



Concept Note

First Conference for Hosting Countries of World's Humanitarian Hubs

on the margins of COP 28

**Impact of Climate Change on the
Humanitarian Emergency Preparedness and
Response**

Submitted by
the International Humanitarian City
to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

International Humanitarian City

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I. Background

The Dubai International Humanitarian City (**IHC**) is the largest humanitarian hub in the world. It was founded in 2003 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai. This year 2023, IHC is celebrating 20 years of activities and achievements, while drawing future plans with its Dubai and global community.

The International Humanitarian City is a unique non-profit, independent, humanitarian free-zone Authority hosting a community of around 80 mainly international members. These are comprised of UN organizations, non-profits, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in addition to commercial companies. In sum, the international humanitarian community in Dubai alone includes about 500 people representing more than 68 nationalities.

IHC facilitates and coordinates collective action with all IHC members to deliver efficient emergency response to a growing number of crises across the world. Together with its community, IHC is continuing its journey by preparing for new challenges, creating new synergies and partnerships with innovators and academic institutions, and partnering with private sector actors intent on contributing to humanitarian activities.

II. Humanitarian Emergency Preparedness & Response and Climate Change

In recognition of the grave challenge that climate change poses to the humanitarian situation around the globe, we, as part of the humanitarian community, are fully committed to understanding how emergency preparedness and response will be affected by extreme (and ongoing) weather events. This is a vital aim when we consider that the whole supply chain and aid mobilization will be impacted by these events. Indeed, typhoons, heat waves, floods, hurricanes, droughts, forest fires, and cyclones are just examples of common emergencies faced lately. Collective efforts of aid organizations, governments, and leaders in every sector are needed to better prepare for the future and promote a solid commitment to climate action to assist the humanitarian community in its endeavors.

The IHC and lead cluster agencies are uniting their efforts to diminish carbon emissions in the storage and transportation of humanitarian aid. Concurrently, we are intensifying collaborations with manufacturers, relief item suppliers, and logistics firms that serve the humanitarian sector, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sustainable humanitarian supply

chain. The quantification of carbon emissions and the commitments to mitigate them will be presented at COP28 through a dedicated conference.

Furthermore, the valuable insights gained from the COVID-19 pandemic have compelled us to reevaluate the process of delivering aid items to disaster-stricken areas, emphasizing sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness.

III. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to encourage and lead the efforts of the humanitarian community and other actors involved in emergency preparedness and climate change response in coordination for better emergency response. These efforts are closely connected to information sharing and the visibility offered to humanitarian workers worldwide concerned with moving aid during emergencies. Today, the IHC's **Humanitarian Logistics Databank** platform represents an innovative example of data sharing in action. The Databank can develop even further via its adoption by IHC's ten sister humanitarian hubs and their hosting countries. The ultimate aim is for the Databank to be leveraged by all the countries and entities involved in local and regional emergency humanitarian response.

IV. First Conference for Hosting Countries of Humanitarian Hubs

To achieve greater coordination and high impact humanitarian work, IHC, in close coordination with the United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), is launching the "**First Conference for Hosting Countries of the World's Humanitarian Hubs.**"

We aim to invite representatives from hosting countries of the ten humanitarian hubs to participate in critical discussions around humanitarian emergencies caused by climate change and anticipate proactive solutions. The concerned countries, in addition to the UAE, include Panama, Spain, Ghana, Cameroon, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, China, and Australia. Relevant national entities and other local Disaster Management Authorities will also be invited.

World's Humanitarian Hubs:



a. The objectives of the conference are:

1. Under SDG 17, reinforcing the partnership among hosting countries by establishing a 'network of humanitarian cities and hubs'.
2. Connecting the Humanitarian hubs with the aim of facilitating information sharing through the Humanitarian Logistics Data bank and building up a sustainable humanitarian supply chain thus contributing to the reduction of carbon emission within the hubs and when moving aid.
3. Brainstorming and proposing a proactive approach to support the humanitarian community, sharing the UAE-IHC model and experience, sharing best practices and models and setting common approaches which could help the organizations in delivering sustainable and cost-efficient humanitarian action;

4. Discussing the impact of climate change on the emergency response; the supply chain of humanitarian aid, and how the application of new technologies and digitalization can render more sustainable humanitarian action; exploring opportunities to replicate successful models set in close cooperation with the humanitarian community.
5. Involving relevant stakeholders: government agencies (i.e., Customs) and international partners, including World Customs Organisation, UNCTAD, and OCHA in its primary role as Relief Coordinator. Highlighting the significance of partnership with the private sector, especially after the crucial role the private sector has played since the Covid-19 pandemic. Brainstorming on ways to build linkages with academic institutions and leverage their expertise to enhance emergency preparedness and response capacity.
6. Strengthening the stakeholders' dialogue between Humanitarian Organizations and hosting countries playing a crucial role in the relief operations.

b. Attendees:

1. Representatives of the 11 hosting countries:
 - a. Australia, Cameroon, China, Ghana, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Spain, Panama, United Arab Emirates
2. The UN Relief Coordinator
 - a. OCHA USG
3. The operational humanitarian organizations hosted within the mapped hubs and focused on emergency preparedness and response
 - a. IFRC, MSF, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP-UNHRD

c. Recommended Observers:

1. Countries community:
 - a. ECHO of the European Union, AHA Center of ASEAN, ECOWAS, Caribbeans community

d. Conference Patronage: *Under the leadership of UAE MOFA and IHC*

First Conference for Hosting Countries of World's Humanitarian Hubs

AGENDA

Date: Sunday, 3rd December 2023

Location: Blue Zone- People and Planet Building | Expo City Dubai

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Moderator: Ambassador Gerhard J.W. Putman-Cramer

PAM Permanent Observer to the UN Geneva and CEO, DIHAD Sustainable Humanitarian Foundation

Time	Session
Duration	2 HRS
10:00	Opening Remarks HE Reem Al Hashimy UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10:15	Connecting The World's Humanitarian Hubs for One Humanity Video
10:20	Remarks Martin Griffiths UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA
10:35	Remarks Sujit Kumar Mohanty Chief of Branch, Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Coordination and Partnerships, (UNDRR)
10:50	Statement of the Hosting Countries Jordan, Malaysia, Panama, Italy, Spain, Cameroon
11:30	2023: Re-Imagining The Humanitarian Supply Chain Video
11:35	Closing Remarks HE Abdulla AbdulRahman Al Shaibani Member of the Board of Directors, Dubai's International Humanitarian City
11:45	Photo Opportunity and End of Conference