resolution on the Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations](#)
- [E/2019/L.19: Amendment to Draft Resolution E/2019/L.18](#)

Please note that a marketplace with interactive exhibits will be running throughout the 3 days of the HAS and will be located just inside of Door 40 at the Palais des Nations. The simulation “Struggle for Survival” will also be running throughout the 3 days of the HAS in the Former Philatelic Museum, Palais des Nations, Building E, Door 39, 2nd floor, behind the UN Bookshop, next to UNOG Visitor’s service.