



Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2023

Original: English

Letter dated 28 August 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the pleasure to inform you that Albania, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of September 2023, will hold an open debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: advancing public-private humanitarian partnership”, in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The open debate will take place on Thursday, 14 September, at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Albania has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ferit **Hoxha**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 August 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: advancing public-private humanitarian partnership”, 14 September 2023

Background

The world is facing an unprecedented level of humanitarian need driven by conflict, climate change and the enduring impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In its 2023 midyear update of the Global Humanitarian Overview, the United Nations assessed that nearly \$55 billion will be required to assist 249 million people in need. The current gap between funding requirements and donor contributions is an estimated \$41 billion.

Protracted crises driven by conflict remain the single largest driver of humanitarian need. Related second-order impacts caused by forced displacement pose increased threats to peace and security in host communities. The Security Council continues to recognize the vicious cycle between armed conflict and food insecurity, including in the statement by the President of the Council of 3 August 2023 (S/PRST/2023/4) and in its resolution 2417 (2018). The accelerating impact of climate change and the resulting pressure on livelihoods, water and food security are exacerbating competition for scarce resources.

Since the reform of the humanitarian response architecture in 2005, local, regional and multinational private sector enterprises have become increasingly important actors in humanitarian response operations in the context of conflict situations. Affected countries have integrated public-private partnership units into their national disaster management organizations, which have helped to maintain security in vulnerable settings and are partners with the United Nations cluster system.

The adaptation of financing instruments to prepare for and respond to growing humanitarian crises in conflict zones has proven to be an important tool in making communities more resilient. United Nations humanitarian agencies and the private sector regularly partner on initiatives relating to information and communications technologies and data.

Technological innovation driven by the private sector created efficiencies in the humanitarian system, stretching donor dollars to maximize life-saving interventions and scaling impact in conflict-afflicted areas. Technology sector platforms also continued to inform multilateral policy through areas such as data collection relating to outbreaks of disease, climate change forecasting and early warning systems, among others. Private logistics and freight-forwarding companies are integrated into United Nations-led operations and routinely expedite the delivery of aid in conflict settings.

The Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports (Black Sea Initiative) demonstrated how public-private partnerships can allow conflict-impacted food supplies to reach global markets. The Initiative facilitated the provision of 32 million tons of Ukrainian foodstuffs to people around the world, with two thirds of the wheat going to developing countries.

As the Security Council and the United Nations address increased humanitarian need in conflict zones, identifying pathways to strengthen the role of the private sector in response operations will be critical in the maintenance of peace and security.

Objective

The Security Council, through the open debate, will seek to identify and advance public-private partnership solutions to promote international peace and security by addressing current and future humanitarian needs, which, if left unchecked, threaten to further destabilize vulnerable regions and exacerbate conflict over scarce resources.

Guiding questions

The questions below may help to guide Member State interventions:

1. How have private sector partnerships with the United Nations and humanitarian actors contributed to the maintenance of peace and security?
2. How can the United Nations-led humanitarian response architecture address conflict-induced humanitarian need through a strengthened, streamlined and more predictable public-private partnership structure?
3. What role can private sector finance, logistics and technology play in scaling up and improving efforts by the United Nations and its partners to respond to conflict-driven humanitarian needs?
4. What are the best practices of Member States regarding public-private partnerships in disaster response operations, specifically through national disaster management organizations and locally-owned businesses?

Briefers and format

1. Executive Director, World Food Programme, Cindy McCain
2. President of Global Affairs and co-head of the Office of Applied Innovation, Goldman Sachs, Jared Cohen
3. Chief Executive Officer, Mastercard, Michael Miebach

The open debate will be chaired by the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania.

Member States wishing to participate should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE.

Inscription for the list of speakers will open at 9.30 a.m. on 11 September 2023.

The presidency would welcome the use of joint statements, where appropriate, as a means of improving the efficient use of time during the open debate. In accordance with note [S/2017/507](#), all participants and members of the Security Council are encouraged to deliver succinct statements, with non-members of the Council limiting their statements to no more than 3 minutes.