

Questions and Answers on the World Humanitarian Summit, 23-24 May 2016

How has gender equality and women's empowerment been integrated into the WHS so far?

- The [SG's Report "One humanity: shared responsibility on the WHS"](#) was launched and included a strong call for gender equality programming, respect for women's rights, and the inclusion of women and women's groups in decision making at all levels in humanitarian settings.
- The report's analysis and recommendations inform the *core commitments* on women and girls to be launched at the High Level Leaders Roundtable on Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality. This is one of seven roundtables at which leaders from Member States, the UN, and civil society will come together to endorse commitments to improve humanitarian action.

What role is UN Women playing in the Summit?

- UN Women was asked to lead the preparations for the High Level Leaders Roundtable on Women and Girls and is working in close partnership with the WHS Secretariat and OCHA as well as Member States, UN and multilateral actors, and civil society organizations, especially women's groups.
- At CSW 2015, UN Women hosted a [workshop for civil society activists on the topic of Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and the WHS](#). Workshop participants generated practical recommendations on how to advance the fulfilment of commitments to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights in humanitarian action, which were fed into the consultation process for the WHS and were shared at other women's consultations and workshops.
- At CSW 2016, UN Women co-hosted the highly successful and inspiring [CSW60 High Level Side Event "Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Humanitarian Action through the World Humanitarian Summit"](#). Speakers at the event, including the Executive Director of UN Women and the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Member States and women civil society, spoke in support of the proposed core commitments.
- The [2016 CSW Agreed Conclusions](#) included a strong reference to the WHS and humanitarian settings: *With humanitarian crises and other emergencies disproportionately affecting women and girls, the Commission underlined the imperative of empowering women in leadership and decision-making in all aspects of responding to and recovering from crisis. On the eve of the World Humanitarian Summit, it stressed prioritizing women's and girls' needs in humanitarian action and upholding their rights in all emergency situations. Every humanitarian response should take measures to address sexual and gender-based violence.*

What will happen at the roundtable?

- Stakeholders (government, UN, multilateral and civil society leaders) will jointly endorse a set of core commitments, as well as announce their own individual/collective commitments as to how they will implement the core commitments.
- Leaders will pledge to implement defined, coordinated, high level strategic action that delivers on their commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action.

How can humanitarian partners make commitments?

- An online password-protected platform supports the registration of the commitments for all invited WHS participants. After the Summit, the call will be made for all those active in humanitarian work-beyond those who attended the Summit itself- to make commitments. A designated online platform for individuals to align themselves with the core commitments and submitting individual/joint commitments will go live after the Summit and will be communicated on the [WHS website](#).

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- Individual/collective commitments that contribute towards achieving the core commitments and the strategic shifts set out in the Agenda for Humanity contained in the Secretary General's Report on the World Humanitarian Summit should be new, transformative and measurable. Commitments should demonstrate the pledge to change, i.e. how a particular humanitarian partner will change in order to implement the relevant strategic, operational and policy shifts identified in the Agenda for Humanity. Stakeholders will be asked to update on progress against their implementation.
- Examples of potential individual/joint commitments are included in the core commitments document of the roundtable.
- All commitments, whether they are announced during the roundtable or beforehand through the platform, will be reflected in the Roundtable Summary and will be featured in the Commitments to Action document. The Announcement Plenary (which will run in parallel with all other sessions during the two days) will also be an opportunity for stakeholders to announce their commitments.
- A guidance note on the roundtables and special sessions, including further details on the commitments process, can be downloaded from the [WHS website](#).

How can humanitarian actors and the general public support the roundtable?

- Humanitarian actors that are invited to the WHS should ensure their own organizations endorse the GEWE core commitments and submit their own individual/joint commitments via the online platform.
- Invited humanitarian actors should endorse other roundtable commitments and ensure individual level commitments for those roundtables incorporate a GEWE lens. Make your commitments measurable and realistic and as bold as possible.
- Offer support to other humanitarian partners, where possible, in designing commitments. Partner with them to create joint commitments, to maximize your impact.
- Civil society and individuals may advocate with their governments to endorse the GEWE core commitments, make their own commitments and attend the roundtable. They should encourage their governments to ensure their commitments in all roundtables incorporate a gender lens.
- The events of the Summit will be livestreamed through the WHS website. The public can engage via social media on Twitter with the users @whsummit , @UN_Women and on [Facebook](#), always using the hashtag #ShareHumanity and #Planet5050 to join the conversation.

What else will happen at the WHS?

- There will be [15 special sessions at the WHS](#) which address issues identified during the Summit consultation process. The Special Sessions will provide a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to make specific commitments to make progress in each of these areas, also as a means of achieving the Agenda for Humanity.
- There will be approximately 110 side events overall. [UN Women, together with Oxfam Canada, ActionAid, and CARE International will be co-hosting the side event World Humanitarian Summit Delivers for Women and Girls](#). A programme of the side events can be found [here](#).
- The World Humanitarian Summit Exhibition Fair will showcase the work, products, and programmes of governments, organizations, agencies, companies, and other institutions in support of humanitarian action. [UN Women will showcase its work in humanitarian action in a designated booth](#).

*****Last but not least: please visit <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/> for the most up to date information on the WHS and refer to the [WHS FAQs](#) for more detailed information.*****