

Code: E/RES/1/1
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Subject: *Strengthening the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Civil Society*

1 *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3 *Applauding* the work of the former United Nations (UN) Information and Communication
4 Technologies Task Force (UNICTTF) as the main organizer of high-level round tables and
5 global fora linking information and communication technology (ICT) with society and
6 technology and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
7
8 *Understanding* that the creation of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) is
9 important in expanding certain elements of technology such as the internet but would work most
10 efficiently when combined with a program like UNICTTF,
11
12 *Noting* that the Shared Services Initiative established by NetHope is an invaluable resource in
13 sharing the best solution and services among the member organizations, including assisting with
14 strategic cost management and capacity building in order to promote sustainability in civil
15 society partnerships,
16
17 *Recognizing* the human rights and considerations of all peoples in accordance with Article 2 of
18 the Charter of the UN, regardless of differences in gender, race or ethnicity
19
20 *Highlighting* discrepancies in aid dispersal within populations,
21
22 *Acknowledging* the International Human Rights Law, which look specifically at the equitability
23 and impartiality based on the vulnerability of the needs of individuals,
24
25 *Recognizing* with the consideration for gender perspective developed in Gender Training
26 Modules for Participants in Peace Support Operations,
27
28 *Commending* the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
29
30 *Reiterating* the goals of UNHCR to expand partnerships with Member States, governmental
31 organizations and CSOs to deliver life-saving assistance, ensure protections for all people of
32 concern, and seek solutions to protect and prepare for emergencies especially those faced by
33 refugees,
34
35 *Recognizing* the work of the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which supports the
36 protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially in coordination with humanitarian
37 distribution,
38
39 *Supporting* the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which highlights the role of
40 indigenous peoples in economic and social development, culture, environmental concerns,
41 education, health and human rights,
42

43 *Discouraged by* the lack of focus upon indigenous persons, as seen through the Kenyan
44 indigenous HIV rate at 26% versus the Kenyan national rate at 7%,
45
46 *Noting with deep concern* the doubled Australian infant mortality rate and five times increased
47 maternal mortality rate in the Australian indigenous population compared to non-indigenous
48 peoples,
49
50 *Appreciating* civil society organizations (CSOs), such as Native Planet, which encourage
51 humanitarian assistance of indigenous peoples in order to foster the preservation of cultural
52 autonomy,
53
54 *Recalling* the importance of preserving and upholding humanitarian principles as contained in
55 A/RES/46/182 and the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from other political, economic,
56 military or other objectives as established in A/RES/59/141,
57
58 *Recalling* ECOSOC decision 2011/210 (E/2011/L7), which emphasizes working in multilateral
59 partnerships in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance worldwide,
60
61 *Recognizing* A/RES/65/243 and A/RES/68/198, which equally stress the importance of ensuring
62 civil society's involvement and participation in humanitarian efforts as well as the role of
63 national sovereignty in the implementation of "information and communications technologies for
64 development" within Member States,
65
66 *Recognizing* the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), initiated in 1998, as an
67 essential platform for discussing the activities and issues related to strengthening the
68 coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the UN,
69
70 *Confident* that the upcoming forum, "Humanitarian Technology: Science, Systems and Global
71 Impact 2014", to be held in Boston, Massachusetts from 13-15 of May and affiliated with the
72 International Association for Information Systems for Crises Response and Management
73 (ISCRAM), will result in beneficial and collaborative discussions regarding the strengthened
74 connection between technologies and humanitarian aid endeavors between scientists,
75 humanitarians and policy-makers,
76
77 *Encouraged by* the continued progress of the MDGs,
78
79 *Recognizing* the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as the primary means of coordinating
80 humanitarian assistance as established in A/RES/48/57,
81
82 *Appreciating* the humanitarian efforts of both UN-based aid and non-governmental organizations
83 (NGOs), such as Médecines sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Federation of the Red
84 Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC), in collaboration with the guidance of the IASC,
85
86 *Drawing attention* to the actions of NGOs such as Intelsat and Telecoms Sans Frontieres (TSF)
87 in providing emergency communications during crises like the 2011 Japanese tsunami and

88 Typhoon Haiyan in the hopes that their efficient technology infrastructure can be replicated on a
89 broader scale,
90

91 *Expressing* concern about the growing digital divide in the availability and quality of access to
92 technology between high-income countries and other regions of the world, looking to the
93 portable technological infrastructure during crises as utilized by the TSF as a valuable model for
94 the expansion and modification of existing structures,
95

