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## European Union call to action: Promoting a comprehensive approach to serving the needs of people in conflict at the World Humanitarian Summit

Currently 125 million people require humanitarian assistance. Displacement has reached levels not seen since the Second World War, much of it driven by protracted conflict, and the amount of funding required by humanitarian appeals grew by 600 per cent over the last ten years.

As one of the world's largest humanitarian aid donors, the European Union (EU) has a responsibility to seize every opportunity to reduce the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance by building the long-term resilience of communities through: ***scaling-up investments in conflict prevention and resolution; applying a conflict sensitive approach to development and humanitarian assistance programmes; ensuring policy coherence with the 2030 Agenda; including conflict sensitivity as a key principle in proposals, tenders and funding application guidelines; including conflict sensitivity as criteria for assessment in evaluating project proposals. We call for the European Union to integrate these recommendations as a priority within the new EU Global Strategy of Foreign and Security policy.***

The EU has articulated a commitment to tackle root causes and prevent new conflicts by investing in long-term approaches for sustainable peace and development including within the European Commission (EC) Communications "[Towards the World Humanitarian Summit: A Global Partnership for Principled and Effective Humanitarian Action](#)" and "[Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance](#)". However, prevention and peacebuilding is still often underfunded, initiated too late, or not sufficiently sustained.

We also know that 'how' development and humanitarian assistance is delivered is as important as 'what' is being delivered, given potential for assistance to negatively, albeit unintentionally, impact on the conflict dynamics. It is imperative that all forms of aid reinforce community resilience and social cohesion. A number of EU member states recognised the importance of such an approach in the form of the Stockholm Declaration, issued by the International Dialogue in April 2016. Therefore, the EU and its Member should commit to:

- 1. Scale up investments in conflict prevention with a focus on conflict analysis and conflict sensitive proposals in order to reduce humanitarian need**
  - Consistent with findings of the recent UN peacebuilding review, ensure peacebuilding and conflict prevention is funded commensurate to global conflict challenges and that this is fully integrated in the European Consensus for Development which is currently being revised
  - Provide adequate, multi-year, sustained and risk tolerant financing for collective outcomes
- 2. Apply a conflict sensitive approach to development and humanitarian assistance programmes**
  - Apply a conflict-sensitivity approach in the design and delivery of humanitarian and development programmes building on and strengthening guidance such as that found in the internationally recognised [Sphere standards](#) and policies such as the [European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](#)
  - Undertake joint analysis at all levels (local, national and regional) for the development of system-wide strategies to address the most critical risks for conflict and displacement, promoting locally-led solutions and drawing on local expertise
  - Develop the capacities to identify multi-dimensional and interconnected risks and drivers of conflict through a context, risk or conflict analysis, and to translate the analysis into conflict-sensitive programmes, at all levels, including as it relates to conflict, climate and disasters.
- 3. Ensure policy coherence with the Post-2015 Frameworks through sector partnership**
  - Coordinate internally (within the EU institutions and its Member States) and with other donors and governments to identify and operationalise approaches designed to achieve collective outcomes on humanitarian assistance, development and peacebuilding, while safeguarding humanitarian principles.
  - Identify ways to link and implement the outcomes of the [Post-2015 Frameworks](#) (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Financing for Development Conference in Addis, Sustainable Development Goals) and the new [Peacebuilding Architecture Resolution](#) as they relate to conflict, crises and emergencies to promote policy and practice coherence.