

# MINISTERIAL MINI-SUMMIT HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE HORN OF AFRICA

*New York, Saturday 24 September 2011*



## Concept Note



### Background

A ministerial mini-summit in support of the humanitarian response to the drought and famine in the Horn of Africa is planned for Saturday, 24 September in New York in the margins of the High Level General Debate of the 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. This conference will bring together Member States, government representatives of the affected countries, regional organizations, operational UN agencies, the Red Cross and Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations and the private sector active in the region. The aim is to keep attention focused on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa and raise the necessary resources and support for the humanitarian response, mainly through the UN Consolidated Appeals (CAPs).

The mini-summit represents a culmination of a series of initiatives focusing attention on the crisis in the Horn of Africa, including World Humanitarian Day on 19 August. The mini-summit will seek to capitalize on and complement events organized by various entities around the world between July and 24 September. These include meetings and conferences convened by the ECOSOC in Geneva, World Bank in Nairobi, FAO in Rome, the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul, African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, International Islamic Charitable Organisation (IICO)/Direct Aid in Kuwait City, among others. At the ministerial mini-summit, the hosts of the above conferences will be asked to give a short statement on the outcomes/achievements from their events.

The presence and participation of a large number of Heads of State and Ministers would help the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa receive appropriate attention from the international community. Participants are encouraged to make pledges or report commitments made to the crisis response.

### Objectives

- Focus attention on the acute needs of affected people in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- Increase awareness of the humanitarian community's response in the region and identify ways of overcoming the operational challenges to these actions.
- Encourage and raise awareness of the CAP as the primary channel for multilateral humanitarian action in the Horn, and look ahead to requirements for the Horn of Africa in 2012.

- Forge links between emergency relief actions and longer-term country-led interventions to reduce vulnerability to future food crises.
- Promote initiatives to encourage private citizens and businesses to contribute to the response, with an emphasis on donating through multilateral channels.

#### Level of participation

- Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, ERC and IASC Principals.
- President of the General Assembly.
- Heads of State of affected countries.
- Development/Cooperation and/or Foreign Ministers of All Member States
- Partners from Regional Organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

#### Programme

The ministerial Mini-Summit will commence at 10 AM with a keynote statement from the Secretary-General, as well as statements from the Emergency Relief Coordinator, affected countries and other distinguished guests. Member State participants will be given a chance to give a statement and pledge later in the morning.

There will also be an afternoon session that will concentrate on thematic discussions on key topics including operational issues and partnership building in the context of the Horn of Africa crisis