

DAY ONE

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

In his introduction to the Conference, **Mr. Tariq AlMadani**, Master of Ceremony, described the history of DIHAD since its inception in 2004, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai. DIHAD fosters connections with humanitarian aid and development, with a Conference programme aiming at a brighter future for all. Since the inception, 16,000 participants representing over 900 organisations and the private sector had attended. He extended a welcome on behalf of H.E. Amb. Dr. Abdulsalam AlMadani to the 20th edition of DIHAD, celebrating a shared history with challenges and unwavering commitment to bring aid to the helpless.

A brief video showed the many speakers at the DIHAD conference over the years and the DIHAD welfare activities in crises, disasters and wars.

Under auspices of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, 719 workshops were held by the Waterfalls Initiative, while the DIHAD Humanitarian College offers the world's first master's degree in Sustainable Humanitarian Action, in partnership with Spain's Universidad Cattolica de Murcia (UCAM). The graduation ceremony of the first two academic years with 63 students from 50 nationalities was to take place during the DIHAD Conference. The DIHAD programme aims at a more peaceful and sustainable world and brighter future for all and the theme of the 20th Session - Humanitarian Diplomacy and a Journey to the Future - is at the heart and soul of DIHAD.

H.E. Nawal Al-Hosany, UAE Permanent Representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), delivered her opening statement of the ceremony, looking at the future and intertwined rules of the three worlds of humanitarian, development and climate change.

COP28 was foreseen to succeed beyond any doubt, which despite many challenges the UAE did manage through soft power and the UAE consensus of texts, resulting for the first time in an agreement to move away from fossil fuels. Declarations put people at the centre of the climate discourse, making peace a prerequisite for climate relief. The warnings issued by the IPCC were experienced in UAE with more than 140 mm floods - more than the total of a whole year, a manifestation of longer lasting

extreme climate events. The social and economic impact of Climate Change may lead to 1.2 billion climate refugees, and the temperature raise predicted by the IPCC will lead to economic loss, damage up to USD 38 trillion per year through 2050, mostly affecting the developing countries in Asia and Africa. It is a snapshot of the future, unless countries undertake active diplomacy, connecting, collaborating and working together.

H.E. Mohammad Musabeh, Executive Director, Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department (IACAD), Dubai, mentioned that the Department focuses its work on the most vulnerable cases of those in need. The work also uses AI in facilitating operations to have access to the beneficiaries, and it aims at strengthening humanitarian action through organising conferences in UAE and abroad.

H.E. Rashid Mubarak Almansoori, Secretary-General, Emirates Red Crescent Authority (RCA), opined that DIHAD has become a main platform to launch initiatives for longer-term assistance. It provides opportunities to meet and exchange ideas, discuss common humanitarian concerns and draw up a future for humanitarian action. UAE is known for humanitarian giving initiatives, differentiating between what is required and facing humanities for development. There is a moral commitment towards victims of crises and disasters, often leading to displacement also due to health crises. The Conference discusses issues from various angles to limit repercussions of humanitarian crises, to achieve peace and security, and enhance justice and respect for humanitarian principles. It promotes security through humanitarian actions in countries where humanitarian diplomacy can extinguish fires. He referred to the situation in the Gaza strip where tens of thousands of people have lost their lives, and the lack of food and water is disastrous. Relief teams in Gaza have brought over 20,000 MT relief aid, 290 MT of food, and during Ramadan iftar meals. The UAE RCA also runs a hospital for sick and injured and cancer patients, water desalination plants and five bakeries. These efforts will continue thanks to the UAE leadership until this humanitarian crisis is over, strengthening noble principles and trying to implement and provide everything possible to meet targets and aspirations for a better future through good planning and coordination of the DIHAD Conference and side events.

H.E. Amb. Putman-Cramer, CEO of DIHAD Sustainable Humanitarian Organisation and Chairman of DISAB, made reference to the DIHAD Extraordinary personality award granted to the UN Secretary-General, and in a brief text introduced the same award to H.E. Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, in recognition of his visionary leadership, unwavering dedication and unparalleled commitment, advocacy and relentless efforts to provide essential support to ensure lifesaving aid and promote sustainable solutions.

H.E. Jan Egeland, Secretary-General Norwegian Refugee Council, shared a few words on this occasion. He mentioned the many conflicts in the region and called the situation in 2024 a seminal world. He was

concerned that despite more documentation of needs, crises and disasters and Climate Change, the gap between needs and aid and protection available to the affected population has grown and is possibly the biggest in history. While in 2006 around 42 million people were displaced by conflict, their number today probably amounts to 120 million, which is a tripling of unprotected people in 12-13 years.

A reboot of humanitarian diplomacy is needed to be able to provide protection and prevent conflict. It is an outrage that aid agencies cannot provide the necessary protection in the world's largest displacement camp in Rafah. Or the situation in Ukraine, Sudan, Mali, and other places with increased war with large investments in armaments while millions are hungry.

At this seminal stage in humanitarian work, we need to be the voice of the voiceless who are afraid to be critical, out of fear to lose support. He expressed the hope for Gulf countries to be able to unite with other leading forces in helping to push parties in the cold war to not protract conflicts. It is a challenge not giving up and being energised by the current possibility to unite to give resources and demand protection, access for and assistance to people in need to enable them to help themselves.

Children of DIHAD: students from the School of Creative Sciences talked about humanitarian diplomacy and what it means for the people to get the help they need without a delay, such as protection and shelter and food.

OUTLINE OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

H.E. Amb. Gerhard Putman-Cramer, CEO, DIHAD Sustainable Humanitarian Foundation, welcomed the attendees and explained the theme of the event, which was taking place despite the floods. Humanitarian action was the initial concept, while humanitarian diplomacy is declining. Actors are now looking at access, security, Climate Change, new actors, and needed leadership at the crossroads. Innovative new technologies and priorities are under discussion to ensure appropriate use of AI. The Speakers are from a range of backgrounds to come to a roadmap of solutions for the humanitarian needs.