96 *Acknowledging* the success of organizations such as NetHope and ReliefWeb in bringing
97 together leading humanitarian organizations and private sector companies in sharing expertise
98 and collecting relevant and up-to-date data on disaster areas and humanitarian efforts,
99

100 *Recognizing* the Austrian Development Cooperation, a global, multi-partner initiative for the
101 swift establishment of communications infrastructure in areas of need, including the setup of
102 mobile networks for voice and data communication, as well as providing support to partners in
103 training and knowledge sharing,
104

105 *Recognizing* the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) under the UN Office for the
106 Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which is a valuable model for linking NGOs and
107 UN organs to civil society,
108

109 *Seeking* to avoid a donor hierarchy, recognizing first and foremost in accordance with
110 A/RES/54/233 and A/RES/58/114 that the affected sovereign state has the primary role in the
111 initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its
112 territories,
113

114 *Deeply concerned* with Member States' neglect of previously declared Official Development
115 Assistance (ODA) Targets,
116

117 *Acknowledging* the existence of procedures, infrastructures, and governmental and non-
118 governmental structures, such as NGOs and CSOs already in place for assessing the need for
119 humanitarian aid and/or for distribution of that aid,
120

121 *Recognizing* the rapid pace of technological development that often results in the obsolescence of
122 infrastructures and methods and which can inhibit the coordination work required for successful
123 collaboration between organizations and its civil partners,
124

125 1. *Encourages* Member States to consider the use of various technologies in providing adequate
126 humanitarian assistance as well as the development of sustainable infrastructure in order to
127 enhance existing humanitarian frameworks within Member State borders;
128

129 2. *Implores* the UN Secretary-General to revive the UN Information and Communication
130 Technologies Task Force (UNICTTF) to analyze existing frameworks and ways in which
131 they can be improved through the use of technology and information sharing among Member
132 States, multilateral organizations and CSOs:
133

- 134 3. *Urges* regional bodies to collaborate with the GAID, an international body which utilizes
135 information and communication technology (ICT) and science, in order to promote the
136 following:
137
- 138 a. A forum in which individuals representing governments, non-governmental
139 stakeholders, civil society, the private sector and international organizations can
140 engage in multilateral policy dialogue,
141
 - 142 b. The identification of major priorities and themes to be addressed within the
143 international community utilizing the advice of The Strategy Council,
144
 - 145 c. A commitment to the use of ICT in the achievement of specific development
146 goals including the MDGs,
147
 - 148 d. The sharing of business models in order to stimulate economic growth and the
149 empowerment of civil society;
150
- 151 4. *Advocates* for donor countries to work closely with recipient Member States and the experts
152 of that Member State in developing more effective mechanisms for the achievement of
153 sustainability specific to that region;
154
- 155 5. *Recommends* that the TSF project be replicated in areas of humanitarian disaster, specifically
156 the establishment of telecommunication centers around hospitals and refugee centers and the
157 temporary distribution of durable, all-weather cell phones preprogrammed with emergency
158 contact information;
159
- 160 6. *Understands* that the TSF was established through a trust fund from a generous private
161 donation and that private-sector partnerships can continue to fund it through its integration
162 and expansion with like-minded NGOs and civil society partners;
163
- 164 7. *Invites* Member States to replicate on a larger scale the NetHope and ReliefWeb software
165 forum for providing direct and relevant expertise in the areas of Field Capacity Building,
166 Emergency Response, Innovation for Development and Global Broadband and Innovations;
167
- 168 8. *Invites* a more ideal connection between potential partners through linkage in as few steps as
169 possible with the expansion of certain services, and notes the Shared Services Initiative;
170
- 171 9. *Promotes* further governmental and civil society communication with indigenous
172 populations, in accordance with the UN Human Rights Council's creation of the Declaration
173 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, through the utilization of the UN Development
174 Programme's Human Rights Based Approach to Development;
175
- 176 10. *Requests* further adoption of the UNHCR's goals to expand partnerships with Member
177 States, governmental organizations and CSOs to deliver life-saving assistance, ensure
178 protections for all peoples of concern, and seek solutions to protect and prepare for
179 emergencies, especially those faced by refugees;

