

Finland's National Commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit

23-24 May 2016, Istanbul, Turkey

Finland strongly supports the vision set out in the UN Secretary-General's Report "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility" and its "Agenda for Humanity". Finland is committed to contributing to a successful World Humanitarian Summit and aligns itself with the Core Commitments presented by the UN Secretary-General. In addition, Finland commits to a number of national commitments presented in this document.



1. Global Leaderships to Prevent and End Conflicts

Conflict prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts are crucial for saving lives, reducing economic and social losses and for decreasing the need for humanitarian assistance. Preventing conflicts and finding political solutions to resolve them is our core responsibility to humanity.

In this context Finland is committed to the following:

1.1. Finland, as Co-Chair with Turkey of the UN Group of Friends on mediation, commits to enhance the visibility of mediation efforts and to bring mediation to the core of UN peace work. Through the work of the Group, Finland will strive to strengthen the normative basis of mediation and enhance the UN mediation support capacities. Finland will also capture, consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learnt on conflict prevention.

1.2 Finland will strengthen conflict prevention, mediation and peaceful resolution efforts by promoting the participation and engagement of all relevant actors in the peace process and through the application of an inclusive approach, in particular ensuring the active and meaningful participation of women. In order to empower different actors and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst them, Finland will host the third Conference on National Dialogue and Mediation Processes in 2017.

1.3 Finland commits to address the root causes of conflict and to work to reduce fragility. Finland encourages its international development partners, including the international financing institutions, to continue working on root causes of conflict and enhancing their work in fragile and conflict affected countries.

1.4 Women have a central role in achieving sustainable peace. Finland is committed to actively promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The implementation of Resolution 1325 is a priority for the Finnish Government. Finland will update its national Action Plan on 1325 and increase financial support to work on Action Plans in other countries and regional organizations.

1.5 Finland will promote gender-responsive approaches to natural resource-management in the context of peacebuilding and provide support to a pilot project on the topic. The project aims at identifying and supporting natural resource management practices that can empower women and contribute to peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery processes. The results of the country level pilots will be collected into a toolkit to serve UN country teams, international organizations and national actors.

1.6. Finland will take forward the joint Nordic initiative of Nordic Women Mediator's Network and link the Nordic Women Mediators with women mediators from other countries and regions. Finland will continue to sponsor the series of UN High-level Seminars on Gender and Inclusive Mediation.

1.7 Finland commits to support humanitarian mine action programs aimed at clearing explosive remnants of war (ERW) through the provision of information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective any type of explosive hazard.

1.8 Finland is a States Party to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and as one of the Vice-Presidents of the ATT Finland promotes universal adherence to it.



2. Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

Serious violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and of international human rights law continue to be committed on an alarming scale. Every day, civilians are deliberately or indiscriminately killed in wars. There is an urgent need to recommit to upholding the rules that protect the humanity.

In this context Finland is committed to the following:

- 2.1 Finland remains committed to the promotion of and adherence to international humanitarian law, international human rights law, refugee law, humanitarian space and the protection of civilians.
- 2.2 Finland is committed to providing humanitarian assistance solely on the basis of need, not on political, military or economic motivations.
- 2.3 Finland commits to take concrete steps to ensure accountability of perpetrators of the most serious international crimes, though, inter alia, its support to the International Criminal Court and Justice Rapid Response.
- 2.4 Finland commits to engage constructively and actively in the intergovernmental process as set out in Resolution 2 of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the establishment of an international mechanism to strengthen the compliance with International Humanitarian Law.
- 2.5 Finland supports strengthening the international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty.
- 2.6 Finland is committed to the strengthening the respect for the international humanitarian law through awareness raising, training and communication.
- 2.7 Finland continues to actively work to uphold the institution of asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. Finland is committed to supporting further accession to and strengthened implementation of national, regional and international laws and policy frameworks that ensure and improve the protection of refugees and IDPs, such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol or the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala convention) or the Guiding Principles on internal displacement.

3. Leaving no one behind

The humanitarian protection agenda and action should deliver especially to those that are in the most vulnerable situation and most in need. We need to address displacement, support refugees and migrants, invest in education and health, fight to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence and empower women in context of crises. Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized in crisis affected communities. They must be ensured access to assistance and be included in decision-making processes.