SESSION 1

Humanitarian Diplomacy - Access and Human Security

Panel:

Mr. Fabrizio Carboni, Regional Director, Near and Middle East, ICRC, Chair, stressed that human security is an issue that keeps all humanitarian actors awake at night, the essence of our work to have access to people affected by violence and conflicts. Access is probably one of the most challenging issues today. He introduced the panellists and the different perspectives of humanitarian action and access, an emotional topic as it concerns the variety of humanitarian actors and the exposure to risks such as in Gaza, Sudan and Syria and other settings where humanitarian staff have been killed. Humanitarian but also political actors play a critical role in humanitarian access as do military actors

with their objectives and priorities. We have a legal framework for humanitarian access in the law of armed conflict to act in a situation of conflict, but these rules disappear in many situations, to be replaced by the law of the jungle. Any use of force must be proportional, while the burden of access is also to be in line with humanitarian principles, and impartiality in assistance and neutrality. These are challenged through misinformation and hate speech when politics are involved. Neutrality was challenged e.g. in Ukraine, but it should apply even in protection of the enemy. Humanitarian diplomacy is a tool to reach the objectives.

H.E. Najat Rochdi, Deputy Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Syria, wished to amplify the collective voice and love for humanity, preventing it from falling in bad hands. Rules were agreed to avoid exclusion whereas we are now in total denial of the right of protection, existence and access to basic needs. Nowadays, humanitarian diplomacy is challenging the denial in us, it is the basis and needed to avoid and prevent hell. The huge polarisation started with the Ukraine crisis and is now at a crossroads in saving the bodies. Bridging the two components, humanitarian diplomacy is often seen as a means for war as it brings and uses political power to have influence but not for the good. The political agenda and narratives work through a narrow agenda and to avoid the total mess in which the world now exists. Mediation is at the core of humanitarian diplomacy, a standard and common understanding of what needs to be brought back without compromising common values and principles, but the need to deal with harsh challenges.

Dr Michael Koehler, Grand Bargain Ambassador, Former Deputy Director-General DG ECHO, was asked to think of a way how humanitarian diplomacy can be used. Whether the source of the challenges is political or simply a lack of knowledge in the humanitarian circle, resources and security. He challenged the concept of humanitarian diplomacy, what it means and what does the trick as humanitarian diplomacy would take place at all levels of the action. A certain level of professional relations and preparation for performing diplomatic tasks is needed. Pillars are sound knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the philosophy behind it, sanctions for violating IHL and humanitarian principles, being able to connect with armed forces, for humanitarian diplomacy to become a tool to better prepare for conflict of priorities and tasks and to ensure there is no conflict without rules.

The question was repeated whether humanitarian diplomacy is just a matter of know-how and skills around humanitarian principles. UN Humanitarian Coordinators have a set of capacities but not necessarily all that are needed. Respect is the crux, together with transparency and honesty and not being pretentious, giving realistic promises in simple wording with open minds. It is also essential to interact with non-state actors in this way, inserting mitigation in disorder. Fake news and propaganda must be countered by local media. Humanitarian diplomacy is a process for which the alliances must be the right ones, shuttling between being a risk taker and being a risk maker.

Hon. Gennaro Migliore, Director, PAM Centre for Global Studies, San Marino, presented the state perspective both as a politician as well as a parliamentarian. In the humanitarian crisis in Gaza the question rises what humanitarian diplomacy is, a tool for emergency actions or a means of prevention of conflicts, but it needs to be turned from a tool into a vision. Accepting collateral casualties if humanitarianism is put at a lower priority, and to push and avoid that humanitarian diplomacy becomes an empty word. It is crucial to take responsibility for victims of terrorism and insist with political leadership not to cut support for humanitarian actions of humanitarian agencies. The question remains how to use all tools that can be brought together in situations of conflict, such as family reunion with new technological means such as AI.

Comments from the floor

--Is it possible to reconcile war with humanitarian principles coupled with humanitarian activities and contradictions in crisis management?

--What are the challenges to humanitarian actors to be drawn into a conflict without being able to counter this situation?

--Neutrality and impartiality vs manipulation of public opinion and propaganda?

--How is the value of humanitarian diplomacy different from political diplomacy?

--What alliances are needed to negotiate in conflicts and how?

--Showing lessons learned and success stories may be contributing to humanitarian diplomacy in conflict situations, and how to define priorities in humanitarian action?

--Are success stories coalitions with the enemy, humanitarian diplomacy or simply diplomacy?

In response, the Panel philosophised on where the limit lies for humanitarian diplomacy and action to be optimally valuable. Alliances between different skills are important and should not be separate from politics with humanity at the centre.

Education and ethics must be related and not be at the personal interest in the political context. Tools for interaction have become much more powerful, particularly when they are presenting only one side of the voices. Ethics are key in making clear that the purpose of the actions is to help the population, despite personal risks taken.

Coalition is needed as humanitarian diplomacy is representing humanity at large and not just one state; it is a silent process without publishing the steps until the final solution of the conflict.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Safe and Secure Aid delivery in a context of increasing risks"

H.E. Gilles Michaud, UN USG for Safety and Security, New York, focused on the latest conflicts over the last years, starting with Sudan, Gaza, and man-made suffering in Myanmar, Eastern DRC and other places where over 235 million people require humanitarian assistance. Statistics represent real human lives, as he remembered horrible experiences illustrating that today's humanitarian catastrophes will be tomorrow's development crises. Recently in Myanmar, Gaza and Somalia, focus is on people in need who have lost everything. Humanitarian work is invaluable and meaningful, the truest meaning of humanity, in places of disregard of humanitarian principles. Aid workers have never been more at risk, feeling never as unsafe as in Gaza, but also in other crises. Partnerships and collaboration with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) is essential to accompany humanitarian efforts. UNDSS was established in 2003 at the time of the Baghdad attack, focusing on coordination of crises in security and safety of staff. It is active in 130 countries, also addressing failures when not the right capacity is in place or too risk adverse, but it is constrained by financial resources as the UN budget spends 2% on security, whereas risk levels and staff in the field increase.

Partnership requires cultural and operational shifts: engaging to understand the needs and insights of the humanitarian community; adapting approach, building risk tolerance with greater understanding of priorities; integrating service delivery; diversifying workforce and partnership with those who are very experienced in background and problem solving. Some progress has been made, but the road is long to prioritise integration of security and diversification.

In conclusion, the world is more divided than ever, with hardening positions, but brave aid workers on the ground deserve unqualified support and protection.

