

Annotated Agenda of the Global Humanitarian Platform Strengthening Partnerships to Improve Humanitarian Action

1-2 July 2008, Geneva

PARTICIPATION ON INVITATION ONLY

Tuesday, 1 July 2008

(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

18:30-19:00	Registration
19:00-21:00	Reception hosted by UNHCR <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Welcome, Mr. Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner, UNHCR and Ms. Jemilah Mahmoud President, Mercy Malaysia and Mr. John Holmes, ERC, Co-chairs of the Global Humanitarian Platform◆ Introduction of the Facilitator of the GHP Meeting- Ms. Beth Ferris◆ Session 1: Guest Speaker- Dr. Peter Walker, Rosenberg Professor of Nutrition and Human Security, Director of the Feinstein International Centre, Tufts University <p>Humanitarian crises today are not due to one underlying factor or cause but rather to a set of complex issues or an accumulation of adverse trends. As a result, humanitarian action also needs to be more broadly defined, and reflect a wider and complementary range of interventions. Responding to humanitarian needs created by the combined effect of increasing costs of food, high energy prices, increased production of biofuels, climate change and resulting natural disasters is currently one of the humanitarian communities greatest challenges.</p> <p>Dr. Walker will introduce the issue of ‘accumulating adverse trends’ with the aim of provoking discussion on how to better respond to the humanitarian challenges with which we are faced by improving relationships and partnerships between organisations at a global level and in the field.</p>

Wednesday, 2 July 2008

(Auditorium, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 17 chemin des Crêts, Geneva)

09:00-10:30	Welcome, Mr. Bekele Geleta, Secretary General IFRC Opening Remarks and Expectations Ms. Jemilah Mahmoud President, Mercy Malaysia and Mr. John Holmes, ERC, Co-chairs of the Global Humanitarian Platform
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	<p>Session 2: Recommendations from the Field and practical implementation of the ‘Principles of Partnership’</p> <p>In May, two regional GHP workshops were held, one in Amman and one in Bangkok:</p> <p>The workshop in Bangkok was planned in conjunction with a SCHR workshop and focused on relationships between NGO, Red Cross/ Red Crescent movement and the UN that are working in key countries in the Asia Pacific region. <i>Presenter:</i> Mr.Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director, COAST</p> <p>In Amman, directly before a workshop on humanitarian reform and cluster ‘roll out’, a discussion on the relationships between organizations in general and when there is ‘remote programming’ was held. Organizations working in Iran, oPt, Iraq and Lebanon were invited to discuss the difficulties in assessing and meeting humanitarian needs in highly insecure environments, including how improved relationships with local partners, NGO, civil society and the government could improve effectiveness in response. <i>Presenter:</i> Mr. George Antoun, Regional Director, IOCC</p> <p>A presentation of main conclusions and recommendations from the Regional workshops will be made by local partners who attended the workshops.</p>
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea</i>
10:45-11:30	Continuation of Session 2
11:30-12:00	<p>Session 3: Progress and Challenges to dissemination and integration of the ‘Principles of Partnership’</p> <p>Organisations that participated at the GHP last year agreed to provide a short output report to indicate progress so far on dissemination and integration of the Principles of Partnership. A short presentation will be made by <i>Mr. Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop, Coordinator ICVA</i> and an update on progress made in 2007-2008 based on reports submitted by individual organisations.</p> <p><i>Mr. Dermot Carty, Chief, Inter-Agency & Humanitarian Partnerships, UNICEF</i>, will present on recommendations made during a recent consultation, chaired by UNICEF, between the UN, NGO and the IFRC.</p> <p>Both presentations are aimed at highlighting the challenges and gaps in the dissemination of the PoP and to stimulate discussion on how gaps can be filled and partnerships strengthened, with the objective of improving collaboration to enhance humanitarian action.</p>
12:00-13:30	<p>Continuation of Session 3: Discussions over Lunch</p> <p>With a better understanding of what are the opportunities and challenges to partnerships in the field, participants will be divided into five groups to discuss over lunch ways to improve collaboration at global and field levels related to one of the five ‘Principles of Partnership’. Given that discussions in the field about improving partnerships have led to concrete recommendations for each principle, can they be taken forward at the global level?</p>

13:30-14:30	Continuation of Session 3: Each group will be given ten minutes to feedback to the plenary on main conclusions and recommendations.
14:30-16:30	<p>Session 4: Challenges ahead</p> <p>The briefing of Dr. Walker and the discussions held throughout the day on enhancing partnership and relationships should help form a discussion on how the humanitarian community has so far responded to the current and future challenges generated by accumulating adverse trends (increasing cost of food, high energy prices, increased production of bio fuels, climate change etc.) with the aim of drawing out practical application of the ‘Principles of Partnership’.</p> <p>The discussion is not intended to identify future scenarios but to determine whether the humanitarian community has worked in partnership to address the humanitarian concerns raised by increasing cost of food, high energy prices, increased production of bio-fuels, climate change and resulting natural disasters and how they have worked together to plan for further deterioration of these trends in the future?</p> <p>To facilitate the discussion two case studies will be briefly presented, one on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Chad and Myanmar followed by discussion in plenary followed by discussion in plenary.</p> <p>The humanitarian crisis in Chad has been brought about by a range of complex factors including deterioration of the security situation in Darfur, persistent insecurity in the Central African Republic, internal instability due to attacks by armed opposition groups and intercommunity tensions. Increased insecurity has also hampered humanitarian access and restricted humanitarian action. <i>Presenter:</i> Ms. Barbara Stocking, Director, Oxfam Great Britain.</p> <p>In Myanmar, restricted access to the victims of the cyclone due to restrictions imposed by the government have delayed relief efforts and highlighted the need of the humanitarian to work closely together in partnership. <i>Presenter:</i> Ms. Jemilah Mahmood, President, Mercy Malaysia.</p>
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee/Tea</i>
16:30-17:00	<i>Conclusions and Next Steps for the GHP</i> <i>Closing Remarks, Co-Chairs</i>