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Summary record of the 26th meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 17 June 2025, at 3 p.m.

Co-Chair: Mr. Szczerski (Vice-President) ....(Poland)
Co-Chair: Ms. Chan Valverde (Vice-President) ....(Costa Rica)

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Mr. Szczerski (Poland), Vice-President, and Ms. Chan Valverde (Costa Rica), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 13: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(e) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (*continued*) (E/2025/59)

(f) African countries emerging from conflict (*continued*)

(g) Sustainable development in the Sahel (*continued*)

High-level panel discussion 2: "Mobilizing partnerships, solutions and financing for affected countries and people in crisis contexts"

1. **Mr. Szczerski** (Co-Chair), inviting the Council to continue its meeting on the transition from relief to development, said that, in the wake of sharply declining official development assistance, the importance of securing complementary financing could not be greater. The panel discussion would further explore that issue by focusing on Haiti, South Sudan and the Sahel, which were affected by climate hazards and conflict. The discussion would help the Council examine how innovative instruments and broadened partnerships with international financial institutions and the private sector could keep health centres open, protect livelihoods and underpin efforts to build peace.

2. In the Sahel, nearly 29 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, but in 2025 only 8 per cent of the $4.3 billion that the United Nations would need to assist the region's most vulnerable people had been received. Insecurity was growing, and not all parts of the Sahel were accessible. Humanitarian actors were thus forced to decide who received help and who had to wait. In Haiti, where there had been a surge in sexual violence against children and where armed gangs continued to terrorize communities, some 6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. The United Nations, however, was able to help only around two thirds of those people. It had received only 6 per cent of the $908 million it was seeking for humanitarian aid for Haiti. In South Sudan, too, which had fallen back into open conflict, there was a major funding shortfall. In fact, the United Nations had received only 15 per cent of the $1.7 billion it was seeking to assist 5.4 million people in need. There were thus likely to be steep increases in the number of children and pregnant or nursing women experiencing acute malnutrition in South Sudan in the coming months. Working collaboratively to make optimal use of funds was especially vital in protracted crises such as those in Ukraine, Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic. Organizations promoting development and peace, which helped to reduce needs and prevent aid dependency, must be engaged more actively; helping refugees return to their countries of origin and reintegrate would enable the United Nations and other humanitarian actors to stop treating symptoms alone.

3. Humanitarian crises in high-risk environments posed significant challenges. Securing the funding to respond to such crises required a multi-pronged approach involving international financial institutions, Governments, humanitarian organizations and the private sector. Flexible funding and a focus on addressing the root causes of crises were critical.

4. **Mr. Rae** (President of the Council), panellist, said that no real progress had been made towards resolving the ongoing crisis in Haiti. In fact, the number of displaced people had risen over the previous four years, school attendance was in decline and gang violence was ongoing. A date for a general election had not been set because the people believed that no such election could be held in the current conditions. The country's main north-south road was impassable, and food was scarce. The global response to the humanitarian appeal had been pathetic, in large part because of the sudden reduction in the level of support from the United States of America. The Kenyan authorities had nonetheless agreed to send nearly 900 police officers to Haiti as part of the Multinational Security Support Mission that had been authorized with a view to restoring law and order. More than a hundred police officers from other countries had also joined the Mission. The Mission, which was financed largely by the

United States and Canada, might not have made a great impact, but Haiti had at least avoided total collapse.

5. Progress had been made in respect of regional coordination and cooperation. Previous interventions in Haiti, of where there had been several over the past fifty years, had tended to be military-led interventions orchestrated by large countries such as the United States and Canada. They had made a major short-term impact but had not been sustainable. Currently, more was being done from the ground up – by strengthening the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, for example, or helping to build the capacity of local institutions. Regional financial institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank had, moreover, made positive contributions to efforts to promote peace and development in Haiti. On the whole, however, much remained to be done.

