POSİTİON PAPER

 

Coommittee: Economics and Social Counsil (ECOSOC 2)

Country: Iran

Delegate: Defne Kaynak

Topic: Improvising and Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations

The report includes a summary of steps taken to improve humanitarian coordination and response, information on trends and challenges in the field, and recommendations, including ones in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the climate crisis, and the escalating humanitarian suffering caused by conflict.

Introduction

Overview of key trends

1. Conflict, climate change, and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic all combined to change the humanitarian operating landscape in 2020, increasing risks, inequality, and vulnerability. As a result, humanitarian needs surged. Unsettling tendencies emerged, including the resurging threat of numerous famines, the shadow epidemic of gender-based violence, growing protection issues, rising displacement, and escalating food shortages.

2. While new or escalating conflicts developed in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and between Armenia and Azerbaijan, long-running conflicts continued. In addition, civilian infrastructure, like as hospitals, schools, and water facilities, was destroyed or damaged in violation of international law, and civilians were murdered, injured, and ejected from their homes. Access was hindered. Humanitarian ethics and humanitarian space were under attack. Both national and international humanitarian and healthcare workers are increasingly frequently killed, abducted, attacked, arrested, and threatened.

3. The COVID-19 epidemic made inequities clear and heightened the need for aid. People with disabilities, the elderly, internally displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, young people, and other marginalized groups were among those most severely affected.

4. Women and girls were disproportionately affected, especially by gender-based violence, which was compounded by decreased access to nutrition, health care, education, and employment opportunities, increasing the risk of child marriage, child labor, and other forms of exploitation for millions of girls. The pandemic led to the biggest ever disruption in education. From pre-primary to secondary school, 7.6 million girls faced the possibility of dropping out.

5. Humanitarian suffering was still being driven by the climate emergency. Long-lasting conflicts and climatic shocks are increasingly entwined. An inter-agency humanitarian appeal was made for eight of the ten nations most at risk from the effects of climate change. Nearly 98 million people were impacted by a total of 389 disaster occurrences, which also resulted in 15,080 fatalities, millions of displaced persons, and $173 billion in losses. 83% of all disasters started by natural hazards in the last ten years were caused by climate-related occurrences. The emergence of plant and animal pests and diseases, such as the increase in desert locust populations in the Greater Horn of Africa, highlighted the potential harm that a changing climate could do to ecosystems and humankind.

6. Acute food insecurity is now more widespread, with 155 million people in 55 countries projected to be at phase 3 or worse of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. Nearing the worst-case scenario of phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine), more than 30 million people were under Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 4 (Emergency) conditions. That worst-case scenario came to pass for individuals residing in some regions of Yemen, South Sudan, and Burkina Faso.

Recommendations

1. Member States, combatants, and aid agencies should step up efforts to advance and assure utmost adherence to the humanitarian values of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence;

2. In accordance with the Model Agreement between Member States and the United Nations regarding Measures to Efficiently Convey Relief Consignments and Possessions in Emergencies, Member States and Parties to Conflict should Permit and Facilitate the Rapid, Unhindered and Sustained Access of Impartial Humanitarian Relief, Simplify and Speed Up Procedures for the Entry and Deployment of Personnel, Goods and Services, and Adopt Facilitation Measures.

3. The protection of civilians and other protected persons and objects must be ensured. Member States and parties to conflicts must immediately take all necessary steps to promote, uphold, and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law. They must also develop national policy frameworks establishing clear institutional authorities and responsibilities for the protection of civilians, increase advocacy, and bring perpetrators to justice.

4. Member States and parties to a war should respect and safeguard medical and humanitarian personnel and resources, including by abstaining from direct attacks on them and continuously ensuring that they are spared in military operations. They should take all practical precautions required to safeguard humanitarian and medical missions, such as those outlined in the recommendations made in response to Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016), including not criminalizing the provision of medical care and humanitarian assistance, incorporating necessary safeguards under international law into domestic law, and exchanging best practices and lessons learned.

Iran's position on human assistance

1. Over the course of decades, new dimensions have evolved, substantially altering the nature and scope of humanitarian situations. The international community has consequently encountered changing difficulties as it attempts to respond to these situations in a thorough and coordinated manner. In addition to impeding the development of disaster-hit nations, the magnitude and frequency of such occurrences have diminished the ability to deal with such events as a result of a rising number of people suffering from the effects of natural disasters. In addition, as a result of escalating armed conflicts and the targeting of innocent civilians, humanitarian catastrophes can arise. Due to violence, climate change, and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, we agree with the Secretary-General that "Humanitarian needs surged in 2020."

2. My delegation recognizes the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' pivotal position. We believe that in order to address humanitarian crises in a sustainable manner, the UN financial system must be used to mobilize funding in advance. In this light, those who contribute more to lengthy wars and occupations through their participation or through the procurement of advanced weapons should bear a greater financial burden for UN humanitarian efforts. This also applies to people who historically bear some of the blame for GHG emissions that cause rapid climate change and catastrophic disasters. We celebrate the thirty-first anniversary of the adoption of historic resolution 46/182 provides a strong framework for humanitarian efforts and responses. In light of this resolution, we firmly believe that all of the tenets and objectives of the UN Charter, particularly that of respecting the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of States, must be upheld by all parties when rendering humanitarian aid. It is important to recognize national ownership and leadership in the coordination of humanitarian assistance in order to guarantee that it is delivered effectively, while also highlighting the States' primary role and duty in responding to humanitarian situations on their own. In the same line, there should be no foreign intervention in humanitarian crises or catastrophes, particularly ones that have been purposefully stoked by a predetermined and covert political goal.

Countries in need of urgent hamanitarian assistance

Afghanistan: Human suffering there has increased in 2021, with an estimated 18.4 million Afghans in need of humanitarian aid.

Ethiopia: The violence in the Tigray area of Ethiopia persisted intensify in 2021, spilling over to the Amhara and Afar regions.At the end of 2021, an estimated 5.2 million people needed humanitarian assistance in northern Ethiopia, up from 2.3 million in 2020.

Democratic People's Republic of the Congo (c)

Yemen: In February 2021, violent clashes erupted in a number of Tactics used by Yemen's Marib and Al Jawf governorates to force people to flee their homes and seek shelter in camps and host communities.

Haiti: A severe uptick in gang violence in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-urban Prince's regions, forced 17,000 citizens from their homes in June alone and affected 1.5 million people overall.