SESSION 2

“Humanitarian Diplomacy and Climate Change”

Panel:

H.E. Nawal Al-Hosany, UAE Permanent Representative to IRENA, moderated the panel as its Chair and focused on the human challenge posed by the climate crisis. Climate Change is now a reality with very severe and more frequent weather events, not only in UAE but also in Africa and Asia. It is a humanitarian crisis that will require USD 38 trillion up to 2050. According to IPCC, climate change and natural disasters will lead to displacement of up to 1.2 billion people by 2050. It presents a clear call for united action, and at COP28 the need to drive common global action was understood. It presented a message of hope as COP28 put humanity at the heart of the climate discourse, putting the focus on energy projects, including infrastructure as well social stability, and sustainable solutions worldwide, a clear commitment to empower nations to move to a secure future.

Integrating resilience with direct humanitarian action presents an innovative approach to global challenges and leaving a legacy of host countries to have access to renewable energy by 80% by 2030

in several countries. It also an important step to sustainable peace. Financing of climate action is an investment with IRENA and ETAF contributing so far USD 4 million targeting 2030 with global energy. The intervention was ended with a call on all stakeholders to ensure for access to sustainable energy and development becoming a reality.

Ms Corinne Fleischer, WFP Regional Director for the Middle East, Northern Africa and Eastern Europe, focused on the deteriorating malnutrition statistics of children in the region in conflict. Climate Change drives more people into hunger than conflict does. Close to 43 million people in the MENA region are food insecure. Climate Change with temperature increase and wildfires creates water scarcity and challenges food production, with some crops decreased by 30%. More disruption of food supply is expected to affect by 80 million by 2050 and over 60 million water scarcity, causing displacement. So, in 2023 water resource management and restoration of the irrigation system was prioritised, as were resilience building programmes. Several initiatives include:

WFP initiatives include the rehabilitation of bakeries to support food production despite Climate Change, planting of over a million trees in Lebanon to increase production, rehabilitation of marshland, reduction of carbon emissions and other initiatives to bring funding to national economies aiming at handing over of knowledge and implementation skills.

What will be urgently needed are innovative financing mechanisms, consistent and longer-term funding for climate, partnerships integrating local knowledge and scientific research, and large-scale access in cases such as in Gaza. (see attachment - video)

Ms Latifa AlQemzi, Director General, DP World Foundation, emphasised the organisation's commitment to change, including education, health, food and disaster response, with a focus on increasing resilience. The harsh reality of approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 - 2050 is feared. Effective interventions are needed across all sectors of the humanitarian community with support from governments and private institutions, an intersection of humanitarian, displacement and disaster response. Immediate meeting of needs can outreach long term sustainable solutions. Complementary charity is essential, rather than disparity and competing interests for long-term resilience building which leads to duplication of efforts rather than working in partnership with sustainable organisations and capacity building on how to respond to natural disasters.

A video showed challenges and how innovative strategies with integrated relief and sustainability with short-term activities and sustainable investments were implemented. These include education initiatives and building bridges for which partnerships are a key component, pooling resources and expertise to create an effect of positive change.

DP World Foundation aims to emerge as a beacon of hope, a new and relative partner with unwavering energy and to engage with all stakeholders, aligning short term relief efforts and paving the way to a sustainable future.

Mr. Claus Sorensen, Senior Adviser on Resilience, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, NRC; Former DG, ECHO, stressed that we are on the road to hell with Climate Change causing violence as a slow onset process, complemented with a long-term tragedy. Manmade phenomena are creating dramatic conditions and insecurity. Responsible governments between all four complications have a responsibility, a Nexus plus with climate actors, security - and development actors needing to work more closely together. This is a task for humanitarians who need to clean up their own house and ensure their governments are responsible, producing renewable resources, reducing their climate footprint and ensuring all standards are responsible in their use of energy. As an illustration he mentioned that NRC is investing in solar panels for its field offices. Cleaning-up and major contribution of humanitarian actors in risks and vulnerability knowledge must be transferred in dialogue with governments and their mandated organisations. Furthermore, development organisations must help to mobilise climate funds which are at seriously low levels. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries are at a staggering disadvantage in climate funds of USD 2.1 per capita vs USD 161.0 for less affected countries. COP28 raised awareness of the climate challenge but the declaration did not refer to the extreme vulnerability of SSA. Resilience building is not enough stressed in development programmes, neither is the need for political stability. (attachment)

The Chair summarised the presentations such as the Nexus Plus, the need for a solution and funding for climate related humanitarian disasters, all sectors to take responsibility and coming together. Development funding, blocked for political reasons, should be made available for humanitarian and climate actions. The increased cost of food production and reduced funding will lead to more shortfall in food. The gaps must be identified and shared between stakeholders in an organised way. This is a global challenge and must be addressed by working together to act for relief impact.

Comments from the floor

- Climate Change requires alternative solutions - how to find another source of funds for humanitarian appeals? Panel: *It cannot be humanitarian funding and needs to be innovative to get resources to the local communities since the numerous crises leave no funding for climate actions. Local communities must be supported in climate smart initiatives.*

Farming needs to be taught in UAE, but for long term a secure investment is needed.

- With development funding not available, what is the way to go?

- Introduction of new technology means challenges, raising the question how to do this for communities to respond.

- Behaviour of peace keeping missions directly affects the Climate as military also carry out humanitarian work.

- Climate concern must be included in the humanitarian response.

DAY TWO

SESSION 3

Humanitarian Diplomacy and the Enhanced Role of Women & Youth

Panel

Ms Laila Baker, Regional Director for Arab States, UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) - Chair, mentioned that involvement of women is irreplaceable as the most vulnerable of populations where international aid is indispensable. As needs rise and less money becomes available, the scope of the crisis is so big that humanitarian aid alone is not enough. Women and young people are in a paradigm as agents of change. We are at a cross roads with humanitarian diplomacy where needs-based aid is indispensable.

It is assumed that traditional diplomacy will bring about good development and peace, but predictability of alliances and male-dominated actions were seen in WW 2. The next phase was relief and humanitarian paradigms, built on needs of short catastrophies so that aid was short in and out. Now humanitarian aid is a lifeline to people in need, foreseen to increase from the current 300 million to 1.2 billion by 2050, so a sustainable solution must be found to return to predictability where women and children can be engaged in a different way, removing structural barriers and moving to a dialogue. There is a need to be inclusive and for a quota system where voices are heard, and women can initiate their own change.

