

Northwest Model United Nations – Seattle 2016

World Humanitarian Summit – Explanatory Note

What is the World Humanitarian Summit?

The World Humanitarian Summit is a special meeting which brings Member States, regional actors, and non-governmental organizations together to commit to improving humanitarian action and response. In 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a summit addressing humanitarian issues in his Five-Year Action Agenda, recognizing the inadequacy of current efforts to protect and empower all of humanity. The Summit was mandated to improve collective decision-making and humanitarian efforts across five key areas. The Summit took place from 23-24 May 2016.

What will happen at the World Humanitarian Summit in NWMUN-Seattle 2016?

NWMUN-Seattle 2016 will simulate the Summit and be tasked with creating the “Commitments to Action” outcome document. Sessions will be divided based on the priority areas identified in the Secretary-General’s Report *One Humanity: Shared Responsibility*. While the report highlights five distinct topics, the WHS at NWMUN-Seattle 2016 will discuss the first four priority areas: Prevent and End Conflict; Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity; Leave No One Behind; and Change People’s Lives – From Delivering Aid to Ending Need. NWMUN-Seattle’s WHS will create its own outcome based on discussions within the conference, but is also invited to build upon the strengths weakness and shortcomings of the Commitments to Action document produced at the WHS in May.

Structure of the WHS Commitments to Action document

The NWMUN-Seattle 2016 WHS Commitments to Action outcome document will include the following components, with each comprising one section of the final document.

Declaration: This section will identify the key goals and intended outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit. The Declaration will acknowledge the shortcomings of the current humanitarian system and will frame and contextualize the following commitments.

Prevent and End Conflict: This section will include Member State commitments to improve global leadership and decision-making to prevent and respond to humanitarian crises. Key considerations in this section include demonstrating coherent and decisive leadership, promoting global stability, and consulting affected populations in determining response.

Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity: This section will identify and reaffirm key legal frameworks fundamental to the practice of humanitarian action and response. This section will propose solutions to strengthen implementation of existing legal frameworks and identify gaps that to be addressed by new obligations.

Leave No One Behind: This section addresses the needs of vulnerable populations in a range of humanitarian crises. This section will include commitments aimed at strengthening responsiveness, access, and care for vulnerable populations.

Change People’s Lives – From Delivering Aid to Ending Need: This section addresses the imbalance between reactive humanitarian efforts and long-term preventative measures. This section may include: the inclusion of local stakeholders, preventative action, and coordinating response across development and humanitarian sectors.

Why is NWMUN-Seattle 2016 simulating the World Humanitarian Summit as an agreement body?

Every year, NWMUN-Seattle simulates an agreement to give delegates the opportunity to experience another aspect of international diplomacy and decision-making outside of traditional UN committees. The World Humanitarian Summit presents a unique opportunity to discuss humanitarian issues – from humanitarian law to aid delivery – within a multilateral summit. The increasing complexity of humanitarian response across regions, Member States, and various organizations provides delegates insight into the complexity of international response. Humanitarian action is also a particularly salient topic given current

events, from the destabilizing impact of climate change to conflict-driven migrant crises. This Summit also aligns with many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations' global development agenda, which were adopted as part of the Post-2015 Summit (simulated at NWMUN-Seattle 2015).

As the Summit has already taken place, delegates have the opportunity to learn from the lessons of the Summit, and to challenge and improve upon the resultant commitments.

How will the World Humanitarian Summit be simulated at NWMUN-Seattle 2016?

The schedule of the WHS committee differs from NWMUN-Seattle's other committees to ensure that the outcome document can be negotiated in its entirety, and to reflect the reality of time constraints of the negotiation process. The set agenda for the committee is as follows:

Friday, November 18 – Afternoon	Introductory Statements and Declaration
Friday, November 18 – Evening	Global Leadership to End Conflict
Saturday, November 19 – Morning	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Saturday, November 19 – Afternoon	Leave No One Behind
Saturday, November 19 – Evening	Change People's Lives – From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Sunday, November 20 – Morning	Consolidation of all Segments, Edits, Amendments
Sunday, November 20 – Afternoon	Final Amendments and Voting Bloc

There is some flexibility with the schedule for each committee session, in that the committee may move to the next section earlier than scheduled. The majority of drafting for each section is expected to take place during its designated session, however edits and revisions can take place during later sessions. Delegates are only able to discuss the topic of the current session, as it will be the only topic currently recognized on the floor.

What Rules of procedure will World Humanitarian Summit be using at NWMUN-Seattle 2016?

Generally, the rules of procedure for the WHS will be the same as the rules of the General Assembly for NWMUN-Seattle 2016. One key difference is that the committee will produce an outcome document instead of a resolution. The outcome document will be created in segments, which will be voted on individually during voting bloc. The final outcome document will be the culmination of the segments that passed during voting bloc, and is expected to include each of the sections as described above. Additional changes in rules will be highlighted in the NWMUN-Seattle 2016 Rules Addendum for WHS; all rules not found in the addendum will be treated as rules for the General Assembly.

How do I prepare for the World Humanitarian Summit at NWMUN-Seattle 2016?

Where do I find my countries position?

1. Your country's Foreign Ministry, Refugee/Immigration Ministry, and/or Environmental Ministry websites;
2. Your country's Permanent Mission to the UN website;
3. Statements your country, region, or economic group has made during the Summit:
 - a. <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/announcement-statements>
 - b. <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/roundtable-statements>
4. Documents from the global consultation process:
 - a. <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/key-documents>

What do I do if I have more questions?

If you have questions related to the process we will follow at our conference, position papers, or anything related to the conference's simulation of the World Humanitarian Summit, please email the Summit Committee Staff at whsummit.seattle@nwmun.org. If your question relates to research, the sources contained in the Bibliography of the Background Guide, located on our website at the Committees and Topics page, are your best option.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you this November!