

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
PRINCIPALS MEETING

Update on High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing

21-22 May 2015
HOST: UN Habitat, Nairobi

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1. Based on a suggestion by Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and High Commissioner Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General has decided to convene a High-Level Panel that will explore ways to address the gap between growing humanitarian needs and the resources available to meet those needs.
2. The Panel members include: Co-chairs Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria), Vice President and Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, European Commission and Nazrin Shah (Malaysia) - Sultan of Perak; Hadeel Ibrahim (Sudan/UK) - Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation; Badr Jafar (UAE) - Director Crescent Oil and founder of the Pearl Initiative; Trevor Manuel (South Africa) - former Finance Minister; Linah Moholho (Botswana) - Governor, Bank of Botswana; Danny Sriskandarajah (Sri Lanka) Secretary General of Civicus and former Director General of the Royal Commonwealth Society; and Walt Macnee (Canada), Vice Chairman of MasterCard.
3. As mentioned in its terms of reference, the Panel is expected to produce recommendations around three questions:
 - 1) How can more be raised from traditional donors and through innovative funding streams to address the growing gap?
 - 2) How can we increase the predictability of funding?
 - 3) How can the humanitarian system make the best use of the resources available?
4. The work of the High-Level Panel complements the discussions taking place in the context of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).
5. The Panel is currently by a secretariat composed of five staff members, some of whom are seconded by agencies and member states. The Head of the secretariat is Ms. Julie Belanger (OCHA). She is supported by Tensai Asfaw (OCHA), Mr. David Matern (WFP secondee), Ms. Hiroko Araki (UNHCR secondee) and Ms. Lisbeth Pilegaard (Danish Government secondee). The Panel secretariat's budget currently stands just below \$900,000 and should cover the Panel's work for a period of about seven months.
6. The Panel will meet mainly through video conferencing with face-to-face meetings to discuss findings and recommendations. Some of the panellists will also attend relevant consultations and events that will offer an opportunity to brainstorm or test some of the ideas they are generating as a group. The Panel will draw on existing research and ongoing work on humanitarian financing, including the Future of Humanitarian Financing report, commissioned by the IASC Task Team for Humanitarian Financing, but will also test new ideas.

7. The Panel members are aware that 2015 represents a major year for marking progress for the United Nations and its humanitarian partners. The negotiations over the Sustainable Development Goals, the newly adopted Disaster Risk Reduction framework and the International Climate Conference are all critical milestones. The reviews of peace operations and the peacebuilding architecture as well as the Financing for Development Conference also offer the potential for common or harmonized recommendations.
8. The Panel's secretariat will regularly update the IASC principals on progress and welcomes the support of IASC members and observers in substantiating its work with their inputs.

Prepared by: OCHA