Dialogue is the preferred way for women to communicate, inclusivity the way to communicate and change the business model. The Panellists were invited to briefly introduce themselves and address tough questions to shift the paradigm.

Ms Amany Gaddour, Regional Director of the Humanitarian NGO Syria Relief & Development, set out how she found her way to serve domestic health care and global health. The best approach she found to work from the local level to overcome structural barriers and also between different cultural worlds. She worked on the response to the Syrian crisis, focusing on protection of the team and partners, keeping in mind the persons to be served. Young people challenges and those of immigrants.

Ms Sophie Barbey, Deputy Director of Operations, Terre des Hommes (TdH), Lausanne, has held her current position since 2020. As the head of the Operational Programs and Expertise Department of

TdH, the leading Swiss foundation on children's rights, she guides and manages the implementation of its strategic plan.

For more than twenty years before her current assignment, she led and managed several operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), both at field and headquarter levels. For ten years she demonstrated a cunning ability to manage operations and lead teams in complex, volatile and multi-cultural environments (India, Chad, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Palestine, Serbia and Albania). She spent five years at the ICRC's headquarters as an expert, covering detention issues and files of persons deprived of their liberty, followed by three years as the Head of the ICRC Mission in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). She led humanitarian diplomacy efforts and engaged on key International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and protection areas with leading partners.

She reminded that Humanitarian Diplomacy is to "influence the influencers"; thus, integrating women and youth into diplomatic efforts will bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the table to lead to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions to complex challenges. By recognising and amplifying the role of women and youth into decision-making processes will promote and further protect the Rights of Children and Women, gender equality and build more inclusive societies while strengthening the social cohesion. She also reiterated the importance of continuing raising awareness on their role to play, including through training and educational sessions (with new technology and innovative tools) and emphasised the importance of their empowerment, as building block for changes can only be done if all concerned are involved in their full capacity.

Mr. Dherar Belhoul Al Falasi, Executive Director, Watani Al Emarat Foundation, PAM Special Representative on Children and Conflict, expanded on his vast experience in the humanitarian world. In 2012 his focus changed from media to community development and launch of humanitarian initiatives during Covid. It was a learning process and joy being able to enter the most restricted area with labour camps where all were contaminated, but when restrictions were lifted common joy followed. The delivery of 1 million food packages happened in perfect harmony with people following procedures. In UAE gender balance was reached early on, while youth are now also represented in councils, where majority are women in volunteering. He stressed that gender balance in his office called for male empowerment as his foundation has 75% female staff. Women have to fight for their right, volunteering starts at schools which are segregated.

Whereas in the UAE gender parity is reached, the question is whether this is also applicable in humanitarian diplomacy because the structure is mostly patriarchic and leadership is still mostly male dominated. Humanitarian needs discussions must also include human rights, and leadership must include female traits, integrity and passion as well as emotional intelligence. Gender parity does not necessarily entail including a voice at the table, active engagement of women needs skills to navigate open space to base on a human rights perspective.

For promotion of rights of children and women and building a more inclusive society including all to be perfect, requires also including youth to have a proper response to a humanitarian crisis. Women must also have a voice by focusing on empathy for a more balanced response. Capacity building of women is recommended by ensuring that women are integrated in all layers of society. Education and participation of children are key to have their voices heard, bringing about empowerment. Research shows that empowerment means that power should not be domination over, but power with and for. A collective approach with community-based alliance in power structures at local levels has to involve women, but more education / skills building must be done for their involvement in decision making. To grow a new generation of diplomats.

For children in conflict and humanitarian settings to be involved more effectively in humanitarian diplomacy requires their empowerment and giving them a chance and tools to grow with a dialogue and results-based empowerment: not just talks but action to bring about impact with their involvement. (attachments)

The Chair paraphrased the discourse on equal opportunity and the right skills sets and tools, recommending what is needed to move to empowerment in a balanced manner and together with the community also as active participants, e.g. through training. Currently, 21% of ambassadors in the world are women, in other leadership positions only 10% because of structural barriers which may be a deterrent. Now masculine power sticks but needs engaging for a solution as humanity as a whole is failing, needing a voice for women and youth to be active agents of change. It needs more empathising with communities being served, even if it is intimidating. One way is to overcome the often prohibitive structural barriers of women who are unpaid and for them to become part of the debate and be integrated in humanitarian diplomacy, e.g. by creating a more maternal family based structure. A concrete example is shared maternal and paternal leave, entailing a western imposed lens vs a localised perspective.

Comments from the Floor:

- How to embrace feminine soft skills and yet being taken seriously in a male dominated society?
- In the context of UN Res 1325 on including women in peace and security, how to include women with (un)paid leadership roles in humanitarian crises?
- On dialogue and communication, is there a bias against women and children that is a barrier?
- Observation indicates that most men are in support of gender balance, but still missing is an enabling safe environment for men questions, so not the when but the how is key to overcome a bias.
- In military settings, combatants are male so how to give women a voice?

In wrapping up the Session, the Chair appreciated the good interaction from the audience, sound experience at field work but in need of opening of the space and removing barriers for women and youth

to be involved next to men. It is important to choose the right interlocutors, continue to build the evidence, and work on overcoming the barriers which can also be funding. "Power is taken, not given."

SESSION 4

Humanitarian Diplomacy - Leadership and New Actors

Panel

Mr. Panos Moutzis, Executive Director of the Global Executive Leadership Initiative (GELI), Chair - called Dubai an enabler capable to adapt to changing times. Humanitarian diplomacy and new actors and welcomed voices from the floor. Significant changes have taken place in the last five years, to have better results to serve people but new crises are hampering the purposes of our sector. Many basic needs are not met. GELI invests in soft skills of leadership and focus on the most urgent need identified as humanitarian diplomacy to bring better results as humanitarian negotiators with governments, donors or non-state actors is an art, a skill learned over time. However, the pervasive influence of social media is making diplomacy more challenging due to visibility.

Humanitarian diplomacy places people to assist at the forefront and be voice of the voiceless, with new actors and new ideas: individual vs collective action, competing for funds and space are making collective leadership essential; risk aversion needs be replaced by more creative leadership to be the voice of the voiceless and for silos to be dismantled.

