



This review of the World Humanitarian Summit is part of an analysis commissioned to IIED by Cities Alliance that aims to help a range of urban development actors understand how six global agreements can support the advancement of sustainable



The World Humanitarian Summit established five core responsibilities: (1) prevent and end conflicts; (2) respect rules of war; (3) leave no-one behind; (4) work differently to end need; and (5) invest in humanity. Yet, these commitments remain voluntary as there is no agreed text endorsed by all governments.

The summit's outcomes are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, particularly through the "leave no-one behind" principle. Additionally, commitments include implementing disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies in line with the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

With little attendance of local and regional governments at the summit, their interests and priorities were not well covered. While none of the five core responsibilities have an urban focus, the Summit's report nevertheless shows some recognition of the need to bring in local actors and an understanding of urban contexts.

The first core responsibility, to "prevent and end conflicts," emphasises the role of strong leadership and mentions the need to improve accountability, include minorities and other groups in crisis settings, reinforce rather than replace local systems, and build local capacities. There was a strong consensus on the need to invest in frontline responders, namely national and local actors, with NGOs as the key supporters of this.

Strengths

The work of the humanitarian sector is highly relevant to urban development, most importantly due to the many refugees and internally displaced persons living in urban areas who are seeking to rebuild their lives there.

The recognition of the need for an effective response to humanitarian crises in urban settings led to the launch of *The Global Alliance for Urban Crises* at the Summit. It is a global, multi-disciplinary and collaborative community of practice, bringing together diverse stakeholders including humanitarian agencies, civil society organisations, urban planners, architects and engineers, local governments and the private sector.

Challenges

The challenge will remain to maintain long-term commitment to the summit's outcomes. While a Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformation (PACT) has been created to facilitate annual self-reporting, there are no specific mechanisms for holding those who made the commitments to account. With a continuous shortfall in humanitarian funding, the achievement of the commitments becomes even more difficult.

The World Humanitarian Summit

[The World Humanitarian Summit](#) brought together representatives of 180 member states, including 55 Heads of State and Government, hundreds of civil society and non-governmental organisations, and partners including the private sector and academia, in Istanbul in May 2016.

Convened by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the summit's goal was to fundamentally reform the humanitarian aid industry to react more effectively to today's many crises.

Participants generated more than 3,500 commitments to action and launched more than a dozen new partnerships action to turn the Agenda for Humanity into meaningful change for the world's most vulnerable people.