



Brussels, 29 June 2026
(OR. en)

11279/26

COHAFA 59
ALIM 3
FIN 986
COJUR 36
DEVGEN 118
GENDER 150
RELEX 927

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	29 June 2026
To:	Delegations

No. prev. doc.:	10620/26 + ADD 1
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Subject:	2026 EU Humanitarian Principles - Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
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Delegations will find in the annex the 2026 EU Humanitarian Principles statement, as approved by the Council at its 4188th meeting held on 29 June 2026.

2026 EU HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

We, the European Union and its Member States, reaffirm our strong commitment to principled, needs-based humanitarian action at a time when humanitarian needs continue to rise globally while available resources remain under increasing pressure. The European Union and its Member States reiterate their determination to remain the world's leading, predictable and reliable humanitarian donors under a Team Europe approach. We also underline the need to respond not only to the funding gap, but also to the current crisis of legitimacy affecting the humanitarian system, through a coherent and principled defence of humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law across all contexts.

We reaffirm our support for a humanitarian system grounded in the four humanitarian principles of **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence**, with **protection** at its core. We underline the importance of safeguarding the dignity, safety and rights of crisis-affected people, especially women, girls, children, LGBTI, older persons and persons with disabilities, and other persons at risk of discrimination. We condemn attacks against humanitarian and medical workers, and reaffirm the obligation of all parties to conflicts to comply fully with **International Humanitarian Law**. We call for timely, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to populations in need and reiterate the importance of preventing humanitarian action from being politicised. We reaffirm our readiness to use all relevant humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy tools to support this.

We underline our continued support for commonly shared thematic priorities, including **protection of civilians and aid workers, food security and nutrition, health**, including **mental health** and **psychosocial support, education in emergencies, shelter, water and sanitation, prevention and reduction of fragility, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, gender equality**, and strengthened implementation of the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus, including humanitarian demining as a widely recognized precondition for early recovery**. We further reaffirm the importance of advancing **locally-led responses**, equitable partnerships, direct support to local and national actors as well as their meaningful participation in humanitarian decision-making and delivery.

We reiterate our support for the ongoing **Humanitarian Reset** under the leadership of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and stress the need for concrete, time-bound and inclusive reforms that enhance efficiency, increase impact, reduce duplication, enable mutualization and rationalization and strengthen collective prioritisation and accountability. We call on the UN system to continue to streamline coordination structures, including on the humanitarian supply chain, empower Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, reinforce local leadership and ensure that humanitarian action remains firmly needs-based, principled and non-politicised.

The EU and its Member States further underline the importance of **quality funding**, including flexible and multiannual financing, in order to enable effective humanitarian responses adapted to increasingly protracted and complex crises. This includes increased support to flexible mechanisms, such as humanitarian pooled funds, as well as predictable core funding to humanitarian agencies and funding for essential humanitarian enablers. We encourage humanitarian partners to continue improving efficiency, innovation and better complementarity between humanitarian actors and donors while preserving the quality and principled nature of humanitarian assistance.

Recalling the 2023 Council Conclusions on addressing the humanitarian funding gap, where we reaffirm the collective commitment of the EU to provide at least 0.7% of collective GNI as ODA by 2030 and MS were further encouraged to ensure that an appropriate share, for example 10%, of their ODA is devoted to humanitarian action, we reiterate the urgent need to broaden and diversify the global donor base and call on other donors, including emerging economies, international financial institutions, the private sector and philanthropic actors, to step up their engagement and contribute more substantially to humanitarian efforts, including in forgotten or underfunded crises, in order to secure sustained and flexible funding for stabilization and engagement in fragile states experiencing humanitarian emergencies. We call for increased attention, equitable funding allocation and sustained engagement to ensure that no population in need is left behind.

The EU and its Member States remain committed to continued dialogue and coordinated action with the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, local and international NGOs and all humanitarian partners to ensure that the humanitarian system remains fit for purpose and capable of responding effectively to growing global humanitarian needs.