Who are the new actors: local and grassroots organisations with incredible profiles for which the Grand Bargain needs more progress to empower them together with everything else; cultural and religious leaders can have a significant influence; private sector partnerships must be placed at a higher level; youth and women organisations often bring innovation and critical thinking; technology companies deserve to be enhanced and accelerated to help better work; social media to become influencers for advocacy; philosophic foundations and academics for evidence-based bottom-up feedback with digital information and analysis leveraging knowledge.

The question is whether the current engagement is enough, and whether humanitarian diplomacy is failing, requiring concerted efforts to fortify sufficiency and reduce suffering. The ultimate solution lies in political will, holding decision makers accountable. He concluded by calling for compassion and solidarity by reminding the wise words from the UAE founding father, *'True wealth is not measured in money or status or power. It is measured in the legacy we leave behind for those we love and those we inspire.'*

Dr. Manal Omran Taryam, CEO and Board Member, Noor Dubai Foundation, mentioned alarming global statistics of over 1.1 billion visually impaired, 64% of whom are women. The Foundation assumed the challenge with a budget to treat one million people in the first year, while a collective programme lead to five million people treated around the world with only 30% of the budget used. The impact was

reached with collective diplomacy, involving different sectors in preventing blindness, now reaching 33 million people. The main enabler was an eye opener as success was reflected by measuring the nexus model of SDG 3 and 7 in total, e.g. poverty, education, gender equality, and climate change by the use of advanced technology like telemedicine / ophtalmology in Nepal, by reducing unnecessary referrals and carbon print, and now also AI. The number of people below the poverty line was reduced to less than 20%, and the rate of drop-outs by 80% by providing them reading glasses. Figures help convincing decision makers to allow them to provide more to the people in need. *“Humanitarian diplomacy only fails when we fail.”* ([attachment](#))

Mr. Fyras Mawazini, Director of International Development for SOS Méditerranée, is an example in action of a new actor and purpose by saving people on high seas, often clashing with officials. It is shocking how humanitarian diplomacy can play a role in a better future. Journey at sea and also on land: high seas mean there is no particular state jurisdiction, unknown where refugees take life risking routes. In the past ten years documented numbers are 63,000 deaths of which 40,000 at sea. The initiative of EU Mare Nostrum saved 100,000 lives after 330 lives had been lost with the shipwreck at Lampedusa in 2014. When Mare Nostrum was stopped, the sea was becoming a space where humanitarian crisis was unfolding but no response was given. The NGO organised a 100 metre long ship that can accommodate 400 people in high seas, but at the cost to also having to deal with surrounding authorities. Conflict and climate change became the main reason for 40,000 refugees, some 30% unaccompanied children, from 44 countries to look for a safer place from Syria, Afghanistan and from Sub Saharan and East Africa, and Central Asia. The project partnered with the IFRC to focus on protection and disembarkation in a safe place, involving negotiations with receiving authorities such as Italy.

Humanitarian diplomacy requires to be transparent and honest, creating awareness of the public and political leaders and being visible, also in schools. The humanitarian imperative is a must and is not negotiable as every single life is important and nobody should be dying at sea.

Dr. Simon Missiri, Director, Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Department (GHS&SCM), Special Representative IFRC, focused on a new IFRC approach to localisation. He stressed that humanitarian organisations face shrinking humanitarian space, while many challenges have not changed. Generic is that local actors are the main actors with national societies. Humanitarian diplomacy is about access and funding above all, but not engaging with local actors is a huge mistake. More training is needed to be successful humanitarian diplomats and involving local actors being able to meet with foreign actors. The migration crisis in Europe in 2015 was not successfully handled by the position of governments of national societies who became a barrier to action, and this confirmed the need to move out of the comfort zone. The humanitarian imperative is to be the top priority and the

cause to move, rather than political or other priorities. Not giving up, living by example, being a humble servant is a key for success.

Courage is needed to achieve nearly impossible goals and bring results. Refugee rights are often violated in countries of passage, while policy makers are often not used to provide data for humanitarian purposes and not just technical data. The local partners must be helped to be at the front and take the lead with the analysis and choose to being less public when no result is yet found. It is important to rebalance between the less successful actors and the new ones, to rely on local approaches as the community best knows the type of needs and how to respond. Criminalisation of new actors is the biggest challenge, when they base their intervention on push factors, i.e. the situation of their place of departure. A challenge is also the difference between cultures which requires explaining and respect to understand, which is helped by using local implementers. The advocacy from humble service is invaluable.

Comments from the Floor:

- How to navigate challenges of IHL and how humanitarian diplomacy plays a role in addressing IHL violations.
- How to select local actors in cases of conflict.
- Employment of illegal migrants without any labour rights still contributes to the home countries. How can humanitarian space open up legal space for such economic migrants?
- What avenues are available for leaders of the future and how to overcome risk aversion?
- Access by new humanitarian actors obtained while large NGOs did not succeed, so how to support those groups?
- Challenges for new actors to break in to this new area and help them face risk?
- Knowledge and information on local conditions need to be centralised.

Children of DIHAD

Diplomacy in the giving world - how children can be involved in humanitarian diplomacy - focused on donating and arranging events to spread the word and work together in a team and recognise teamwork.

“Team work is dream work.”

SESSION 5

Humanitarian Diplomacy and People on the Move

Panel:

Mr. Khaled Khalifa - Senior Advisor; Representative to the Gulf Coordination Council, UNHCR,- Chair, pointed at the unpredictable time in which we live now with more refugees than ever, of whom more

than half come from Muslim countries, 39% are in the Middle East which has only 5% of the population. In Chad more than 80% are women, from Ukrainian refugees more than 96% are women. More than 4.4 million people are stateless, including the desperate in Bangladesh who do not have much hope for the future. Most current crises are caused by political problems, which raises the importance of humanitarian diplomacy, ranging from settlement to negotiating residence. The current humanitarian world has many challenges never seen before.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director-General, Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (IsFD), focused on poverty side pointing at the complementarity between humanitarian and development tracks and with the International Development Bank. The Fund focuses on 57 countries of which 31 are poor or fragile and host a large share of displaced persons. The ramification is that partnerships are vital, needing to work in two parallel lines of long-term impact and establish a system to avoid conflict; build resilience to shocks; and develop opportunities to move out of poverty. Poverty reduction and the issue of displacement are largely dependent on the inadequacy of the governments which only get support when proven their tasks and delivery.