6. **Ms. Drake** (International Labour Organization (ILO)), panellist, said that, although crises were becoming longer and more complex, the response could not be simply to extend emergency assistance indefinitely. People in Haiti, the Sahel and South Sudan wanted to rebuild their lives, support their families and participate in shaping the recovery of their communities. Humanitarian assistance should promote recovery and development. Saving lives and responding to emergencies had to go hand in hand with promoting inclusive growth. Although ILO was not a humanitarian organization, it worked in concert with such organizations. Its mission – to ensure that the emergency measures it took were the foundation for future stability, dignity and resilience – was accomplished by making the promotion of decent work an integral part of crisis responses.

7. In Haiti, ILO and a number of partner organizations and offices were promoting the local production of cocoa, breadfruit and rice. The initiative, which was linked to a school meals programme, created jobs and fostered resilience. In South Sudan, involving displaced persons in public works projects not only created employment but also helped repair critical infrastructure and improve relations between host communities and displaced persons. Skills training and entrepreneurship support in the Sahel gave displaced young people alternatives to joining armed gangs or being exploited for their labour.

8. A programme that brought together ILO and other institutions, including international financial institutions, sought to ensure that forcibly displaced persons had access to labour markets and national social protection systems; it had shown how collaboration with such financial institutions and the private sector could lead to the creation of economic opportunity. Inclusion, the involvement of local actors, including national Governments, and the support of donors were essential components of crisis response and recovery. Decent work and institution-building must no longer be considered secondary. The essential role of the private sector had to be recognized, and response-and-recovery efforts had to be designed to promote female leadership. Partnerships with international financial institutions, regional development banks, donors and local institutions had to be scaled up. Taking those and other such steps would lay the foundation for resilient, inclusive and peaceful societies.

9. **Ms. Richardson** (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Haiti), panellist, speaking via video link, said that, although making the case for peace in Haiti was easy, making the case for development was not. There could not be one without the other, however. It was a principle that informed everything she and her Office did in Haiti.

10. The prevailing insecurity, in particular in Port-au-Prince, made it difficult to find donors willing to fund development initiatives. It was also an impediment to keeping development actors on the ground. Even those that remained were often on the verge of withdrawing. Development nonetheless had to remain a priority. If it did not, the security and humanitarian crisis, already dramatic, would only worsen. Haiti was one of only five countries currently affected by famine-like conditions. Half of the population required humanitarian assistance, and 1.3 million people were displaced. Despite the turmoil in the country, efforts were being made to strengthen institutions and the rule of law. Work was ongoing to establish two specialized courts, to handle cases of money-laundering and of mass crimes, respectively, which would represent a major milestone for medium- and long-term stability in Haiti given that impunity, corruption and a weak judiciary were among the root

causes of the country’s challenges. It was essential to revitalize the economy and provide jobs that offered a viable alternative to joining criminal gangs, especially for young people. Local agrobusinesses outside the capital, where the security situation was much better, had great potential. The school feeding programme had generated income for local farmers and improved child nutrition. To achieve such outcomes, coordination activities needed to be decentralized.

11. A rapid crisis impact assessment had shown that with strengthened multinational security support, investment and infrastructure would soon follow. A partnership with the World Bank had encouraged the latter to continue to invest in Haiti, while a four-way project also involving the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Union would deliver a decentralized investment plan. The work being done to deploy the Haiti country envelope of the Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean was focused on strengthening local organizations. Haiti was rich in human resources, with a strong women’s movement and youth organizations, which could be leveraged to achieve greater impact with the available funding. Better results were obtained when humanitarian, development, peace and political stability initiatives were implemented simultaneously rather than in separate stages.

12. **Mr. Chaiban** (Deputy Executive Director of Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)), panellist, said that, around the world, 305 million people, including 100 million children, required humanitarian assistance. As a result of funding cuts, attention was being focused on the 114 million people who were in most critical need.

13. There were four ways in which funding could be better managed to help children caught in protracted crises. First, host Governments should be central to the funding of humanitarian action. For example, in South Sudan, the Ministry of Health had obtained loans from the World Bank and partnered with UNICEF and other entities to strengthen capacity in the health sector, including in supporting the supply chain and payments to health workers, to ensure that health systems were sustainable despite the crisis facing the country.