- 3.1 Finland continues providing substantial financial support to UN humanitarian agencies, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Finnish non-governmental organizations addressing the needs of the forcibly displaced.
- 3.2 Finland endorses the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into Humanitarian Action and fully commits toward its implementation. Finland will support the development and implementation of the global standards and guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. The



guidelines aim at system-wide improvement of addressing the needs and rights of people with disabilities in the context of humanitarian action. Finland stands ready to provide technical expertise and participate in the working/steering group developing the guidelines. Finland will also support the development of advocacy and awareness raising programmes.

3.3 Finland will support the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian response. Finland continues to provide financial support to the strengthening of the rights and situation of persons with disabilities. Special attention will be paid to the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities as well as other persons that easily fall victim of multiple discrimination.

3.4 Finland commits to empower women as leaders and agents of change in humanitarian action and supports their meaningful participation in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of all humanitarian action and programs.

3.5 Finland continues to promote universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and adolescent girls and to address sexual and gender-based violence in crisis settings. UN Women and UNFPA continue to be Finland's key strategic partners in this sector.

3.6 Finland will actively use its leverage and influence in the international organizations to ensure that their programmes are responsive to the rights and needs of women and girls and persons with disabilities.

3.7 Finland requires that humanitarian organizations supported by Finnish funding will incorporate gender equality and rights of persons with disabilities into their policies and operations and ensure that humanitarian programming is gender and disability responsive.

3.8 Finland will ensure to review and address the possible gaps in terms of inclusion of persons with disabilities when updating its Humanitarian Policy.

4. From delivering aid to ending needs

Humanitarian needs will shrink if more sustainable development is achieved. For this purpose, we have to focus on prevention, preparedness, early warning and action, building of resilience and effective disaster risk reduction. It is crucial to reinforce national systems, not to replace them. We also need to become better at anticipating crisis. The traditional “relief first and development later” approach is not suitable in today's complex and protracted crises. That is why we must transcend the humanitarian-development divide.

In this context Finland is committed to the following:

4.1 Finland is committed to the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

4.2 Finland recognizes that forced displacement is a complex political and development challenge and should be addressed comprehensively. Finland commits to improve the resilience, self-reliance and protection of the affected people from the early stages of crises.

4.3 Finland commits to promote coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programming and funding. Finland supports joint strategic situation analysis, needs assessments, planning and risk management and common decision-making platforms between



humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.

4.4 Finland is committed to working towards a Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees to safeguard the rights of refugees.

4.5 In the context of Global Health Security Agenda, Finland is committed to enhancing International Health Regulation (IHR) core capacities at country level. Finland, together with the Nordic countries, is committed to collectively supporting 10 countries to meet their obligations under the IHR, including by developing and assisting with implementation of a national plan to achieve the targets of the Global Health Security Agenda. Finland is currently supporting capacity building in Tanzania and Ukraine.

4.6 Finland will support Joint External Evaluations, developed under the leadership of Finland and the USA, including by providing technical and financial assistance. In collaboration with WHO, FAO, OIE, World Bank, interested countries and NGO's, among others, Finland is leading a multistakeholder alliance to support independent external assessments of country capacities worldwide, with the purpose of identifying gaps in countries' preparedness and matching the country needs with interest from donors. Finland underlines the importance of all hazards approach in preparedness capacity building and the need for multisectoral and multistakeholder cooperation in preventing, detecting and responding to health threats. Finland has also volunteered for an external assessment of its own national capacities in this field.

5. Humanitarian financing: Investing in Humanity

The gap between humanitarian needs and resources must be reduced. This can be done by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action and funding. Significant improvements are required in the mobilization, allocation and transparent use of resources. There is also need to promote harmonized reporting.

5.1 Finland welcomes the Grand Bargain between donors and humanitarian organizations.

5.2 Finland continues to provide predictable, multi-year, un-earmarked, flexible humanitarian funding in order to ensure greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people. Finland will advocate for harmonized donor reporting requirements.

5.3 As per the recommendation of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Finland will provide at least 30 percent of its overall humanitarian funding as un-earmarked.

5.4 Finland continues to provide significant support to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

5.5 Finland will explore options for broadening financing mechanisms for the Finnish private sector and other organizations to carry out activities and establish new partnerships in fragile states, including public-private partnerships.

5.6 Finland continues to encourage the humanitarian agencies and partners to increasingly use cash modalities, where appropriate.



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