One step is the establishment of a USD 500 million replenishable fund with UNHCR to finance humanitarian needs, partly in the form of grants and loans. There are situations when humanitarian diplomacy has brought a solution. It needs to persuade decision makers of the needs of affected or poor populations, needing funding and sustainable means of assistance. Diplomacy has to do with persuasion with Member States; partnerships with local organisations and NGOs; trying to address the whole range of conflict.

Because during conflict or crisis most if not all factors have changed, repatriation is complex.

Mr. Amin Awad, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Former Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine; Senior Fellow, Advanced Leadership initiative, Harvard University, indicated that humanitarian diplomacy did work in response to crisis situations by preparing an environment where it can work. Relevance today is the contradiction between humanitarian work and humanitarianism, the need to leverage everything possible to get by, and it cannot always be complementary to the situation on the ground. An advocating and advisory approach should not be topdown but engagement of affected countries. Equity and humanitarian diplomacy should be applied in global endemic situations. Humanitarian mechanisms and good offices have helped to move beyond humanitarian space by engaging in the whole cycle of the crisis. Humanitarian diplomacy should be involved with all aspects and fases of a crisis, in the whole cycle and not just the aftermath of a crisis. Leverage of existing agreements should be used with initiatives to move beyond the demarcation area, effectively engage. There is a deficit of humanitarian leadership globally, with a move going on from a bipolar to a polar system, with a grab approach and incomplete agreements.

Mr. Rami Adwan, Head of Arab Relations, UNRWA, reiterated that the Organisation is facing unprecedented problems, particularly since the Hamas attack on 7 October 2023. The extent of death and destruction has never been anticipated before. Out of 2.3 million Gazans now 1.7 million are displaced, and 34,000 have died. Cities have been destroyed, the health system has fallen apart, 87% of the education system is no longer working and a whole generation is lost. UNRWA itself lost 178 staff, only nine out of its 24 health care centres are operational, while in the West bank and East Jerusalem also 150 Palestinians have been killed.

UNRWA is also working in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, but since the attack of 7 October there is a search for exit strategies: adherence is not an option but legal; blockage of aid leading to only 5% of needs entering; diplomacy aimed at addressing accusations against UNRWA of which so far no evidence has been given. UNRWA has preserved neutrality unlike the accusations. Despite the recent resumption of aid delivery and support to UNRWA, a massive deficit is still existing and foreseen to continue. The strong feeling is that the whole world is letting the Palestinians down, a lack of respect for human rights opined by political views. Palestinian refugees enjoy a special category in International Humanitarian Law, since 1948, but are still living in inadequate conditions and dependent on the Member States for a decent living.

In the margin of the topic of the Session, reference was made to the Grand Bargain and how far Humanitarian Diplomacy plays a role in it, seen as a show of human diplomacy in itself. Humanitarian aid needs to be more negotiated with a longer term vision and locally involved. Anticipatory action is to be included and bring all players together. Especially Gulf countries should join the Grand Bargain initiative.

Comments from the Floor:

- Internal displacement and the role of humanitarian diplomacy to gain access to the IDP- rights in fragile situations.
- Role of civil society to feel legitimatised in intervening in crises.
- Displaced are frequently staying several decades in one place such as a camp. How can humanitarian diplomacy help responsabilising, and what role can the private sector play?
- The role of civil society and private sector is dependent on the nature of the environment.
- Can humanitarian aid be separated from politics, and if so, how?
- Do humanitarian diplomats have sufficient capacity to reign against political powers, and can they be separated?
- On Gaza response, is a system needed to overcome the gaps between agencies? Synergy on the ground is not the responsibility of UN agencies but of the recipient government.
- In the Gaza situation humanitarian diplomacy may have failed, so question arises whether it was used in the right way, as in Gaza the conflict is between a state and an opposing group.

- Gaza can never be forgotten, and how is the future seen - with an escalation of crisis in particular regarding mental health needs?
- Can the final outcome of the recent UN S-G's review influence the funding for UNRWA?
- Is the Palestinians' ability to return being promoted by humanitarian diplomacy?

Message from the panel: there is hope, we need all to work together with the limited resources, the current lack of global leadership needs vision and diplomacy, humanitarian diplomacy requires more tools to enforce advocacy. Hopefully a new World Order will emerge to put things straight.

SESSION 6

Humanitarian Diplomacy and Global Health Challenges

Panel:

Dr. Mukesh Kapila, Professor Emeritus Global Health & Humanitarian Affairs, University of Manchester; Former Under-Secretary-General, IFRC, introduced the Panel by stating that peace is a pre-requisite for health. According to the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme, 189 armed conflicts took place in 2022 with 311,000 deaths, up from 86 conflicts around the year 2000. He described the current status of victims of wars which are lasting a decade or more such as Syria or Yemen, reason for the World Health Assembly (WHA) statement of "health for peace and peace for health", which is not just the absence of disease. The dilemma at the core of the health nexus is that health can create stronger fighters, sapping opponents in the logic of war. Pandemics are created as diseases do not know boundaries, while access for medical technology can become a basis for conflict. Health has become politicised, the reason that it is unlikely that a pandemic treaty will be adopted at the World Health Assembly. Access to health care is becoming a security issue, justifying direct targeting of health facilities and workers with the fourfold number of attacks. Health care is under attack in times of conflict, prominently in Gaza, Ukraine and a number of African countries where the sanctity of health workers and taboos is degrading the status of health, despite universal norms and laws.

Applying health strategies also in public violence approaches to address grievances of current conflicts. Selfishness rather than selflessness seems to be at the core of conflicts, with the dilemma of using health as a bridge for peace rather than as a weapon for war. Wars only end when one of the sides loses. The question is whether more can be done to make it possible for health to be able to transform into peace, defuse violence and reduce brutality.

Before giving the floor to the Panellists, he concluded that lamenting of lost facilities and lives is okay for the record, but health workers must go beyond this and develop strategies to prevent brutality.