14. Second, support for investment in pooled funding should continue, with a particular focus on local and national government and civil society actors. Pooled funds should be made available to such actors as part of the humanitarian reset.

15. Third, innovative financing should be unlocked. In the area of debt solutions, for example, many low-income countries spent more on debt servicing than on essential children’s services. UNICEF was working with international financial institutions and private partners to design debt relief strategies that would free up funding for health, education and nutrition initiatives. In the area of climate financing, the Today and Tomorrow Initiative was pioneering parametric insurance tailored to children’s needs. In Haiti, the Government, the European Union, Canada and other partners had joined together to fund the production of therapeutic food at a factory in the north of the country that had previously been financed solely through private initiatives. Lastly, host Governments and development partners should be involved in humanitarian responses from the outset in order to ensure quality and sustainability beyond the fulfilment of acute short-term needs.

16. **Mr. Burgeon** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), panellist, said that collective work on solutions should be scaled up dramatically. Despite enormous international efforts, 295 million people were living in conditions of acute food insecurity which, if not addressed, could lead to famine. The livelihoods of up to 80 per cent of those people were dependent on agriculture, and four fifths of them lived in countries that were experiencing protracted crises.

17. It was clear that funding was not keeping pace with needs. The food sector accounted for approximately 33 per cent of humanitarian assistance but only 3 per cent of development assistance. Within humanitarian assistance for the food sector, 85 per cent was spent on food assistance, 12 per cent on nutrition and 3 per cent on emergency agriculture, which resulted in a mismatch given the large numbers of people who were reliant on agriculture to support themselves. The Data in Emergencies Information System had revealed that people wanted more than simply to survive; they wanted to thrive by returning to their agriculture-based livelihoods. Providing support for them to do so produced results. For example, in Burkina

Faso, where emergency agriculture support had been scaled up, the number of people facing acute food insecurity in 2024 had dropped by 21 per cent compared to the previous year. Acting early had been proven to save lives and livelihoods and be cost-effective. Studies had shown that $1 of anticipatory investment in agriculture could represent up to $7 in terms of avoided losses. Anticipatory action was clearly part of the humanitarian-development nexus, with agriculture as a key front-line response area that could serve as a stepping stone to ensuring sustainable development and building climate resilience. Support for anticipatory action was more effective in the form of prearranged and adaptive financing instruments. The FAO Special Fund for Emergency and Resilience Activities and the climate action account of the Central Emergency Response Fund were critical tools that allowed innovative and flexible funding through agile and cost-effective responses.

18. **Mr. Ouoba** (Association Tin Tua), panellist, said that the issue of funding for local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was crucial to the effectiveness of humanitarian and development aid. Despite their proven field experience and considerable expertise in areas including complex project management, data collection and accountability, local NGOs faced major obstacles such as limited access to donors, a lack of knowledge about funding opportunities and conditions and outdated perceptions among donors about their capacity and competence. Many local NGOs represented low financial management risk. To unlock new direct funding channels, efforts must be made to demonstrate that local NGOs could be strategic partners.

19. Pooled funds with funding windows for local organizations, such as the Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund for West and Central Africa managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, offered valuable opportunities for supporting national actors. Efforts to recommend, in calls for expressions of interest, the inclusion of national NGOs in consortiums were welcomed. Partnership evaluation indicators should be more prominent, since national NGOs were often invisible during funding allocation processes. Allowing local NGOs to co-sign funding contracts as partners would avoid their being subjected to more rigorous standards than international NGOs. It was crucial to end the inherent paternalism that often characterized the relationship between donors and international and local NGOs and move towards a model of equitable partnership rooted in trust and recognition of autonomy. Local NGOs were linked to communities and were better placed to advocate for and support them. It was imperative to translate the discourse on localization into concrete actions.

20. **Ms. Calltorp** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the humanitarian reset, the UN80 Initiative and the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan presented an opportunity to reaffirm a collective commitment to gender equality as a fundamental tenet of the transition from crisis and conflict to sustainable peace and development. There were four key elements to that commitment. First, humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators must be assessed on and held accountable for their results with respect to the Gender Equality Acceleration Plan. Second, the representation of women in humanitarian, peace and development decision-making must be increased. Third, a target should be established for the percentage of resources provided to local organizations led by women. Lastly, transitions from humanitarian to long-term responses must be gender-sensitive, with gender equality embedded in transitional processes. Her organization stood ready to play its part in translating those commitments into reality.

