

Standing Committee
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*Remarks by Daniel Endres, Director, Division of External
Relations*

Strategic partnerships, including coordination and the World
Humanitarian Summit

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In a today's world of multiple crises, absence of political solutions, continued human rights violations, increased displacement and insufficient humanitarian funding, UNHCR remains steadfast in the pursuit of inclusive leadership in refugee situations, reinforcing the foundations for effective and durable coordination and fostering sustained partnerships.

We have an important year ahead of us, with key displacement related events taking place – starting with

- the 30 of March HLM on Global Responsibility Sharing through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees,
- the World Humanitarian Summit end of May,
- the 19 September GA Summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants and on
- 20 September, the Presidential summit on strengthening the international response to the global refugee crisis called by President Obama.

As we are all preparing for these events, we are hopeful that they will bring more momentum towards peaceful solutions and help us to address the actual needs on the ground.

[Partnership with non-governmental organizations..]

Our partnership with non-governmental organizations forms the backbone of UNHCR's operations - in 2015, of the US\$ 1.2 billion in funds disbursed with partners, nearly 80 per cent went to national or international NGOs – and out of a total of 750 NGOs, 465 NGOs or 62% were national and local responders.

One of the important highlights of our collaboration with NGOs is our Global Annual Consultations. Last year, **Solutions** was the overarching theme of the Consultations – at which representatives from 273 national and international NGOs, UN and international organizations took part. By now the majority of the participants are from national NGOs.

This year's theme for the Annual NGO Consultations which will take place in June, is **Youth**. Preparations for this important meeting started already in October 2015 with a series of regional consultations titled “Listen to **Youth** – their priorities and challenges”. These consultations will be concluded in May and will make this year's Global Consultations innovative, participatory and lively.

[Partnerships]

The collaboration and alliances with our sister Agencies form another key and important aspect of our work. Considerable progress has been made in 2015: Our country level Letter Of Understanding with UNICEF was updated, and our collaboration with IOM and WHO intensified when responding to the influx of refugees and migrants in Europe. Another important achievement was a commitment by WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR to strengthen our cooperation on cash-based interventions.

We also engage with an increasing number of private sector partners, who not only provide financial assistance but also support us with innovation, advocacy and technical expertise.

[Refugee response coordination]

Over the past year the Inter-Agency Coordination Service has been strengthened. As a result we have been able to robustly support our field operations, in particular on operational coordination and guidance on how to forge stronger ties with our operational partners. With the support of this Service, the OCHA–UNHCR collaboration has gained further positive momentum also at the field level.

Refugee coordination model

During the course of 2015, the Inter-Agency Coordination Service embarked on a series of stock taking exercises, involving over 100 staff at levels within organization with a view to fine tuning the RCM and to ensure that it remained partner friendly, transparent and predictable. The UNHCR/IOM led RMRP for the Europe Emergency is an example of ensuring that the RCM remains agile and flexible.

Over the course of 2015, support missions were undertaken to Chad, Croatia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tanzania.

[IASC and Clusters]

We remain an active partner within the IASC family. One of the main achievements last year was the updated Strategic Framework for 2016-2019” of the GPC – which further strengthens the centrality of protection in humanitarian action.

Multilateral Processes

We welcome that the SDGs are built on an overall principle of universality and equality and human rights for all, with “*no one will be left behind*” **as the overriding principle.**

(At UNHCR’s 2015 Executive Committee the previous HC underlined “*the SDGs are an important step forward, although they – like most development cooperation policies – still do not take into account the reality that vast parts of the world today are mired in conflicts; But the principle of universality, the pledge that no one shall be left behind, and the explicit recognition that refugees and internally displaced persons are amongst the most vulnerable, are a key entry point for ensuring the conflict dimension is not overlooked*”)

We are highlighting the importance of the SDGs in our internal policies and communications and engage at the national levels to ensure implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its related 17 goals – all this with a special focus *on the impact that the SDGs can make to our persons of concern.*

Leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit, UNHCR actively supports the High Level-Panel with its Grand Bargain. When looking at effectiveness, it is important to have a comprehensive approach and look at all aspects of costs and transactions, including management, coordination and delivery in the field, management of HQ and global coordination structures. As a principle we have to channel as much as possible into delivery in the field.

UNHCR remains committed to robustly contribute to a successful outcome of the **World Humanitarian Summit** with the aim to reaffirm the centrality of protection in

humanitarian action; ensuring that the fundamental needs of persons of concern are met, that their capacities are mobilized and that the communities in which they live are supported. We welcome the WHS' aim to broaden the application of humanitarian principles and to embrace humanitarian actors worldwide and support the related recommendations of the HLP on humanitarian financing. All are equally critical to meeting the soaring demands we are confronted with today.

Thank you.