- 180
181 11. *Encourages* Member States to consider the model presented by the Austrian Development
182 Cooperation by giving humanitarian aid to states in crises through:
183
184 a. Providing funds, through agencies such as the Austrian Development Agency's
185 Foreign Disaster Fund, for crisis prevention, reaction, and rehabilitation while:
186
187 i. Recognizing the sovereignty of Member States in determining their
188 own economic and humanitarian policies;
189 ii. Understanding that not all Member States have the economic
190 capacity to contribute monetarily to such a cooperation,
191
192 b. Supporting local CSOs who have the ability to enact both long-term and
193 immediate disaster relief;
194
195 12. *Advocates* the training of humanitarian staff when approaching a gender perspective to focus
196 upon the empowerment of women through the utilizing the framework being developed in
197 the Gender Training Modules for Participants in Peace Support Operation;
198
199 13. *Recommends* the adoption of an evaluative process conducted by the IASC Task Force
200 Subcommittee, at the frequency of every two years, in the event of an obvious, catastrophic
201 failure of a delivery of humanitarian aid, for the purposes of identifying weaknesses,
202 obsolescence, redundancy or barriers in the delivery of humanitarian aid or in blocking the
203 coordination of humanitarian aid, particularly when citizens are victims of harm resulting
204 from internal governmental instability;
205
206 14. *Underscores* the importance of adhering to the ideals of IASC's stated ethical priorities of
207 leadership and governance, transparency, feedback and compliance, and local citizen
208 participation;
209
210 15. *Emphasizing* that the primary purpose of the above evaluation process is to ensure increased
211 effective coordination between those in need of humanitarian aid and the determination and
212 delivery of the aid;
213
214 16. *Recommends* further that this evaluative process be incorporated into any and all
215 considerations pertaining to humanitarian aid infrastructure, procedures or technology, noting
216 the ideals that the distribution of humanitarian aid shall not be denied based on any perceived
217 barrier, such as geographic location, economic status in society or any other characteristic
218 falsely used to less the value of human dignity;
219
220 17. *Endorses* a revitalized focus on ODA targets in order to provide more reliable humanitarian
221 aid;
222
223 18. *Urges* further discussion and development of efforts regarding humanitarian aid in order to
224 improve the well-being of the international community.

Code: E/RES/1/2
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Subject: *Strengthening the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Civil Society*

1 *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3 *Stressing* the importance of civil society and the knowledge, and experience that civil society can
4 contribute with regard to humanitarian assistance and its coordination,
5
6 *Recalling* the precedence of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) addressing the issue of
7 humanitarian aid coordination, most recently in Resolution 2013/6 on “Strengthening of the
8 coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,”
9
10 *Fully realizing* the benefits of inclusion of civil society organizations (CSOs) due to their vast
11 resources to address issues, regions, peoples, cultures and the relationships it has built among
12 Member States and the international community,
13
14 *Further* regretting the counterproductive policies that are often attached to aid,
15
16 *Recognizing* that certain Member States have extended expertise in the humanitarian aid process,
17
18 *Supporting* the Standards of Human Rights previously stated in the Fourth Geneva Convention,
19 which calls for protection of civilian persons during time of conflict,
20
21 *Noting* with approval resolution of A/RES/50/172 and its recognition of state sovereignty,
22
23 *Taking* into consideration that using aid resources to prevent disasters can be as important as
24 using aid resources to respond to disasters reactively,
25
26 *Keeping* in mind that risk reduction is defined by the United Nations (UN) Office for Disaster
27 Risk Reduction as aiming to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes,
28 floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention,
29
30 *Bearing in mind* the importance of continuously re-evaluating existing systems and improving
31 upon them,
32
33 *Acknowledging* the need for Official Development Assistance (ODA), defined by the
34 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as monetary aid from
35 developed countries to developing countries for the purpose of economic development,
36
37 *Concerned* about divergences in development outcomes that have widened the gap between
38 Member States in their abilities to respond to humanitarian crises,
39 *Deeply concerned* with the increased number of attacks on aid workers as a result of
40 miscommunication between local security authorities and aid agencies in host countries,
41

42 *Alarmed* by the failure of Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
43 (MDGs), including the failure of committed efforts to donate the target 0.7 percent of Gross
44 National Product as ODA to developing countries,

45
46 *Taking note* of the task of ECOSOC as stated in the UN Charter Article 63, to make
47 recommendations to consult with agencies, the General Assembly, and Member States,