21. **Ms. Lassegue** (Haiti) said that the Government of Haiti placed great importance on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The Haitian people were experiencing a long-term multidimensional crisis that required a sustainable response in the form of coherent, concrete and efficient actions in priority development areas, with a particular focus on internally displaced persons. There was a need for innovative funding and broader partnerships. Her Government called for robust support for the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the establishment of funding mechanisms for local host communities and it wished to explore the creation of a community resilience fund through the mobilization of the diaspora, the private sector, donors and development banks. Sustainable solutions were to be found in communities, local authorities and civil society.

22. **Mr. Rix** (United Kingdom) said that the humanitarian system was at a crucial juncture, and collective efforts were required in reforming approaches with a view to delivering a more efficient and impactful humanitarian movement. Reforms to the wider crisis architecture, underpinned by stronger partnerships involving actors with diverse mandates, were also needed to better prevent and mitigate conflicts and crises and address their root causes.

23. Three key shifts were necessary. First, there must be a system-wide push towards prearranged finance. His country was committed to making greater use of innovative tools in that area. Second, international financial institutions had a critical role to play in the most fragile contexts. His country would work with the World Bank to explore how to drive long-term change in those contexts. Third, stronger partnerships with local actors were essential in building resilience and could assist in breaking down silos. More effective partnership models could mitigate the impact of protracted crises on hard-won development gains and reduce the need for costly and sometimes inefficient humanitarian responses.

24. **Ms. Villalta Carballo** (Costa Rica) said that there was a need to expedite the humanitarian reset and update collective attitudes. The eightieth anniversary of the United Nations provided an opportunity to reflect on the differences between crises that had been met with a coordinated, sustained and, ultimately, successful response and those that had been prolonged as a result of insufficient resources and a lack of political will. As a member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, her country had seen first-hand that sustainable responses to crises must go beyond well-managed humanitarian interventions. Communities required support in rebuilding not only physical infrastructure but also leadership structures and a shared sense of the future, using trauma-informed approaches that prioritized community resilience, inclusive governance and transparent, locally-led basic services.

25. Funding levels did not match the scale of humanitarian and development needs. Innovative financing mechanisms and context-sensitive solutions were required. For example, the Resilience and Sustainability Trust managed by the International Monetary Fund had enabled her country to emerge from the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic with a more stable economic outlook. Such approaches must, however, be carefully adapted to fragile and conflict-affected settings. In that regard, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review conducted in 2024 was particularly important. Her delegation urged the international community to expand scalable partnerships with a view to achieving tailored and sustainable responses in fragile countries.

26. **Mr. Lee** Sangback (Republic of Korea) said that his Government was a firm supporter of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and had allocated approximately $4 billion to official development assistance in 2024, an increase of around 30 per cent compared to 2023. It had tripled the amount allocated to humanitarian support and had launched a programme focused on fragile and conflict-affected States. Public-private partnerships and innovative forms of financing were indispensable in the humanitarian assistance and international development sectors.

27. **Ms. Stamenković** (Children and Youth International), speaking on behalf of the major group for children and youth, said that contemporary challenges, including famine, poverty, war and human rights violations, required more than temporary relief. Sustainable solutions driven by leadership and collaboration were needed. Although financial inclusion was critical to resilience, women, marginalized communities, small businesses, children and young people lacked access to affordable services. Universal health coverage and access to education for all should be made a priority. Coordinated global efforts were essential for building a safer, healthier and more just world, and local knowledge must be brought to the table with the aim of finding sustainable strategies beyond reliance on donations. Youth voices must lead the way to lasting, meaningful change by influencing funding decisions, advocating for long-term solutions and holding leaders accountable.

