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**World Humanitarian Summit
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**Statement by FINLAND, H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo,
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Humanitarian effectiveness is at the heart of our agenda in this process leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit. Effectiveness of humanitarian assistance has never been more important. The challenges are imminent while the resources remain limited. Every day we witness the difficulties to mobilise humanitarian resources for increasingly complicated and protracted crises globally.

We are accountable to the people we seek to assist. Affected populations are always the first responders and should be actively involved in deciding on the most appropriate assistance to them. They need a voice and a choice. Actors must ensure that humanitarian action empowers and reaches all people in need and delivers equally. Women and girls should have an equal possibility to play a leading role in humanitarian action. Gender equality is smart economics also in the humanitarian environment.

Finland wishes to emphasise the vital link between effectiveness and principled approach that needs to be further strengthened. Principled approach is the only way to meet the objectives of solid humanitarian action. This includes the assistance and protection needs of the most vulnerable - often children, women-headed households or persons with disabilities. The creation of humanitarian space and safe access even in most difficult environments becomes crucially important. International Humanitarian Law must be respected and necessary action taken to protect people.

It is important to improve inter-operability, coordination and collaboration among actors. However, at the same time clear distinction is needed when it comes to operations and accessing hard-to-reach areas. Principled approach does not mean to isolate the

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humanitarian system but rather to look for broader solutions to crises together with development and political actors. The international community must more decisively seek platforms for sustainable political solutions for conflicts.

Finland expects that, through the deliverables of the Global Consultation and in Istanbul, the wider humanitarian community will be able to address the urgent demand of improving the humanitarian system and agree on working together in tackling the issues of fragility, disaster risk and lack of resilience.

In order to localize action and make communities and nations more resilient to crisis, development actors must come on board. Development finance is needed to build local capacities, resilience and enhance disaster preparedness. Effective links must be made between the Istanbul Summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Equally, the engagement of civil society and the private sector must be enhanced. We need to encourage emerging links between international and local business actors in order to strengthen knowledge and innovation at all levels and avoid negative effects for those in need of assistance.

Finland's future vision on humanitarian effectiveness is centered on collaboration, and strong national and local capacity, empowerment of affected or at-risk people, including women and people with disabilities, and making sure that the humanitarian principles are known, well understood and respected.

By placing humanity at the heart of our agenda we can start making Istanbul Summit a milestone event that leads to a safer and more humane world. We seek the support and collaboration of all partners in turning this vision into reality.

Thank you.