H.E. Paul Bekkers, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN and WTO in Geneva; Former Special Envoy for Mental Health - addressed mental health and psychosocial support

in humanitarian crises - *Mind the mind now*. There is no health without mental health. One of every four people will be temporarily unable to perform optimally because of a mental health issue. Figures of affected youngsters are scary, they are influenced by social media which bring to young people more than their brains can cope with. They need role models, an issue which in the past could hardly be raised, but nowadays all do. The isolation from the world during the Covid pandemic has helped in some ways, but not for people in areas in distress, living in fear of death. Social media also play a critical role and are also open for improvement and faster recovery for communities if allowed to deal with trauma in their lives and loss. The awareness about the problem has grown considerably with affected people asking for psychological and not only physical support. It is a key component of life-saving efforts and now seen as an effective tool to achieve impact. Although many tools are available with several groups and joint efforts, there are far too few professionals to help meet psychological needs. At the same time, there is also the duty of care and space for those who provide help to be able to deliver this help. In this context, the Speaker referred to the book "*My hero is you*", for children affected by Covid-19, developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, which could certainly prove to be of value for other crises.

Dr. Nehal Hefny, Deputy Regional Director, Middle East & North Africa, IFRC, highlighted issues related to mental health and pointed out inequalities. By 2030 more than half of the global population will live in situations without access to food. Health principles and humanitarian principles are indivisible. The annual expenditure on health per capita in several crisis countries is not more than USD 10. Gaza has suffered more than 460 severe attacks on health facilities, making it the most attacks, more than Ukraine. The challenge is, therefore, how to focus better to counter the upcoming events.

No global consensus is reachable on indicators for critical issues such as pandemic response or climate change, or health as a security issue.

The global humanitarian system and to what extent humanitarians are not being firm to get more access or more funds.

Many positive examples exist and silent diplomacy continuing. Governments and diplomats have a role to play in this to make the world better.

"Bring the boots and the suits together".

Ms Amina Mohamed, Community Conservation, Safari Doctors, Lamu, Kenya, representing Ms Umra Omar, the Founder, talked about decentralising and decolonising healthcare for humanitarian advancement. WHO research concluded that still half of the world population lacks access to health care. Therefore, decentralising health care is the only way to increase access to services by marginalised populations.

Health care facilities are mostly overburdened, with an imbalance in access between urban and rural areas, disparities and diversity of situations and needs. The system is not ready to handle any extra

charge due to pandemic response. As a result, access at lower cost for private persons or local communities must be improved with better adjustments to culturally effective and culturally appropriate care. Proper training and supervision of community health workers as well as capacity building at grassroots level will lead to the badly needed savings.

Comments from the Floor:

- Health workers need a basic capacity to have access to negotiation skills.
- The recruitment process of health workers is just as slow as that of the UN system.
- People on the move is a challenge in providing health care.
- In view of the lack of evidence-based and due to culturally biased interventions, the question is whether there are ways to do research on Psychological First Aid (PFA).
- How and what can be done for mental health affected patients in marginalised groups to receive help?
- Volunteer tourism must be reconciled with local capacity.
- How can the often exorbitant tax on health care be countered?
- Humanitarian diplomacy should start at the community level with an internal culture of sharing messages and building trust at all levels.

In summary, pandemic treaty consultations are ongoing and require to give and take a willingness to work out. People on the move need far more attention. Psychologists must be included in response missions, but what most of all is needed is to be able to give a listening ear. The evidence of the direct and indirect cost of mental health was described by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as 3% of health care expenses. Advocacy and promotion of the need for protection of health workers and facilities against attacks are urgently needed. Awareness that health affects all areas of security, peace and development up to the highest levels in government must be increased. It is not evident that health is sacred and a bridge, but rather has increasingly become a tool of war. In the link between response to health and other crises, e.g. political crises, the value of basic health is evidenced.

DAY THREE

Humanitarian Diplomacy and Child Rights: the specific plight of children in contexts of insecurity

Ms Mervat Shelbaya, Director, Inter-Agency Support Branch; Head Inter-Agency Standing Committee Secretariat (IASC), OCHA, reiterated that humanitarian diplomacy is a lifeline in this time with many conflicts in the world, making it a tall order in a rapidly transforming landscape, complicated with geopolitical multipolarity and new actors. The delivery of humanitarian aid and protection is also complicated by sanctions and counterterrorism measures as well as political divisions to traditional mechanisms such as the UN Security Council.

Recent examples of the necessary robust approach to diplomacy include the high-level strategic dialogue with the Syrian authorities; the coordination of the Black Sea Initiative for safe transport of food supplies for crisis countries, together with the Russian Federation, Turkiye and Ukraine, not extended beyond one year; and the humanitarian negotiations on Sudan, securing key humanitarian commitments by the warring parties to permit access and ease bureaucratic impediments.

Humanitarian diplomacy is a long-term endeavour and no blueprint for success; it requires to be agile and avoid competition, align interests and respect humanitarian principles. Humanitarian efforts must be broadened, and advocacy be bold to make a difference between life and death.

Creating Enabling Environments for Women and Youth in Fragile Environment

Mr. Simon van Melick, CEO Spark, focused on youth, giving credit to young entrepreneurs, some of whom received a start-up grant from Spark, and how to use start-up funding to obtain economic growth with sustainable business and market driven skills to create impactful jobs.

Every Euro spent on youth-lead peacebuilding programmes gives five-to-ten-fold return on investment with favourite impact on young people's confidence and capacity, turning the young from recipients into partners in crisis situations where it now is hard to succeed with human development due to the conflicts. By 2030 young Africans will make up 30% of global youth. In the future 42% of global youth must be involved and become partners in development.

Spark supports youth with digital technology, green- and agri-business to play critical roles with business skills, making working with local organisations essential.

In Gaza Spark works on early and long-term recovery, health, education and food production with short courses to meet immediate needs as well as providing water purification.

Most often, people tend to look at business only through the products but not at the impact on society. New and unorthodox partnerships for long term change must be pursued. (attachments)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Humanitarian Diplomacy and Food Security

H.E. Amb. Arthur Mattli, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain, referred to DIHAD as one of the rare platforms dealing in the rapidly changing world with

complex situations with gaps in humanitarian aid. The ongoing humanitarian reform is carried out with heroic staff and best practices in less than 100 control trials. The humanitarian aid sector has a long way to go to ensure it is based on real evidence. The World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul in 2016 resulted in the Grand Bargain, and the High-Level Panel in support of the humanitarian sector to reach more people in need. In 2021, a new version of the Grand Bargain set out commitments for localisation of aid to be elaborated upon in ten thematic work streams, illustrating the complexity of the reform process and growing consensus to contribute to much needed reform of the humanitarian sector. The next step will be in 2026 when a new venue is needed to ensure more reform, but important steps have been taken in governments with the Nexus issue with new structures bringing different expertise together. Switzerland has moved to multi-year funding in a principled manner and upholding IHL principles, the basis of humanitarian work and alleviating suffering. This year is the 75th anniversary of the Geneva conventions which aim at providing protection of people in need.