28. **Ms. Drake** (International Labour Organization) said that a clear theme that had emerged from the panel discussion was the focus on better coordinated, more integrated and durable solutions that were shaped with input from beneficiaries and local NGOs. Employment, social protection, collective bargaining and the right to freedom of association

were critical in crisis responses. Alongside governments and social partners, the private sector had an essential role to play in sustainable long-term recovery by creating jobs and contributing ideas and innovation. Public policies and donor investments must be aimed at unlocking that potential, and donor support in breaking down silos was critical. Responses must be gender-transformative and designed to actively dismantle the barriers facing women and promote women's leadership in recovery, resilience and peace-building efforts. There was a need for innovative, blended financing that was aligned with humanitarian and development goals and supported the building of connected systems. Partnerships that upheld humanitarian principles and were rooted in community ownership must be scaled up with international financial institutions, regional development banks, philanthropic actors and local institutions. By working together, governments, the United Nations, the private sector, workers' representatives and donors could lay the foundation for resilient, inclusive and peaceful societies.

29. **Ms. Richardson** (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Haiti) said that integrated solutions worked in both the short and the long term, in particular when they were aimed at supporting existing institutions, even in fragile contexts. Working with local organizations and focusing on the root causes of conflict or crisis were effective approaches. In Haiti, for example, it would be beneficial to increase the engagement of the diaspora. All partners, including local organizations, should be involved in setting priorities and designing programmes that responded to people's urgent needs and long-term aspirations.

30. **Mr. Chaiban** (Deputy Executive Director of Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) said that it was clear that to address the scale of contemporary crises, deeper partnerships must be forged with development actors, including international financial institutions, the private sector and national authorities. Sustainable, locally based solutions were essential even in the most protracted of crises. A development reset should be undertaken alongside the humanitarian reset, and synergies between the two should be explored. In a fiscally constrained environment, more efficient working methods were necessarily found. In addition to innovative financing and pooled funding, a willingness to take calculated risks was required, as was a further emphasis on sharing risk in a manner that moved local and national actors to the centre of solutions.

31. **Mr. Burgeon** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that it was essential to gather quality data at the global, national, community and household level to gain a better understanding of a population's needs and ensure that interventions responded to those needs in a more efficient and effective manner. Data collection, including in the context of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, was at risk due to funding shortages. Financial flows within the food sector must be rebalanced with the aim of not only providing emergency agricultural assistance but also instituting early recovery and resilience-building activities. Stakeholders had a collective responsibility to prevent food insecurity by taking anticipatory action ahead of shocks. Partnerships, particularly with local institutions, were critical in ensuring impacts that were sustainable in the longer term.

32. **Mr**. **Ouoba** (Association Tin Tua), panellist, said that all actors had an equally important role to play in assisting communities, with communities themselves at the centre. The specific needs of women and children must be taken into account when shaping assistance efforts. There was no time to lose; crises were increasing and needs were growing. Assistance initiatives must be designed on the basis of real needs and vulnerabilities rather than political agendas.

33. **Mr. Szczerski** (Co-Chair) said that there were three main takeaways from the panel discussion. First, people and communities must be empowered, through investment in basic services and social protection, to drive their own transition. Humanitarian, development and finance actors should make complementary targeted investments. Second, there was a need for investment in prevention and resilience through prearranged finance. Third, all actors, including United Nations agencies, governments, local organizations and communities, needed to work together to deploy pooled funds. Stakeholders must commit to financing crises differently, invest in communities and ensure that the dignity and resilience of affected people remained at the centre of response efforts.

34. **Ms. Chan Valverde** (Co-Chair) said that the panel discussion had highlighted the importance of closer collaboration across humanitarian, development and peace efforts. There was a need to identify durable solutions, informed by data and inclusive of governments and civil society, that reduced risks and addressed vulnerabilities in countries affected by crisis. Development actors should respond earlier and with more resources to address internal displacement, to ensure that no one was left behind and to support sustainable peace. The path forward demanded joint efforts to build partnerships in order to enable a move from fragmented responses to unified and locally led long-term solutions. Member States could provide support by highlighting internal displacement and creating opportunities to transform ambitions into reality. Commitments must be turned into concrete steps that brought about meaningful change on the ground.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.