



ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 19-21 June 2018

Title: Rebuilding Trust and Increasing Accountability to Prevent Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Harassment of and by Humanitarian Staff

Sponsors and Organizers: OCHA/IASC, IOM and InterAction

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives:

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by humanitarian workers and other actors sent to protect and assist populations in need is an abomination which contradicts the principles of humanitarian action and represents a protection failure by the international community. Sexual harassment and abuse (SHA) of any kind is also antithetical to the principles for which the United Nations and humanitarian assistance agencies stand and is corrosive to a working environment where all staff feel respected and valued.

In line with the theme of this year's ECOSOC HAS, this side event will seize an opportunity to maintain momentum and a spotlight on these issues from the perspective of being accountable to those we serve and those we work alongside. Equally as important as the UN system's Agencies, Funds and Programs and other key humanitarian actors, Member States have a role in ensuring that collective efforts to address SEA and SHA are adequately resourced, political will is sustained to support efforts and ensure that their nationals committing SEA and SHA are held to account.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator will moderate the event, with the IASC Champion on PSEA and IOM Director General delivering a keynote address. Panelists will address different components of the PSEA and SHA efforts: One of InterAction's CEO Co-Champion who has been instrumental in securing large-scale CEO commitments; perspectives from a Member State on donor requirements and responsibilities for ethical and responsible use of funds; and the RC/HC from Ethiopia who will provide a unique operational perspective on combating the issue of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Following the panel presentations, Member States and other stakeholders will be invited to make Statements from the floor on institutional commitments to address all forms of sexual misconduct.

The objective of the side event is to discuss:

- Parallels between SEA and SHA response systems and share effective practices
- Differentiate on standards and responsibilities (SHA and PSEA)
- Explore the impacts of SHA/SEA on institutional efficiency, reputation, and staff trust

Discussion points

- Consistent and deliberate leadership is necessary to create the fundamental culture changes within an organization to eradicate abuse of authority, particularly regarding PSEA/SHA
- Leadership and accountability – systems in place and don't burden other response programmes
- Dialogue with donors is necessary to ensure burdensome regulations are not established which can have negative impacts on organization's ability to investigate and report incidents, and that the necessary resources are available to ensure that collective response systems are in place.

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

Commitment from participants to continue discussion on these issues in various forums

Format

10-minute keynote followed by Panel discussion

Chair and moderator:

- UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock

Panel composition:

- IOM Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing
- Oxfam America President and CEO Abby Maxman
- Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia.
- Head of Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department, UK Department for International Development (DFID), Matthew Wyatt

Background Material

- [IASC Chair Statement on PSEA and SHA – June, 1, 2018](#)[InterAction CEO Pledge on Preventing Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Harassment of and by NGO Staff](#)
- IASC PSEA [Website](#)

Contact

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