While the humanitarian sector is a symbol of compassion, the humanitarian appeals are no longer met. Serious efforts are needed to uphold humanitarian principles and ensure humanitarian reforms become a reality.

There is No Diplomacy Without Education

Dr. Waleed Al-Ali, Secretary-General, The Digital School, MBRGI, Dubai, stressed there is no diplomacy without education! Quality education is essential and must be protected, also in conflict situations. In a video, the priority investment of the UAE leadership to aid education and education diplomacy in UAE was illustrated. The Smart Learning Programme launched in UAE schools in 2012 has been spread in the region and the world. In 2023, the programme involved 24.8 million students, living in 46 countries and 149,826 volunteer supervisors in the Arab Reading Challenge of the MBRGI Education initiative. It is an example how the education initiative went beyond diplomacy to promote reading among young Arab speakers.

The second undertaking is the Digital School initiative which started in Covid time to continue education with one million students worldwide and with a vision to empower underserved communities towards a brighter future. The programme is now also given in other languages and includes teacher training, and in collaboration with DIHAD also educator training.

The agency is negotiating education for girls in Afghanistan for a pilot remote education.

In closing, Speaker reiterated that education must not be an afterthought in humanitarian and development aid but must be a central part of it. (attachments)

The Future and the Importance of Partnerships

Mr. Giuseppe Saba, CEO, International Humanitarian City (IHC), Dubai - now called Dubai Humanitarian- attended DIHAD from its first edition in 2004. IHC has grown since then with now 80 partner organisations and has become the world's largest humanitarian hub. Its growth took place in stages with threefold increase from 2003 and in 2011, establishment in 2015 of the Global Humanitarian Impact Fund, the Humanitarian Logistics Data Bank and the response to Covid in 2022, and in 2023 celebrated Humanitarian Action. In 2024, the next phase is the Knowledge and Development Centre, and with coverage moved from Dubai to the world "Dubai Humanitarian" to empower the future of humanitarian action, creating a global safety net and a more predictable humanitarian aid supply. In 2023 gathering message implementing and sharing best practices, operating in global humanitarian assistance hubs, predictable supply aid to reduce carbon footprint in several partnerships with academia and with the humanitarian community to respond beyond relief and diversify activities and prepare a new generation of humanitarian workers and leaders. Our future needs diversified forces to provide hum assistance, our call for action. ([attachments](#))

Humanitarian Diplomacy and Food Security

Mr. Maxwell Sibhensana, Deputy Director, Operations and Resourcing, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), referred to the recent global report on the food insecurity crisis of which conflict is the key driver. The population in need has increased from 14.5 to 36 million, with access as a major issue for the affected population as well as aid providers. Humanitarian, political and technical diplomacy are ways to advocate for access. Several monitoring reports have been issued, e.g. on Sudan where over 5.1 million people were assisted with seed; Tigray in 2021, despite blockade, seed and fertiliser; Karamoja cluster for livestock sharing to prevent cross-border contamination; or Yemen with support to women to ensure water access.

Agriculture can ensure the livelihood of 80% of people affected by conflict and restore their dignity. But there is a need for the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus to work with local actors and adding the climate actors. Humanitarian diplomacy is not a single event but must be an ongoing way of working across the cycle.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Increasing Needs and the Urgency to Build Better Bridges between Development and Humanitarian Aid

H.E. Mr. Steven Collet, Vice-Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, wondered how a sudden onset emergency would have stopped him to provide in his livelihood. We are in dire straits with food insecurity at the level of starvation with 118 countries

suffering over 25% decline in food access, and more than 210 million people displaced in 2023. The current system is insufficient and requires all to step up in funding, promoting access, giving attention to and support for forgotten crises, address distortion for local markets due to provision of food aid, burdened societies with refugees, and silos in response. The Netherlands tries to commit Euro 535 million in humanitarian aid, out of the Euro 7 billion development budget. It aims to protect development as prevention is cheaper than response as is humanitarian relief. The nexus humanitarian and development with early warning of disasters is essential for governments and development communities. So is also support to host communities and not only refugees with entrepreneurs, agricultural value chains, and through the prospect's partnerships.

The ways in which humanitarian aid is provided must be with governments supporting local communities in a context of developing to be sustainable. Unearmarked and pooled funding is way more effective and predictable, working with the UN but also with (Dutch) NGOs in the Dutch Relief Alliance. Humanitarian diplomacy entails being very active in bilateral contacts to maintain respect for humanitarian principles and protection of humanitarian workers. This involves the following steps:

- 1 - step up funding and interventions in solidarity;
- 2 - deliver better with new partners and energies e.g. private sector, philanthropy.
- 3- coordinate to deliver on humanitarian principles; and
- 4 - not to forget target groups we work for but also work with them, even putting them in the lead.

CLOSING ADDRESS

H.E. Amb. Sergio Piazzi, Secretary-General, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), called DIHAD's event as inspiring as the last 20 years. The focus on Humanitarian Diplomacy was to be seen as part of a large range of initiatives of diplomacy, such as sports, climate, or parliamentary, and how these spelled out humanitarian diplomacy. This includes access, opportunities, commitments, risks and courage needed to deliver humanitarian assistance. DIHAD provides an excellent platform to exchange experiences and new initiatives, and to interact with partners to grasp a young generation with vision and energy to strengthen the link with those in the field or at headquarters.

He thanked the Chairman of DIHAD and his team, the CEO of DIHAD and Director of DISAB for organising such a debate, and the UAE authorities for their hospitality, and he looked forward to meeting once again in Dubai.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

H.E. Amb. Gerhard Putman-Cramer, CEO, DIHAD Sustainable Humanitarian Foundation, thanked all speakers and all present, the organisers who made it happen despite the floods and last-minute

changes, the interpreters and all colleagues. He announced that next year's theme and details would be communicated in due course, and declared the Conference closed.