48
49 *Affirms* the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as the “primary mechanism for
50 inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance” as stated in A/RES/46/182,

51
52 *Recognizing* the importance of technology as a means by which transparent aid distribution can
53 be documented and facilitated,

54
55 *Further acknowledging* A/RES/46/182 and its creation of the Cluster Approach, which fosters
56 mechanisms to coordinate humanitarian assistance,

57
58 *Fully aware* of the UN Integrated Civil Society Organization Systems (iCSO) and its efforts to
59 foster communication between CSOs and ECOSOC,

60
61 *Deeply disturbed* by the chaos in information flows that hampered the response to the 2010
62 Haitian earthquake,

63
64 *Commending* the actions of the UN Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster
65 Management and Emergency Response and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination as
66 organizations dedicated to immediate response assistance to countries during times of natural
67 disaster emergencies,

68
69 *Considering* that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have not been adequately included in
70 the planning and evaluation processes of humanitarian response and the lack of collaboration
71 between NGOs and UN agencies,

72
73 *Having found* the coordination of humanitarian affairs made overall more effective as result of
74 the implementation of the cluster system approach,

75
76 *Noting* the efforts made by ECOSOC to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian aid through
77 *E/RES/2010/1* which acknowledges the need for disaster preparedness, security and safety of the
78 humanitarian personnel, strengthening the coordination between UN humanitarian organizations,
79 humanitarian organizations, and Member States, and the end of gender violence which arises
80 during humanitarian aid,

81
82 *Bearing in mind* that many challenges of implementing the cluster system exist despite the
83 improvement it has made in the coordination of humanitarian assistance,

84
85 *Deeply conscious* that placing gender at the epicenter of humanitarian assistance coordination is
86 essential to its success because crises do not affect everyone equally,

87

88 *Recognizing* the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Entity for Gender
89 Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN), and MDG 3 on the need to promote
90 gender equality and the empowerment of women that has yet to be met,

91
92 *Concerned* with the significant barriers that women still face including economic stability,
93 participating in decision making processes, and safety from gender-based violence,

94
95 *Reaffirming* the importance of the Gender Marker Tool created by IASC to track and measure
96 gender inequality in regard to humanitarian assistance,

97
98 *Observing* that 10 percent of the world's population, approximately 650 million, live with a
99 disability and 80 percent of those disabled living in developing countries,

100
101 *Affirms* the efforts of the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) as an effective means to finance
102 developing projects for target groups including women and children,

103
104 *Cognizant* of the challenges of multilingualism that complicate effective communication among
105 Member States, CSOs, and the UN,

106
107 *Aware* of the key role that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in
108 improving the issue of facilitating humanitarian assistance in areas of the world it is most
109 needed,

110
111 1. *Encourages* the IASC to amend its language policy to incorporate the languages of Member
112 States receiving aid in order to improve communication among Member States, CSOs, and
113 the UN through:

114
115 a. Inviting interpreters from Translators Without Borders (TWB) to translate the
116 information gained during IASC meetings into the official languages of UN, as well
117 as the official languages of the countries it represents,

118
119 b. Documenting IASC projects into the official languages of the UN, as well as the
120 languages and dialects of the Member States represented;

121
122 2. *Recommends* the adoption of an evaluative process conducted by the IASC Task Force
123 subcommittee in order to:

124
125 a. Identify weaknesses, obsolescence, redundancy, or barriers in the delivery of
126 humanitarian aid or in blocking the coordination of humanitarian aid with any aspect
127 of CSOs,

128
129 b. Meet and assess progress every two years to address both long-term and short-term
130 goals and re-evaluate them if necessary;

131 3. *Suggests* reforming the cluster response system in order to address the lack of involvement of
132 CSOs in the process of responding to crises and create a more collaborative approach to
133 addressing humanitarian issues by:

- 134 a. Encouraging NGO leaders to work alongside UN cluster lead agencies in the process
135 of planning, assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of humanitarian response to
136 crises in order to facilitate integration,
137
- 138 b. Creating a system to give CSO partners with strong relationships in at-risk countries
139 the ability to evaluate and assist the UN cluster lead agencies and the Emergency
140 Lead Coordinator, establishing a two-way communication channel and a fully
141 developed relationship even before crisis breaks out;
142
- 143 4. *Recommending* that the Gender Marker tool, created by the IASC, be improved upon with the
144 following measures by:
145
- 146 a. Broadening the channels of engagement and expanding them to include the disabled by
147 using methods and the code system used by the Gender Marker Tool and applying them
148 to disabled persons,
149
- 150 b. Expansion of the evaluation process to the work of CSOs and national authorities alike
151 during and after crisis response,
152
- 153 c. Continuing to refine the Gender Marker Toolkit to include translation into additional
154 languages to broaden its use by all Member States and civil society,
155
- 156 d. Examining the intersections between age, sex, and gender in order to create a more
157 comprehensive analysis;
158
- 159 5. *Calling upon* OCHA to improve the qualifications and experience of the Humanitarian
160 Coordinators (HCs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs) and decrease the high turnover rate of
161 those mentioned by:
162
- 163 a. Encouraging the Emergency Relief Coordinator to look beyond the UN system when
164 selecting HCs and RCs and considering assigning these responsibilities to individuals
165 who are currently working in CSOs in at-risk regions,
166
- 167 b. Recognizing members of CSOs who have the potential to become HCs and RCs and
168 provide them with extensive training in the coordination of humanitarian assistance and
169 development of long-term relationships between their organizations and OCHA;
170
- 171 6. *Recommends* the restructuring of the iCSO website to provide descriptions of projects in the
172 Civil Society Database and to provide transparent documentation of previous and existing
173 projects sponsored by ECOSOC and IASC;
174
- 175 7. *Urges* donor countries to evaluate excessive conditions on aid that reduces the ability of civil
176 society groups to respond to natural and man-made issues such as natural disasters, famine, and
177 conflict, by:
178
- 179 a. Allowing recipient countries to strengthen decision making and leadership resources,

180 b. Directing aid giving and coordinating agencies under ECOSOC to support Member
181 States in using aid toward resources to help achieve the goals and desires of those
182 Member States;

183
184 8. *Suggests* that OCHA re-evaluate the distribution of preventative aid as opposed to reactive aid
185 by putting a greater emphasis on preventative aid than it currently does and begin to:

186
187 a. Encourage Member States to invest in additional forms of communication to ensure key
188 entities can communicate in the event of disaster,

189
190 b. Recommend that Member States inspect key points of infrastructure that have a direct
191 impact on the severity of disaster impact,

192
193 c. Train key personnel in disaster response procedures in accordance with A/RES/2816 by
194 using agencies such as the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and
195 Humanitarian Assistance,

196
197 d. Encourage the strengthening of programs that monitor disasters and can help individuals
198 evacuate before a crisis or prevent them from happening such as the UN Platform for
199 Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, United
200 Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination, and the International Earthquake and
201 Volcano Prediction Center;

202
203 9. *Recommends* the international expansion of UNDEF to further fund pre-existing regional
204 projects for women and children through UN programs, including:

205
206 a. The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women,

207
208 b. The UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality,

209
210 c. The UN International Emergency Children's Fund Sociopreneur Project;

211
212 10. *Recommends* the cooperation between local partners and organization dedicated to the
213 security of humanitarian aid personnel, including International NGO Safety Organizations
214 (INSO), to ensure the of aid personnel by:

215
216 a. Utilizing current INSO partnerships in Member States,

217
218 b. Engaging local CSOs to assist in the education of safe workplace practices as outlined by
219 the Interagency Security Management Network to provide adequate information about
220 conflicts, safety precautions, and security;

221
222 11. *Endorses* efforts to ensure the compatibility of technical aid intended to mitigate crises or
223 strengthen civil society, using programs such as the Chinese Medical Team, Australian Red
224 Cross International Humanitarian Action Training, International Diploma in Humanitarian
225 Assistance to accomplish:

- 226 a. The training of foreign engineering, medical, and technician consultants in local
227 languages and environment,
228
- 229 b. Increase efforts to train engineers, medical professionals, and technicians from
230 developed countries to work with civil society;
231
- 232 12. *Encourages* developed countries to meet or exceed ODA targets for the purpose of:
233
- 234 a. Strengthening civil society within recipient countries by increasing financial resources for
235 developing countries,
236
- 237 b. Increasing capacities of response in developing countries to effectively minimize long-
238 term costs;
239
- 240 13. *Remains* cognizant of the necessity of continuously evaluating and improving existing
241 mechanisms for the coordination of humanitarian assistance and CSOs in order to secure a
242 increased cooperation for all Member States.