



UPHOLDING HUMANITARIAN NORMS AND SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

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EXCELLENCIES, PRESIDING OFFICERS AND
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DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS,

INTRODUCTION

WE ARE DEEPLY HONOURED TO ADDRESS THIS
ESTEEMED GATHERING OF THE 151ST IPU ASSEMBLY.

THEME

THE THEME "**UPHOLDING HUMANITARIAN NORMS AND SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS**", COMPELS ONE TO OBSERVE AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IN ESSENCE DOES NOT CONTAIN A SPECIFIC CHAPTER ON "HUMANITARIAN NORMS". INSTEAD, IT USES A TRANSFORMATIVE AND UNIVERSAL APPROACH THAT LINKS HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE

AGENDA'S CORE PRINCIPLE IS "LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND," WHICH REQUIRES HUMANITARIANS AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRISES.

KEY HUMANITARIAN NORMS.

THE 2030 AGENDA REINFORCES EXISTING HUMANITARIAN NORMS THROUGH ITS OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES AND SPECIFIC GOALS.

1. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

THIS REINFORCES THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIORITIZING THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED PEOPLE, INCLUDING MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE.

2. UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS

THE AGENDA IS EXPLICITLY GROUNDED IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS. THIS MEANS THAT HUMANITARIAN AID AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY A HUMAN-RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH, AND SUCCESS IS MEASURED BY HOW WELL PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS.

3. GENDER EQUALITY

THIS REINFORCES HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES REQUIRING THAT ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION CONSIDER THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CRISES,

INCLUDING PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION.

OUR HEAD OF STATE, HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III, DURING THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HAS CALLED FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS TO WORK TOGETHER IN CRISES (e.g. PANDEMIC AND NATURAL DISASTERS).

HUMANITARIAN NORMS IN FOCUS

HUMANITARIAN NORMS ARE GROUNDED MAINLY IN **INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**, THE BODY OF LAW THAT REGULATES THE CONDUCT OF HOSTILITIES AND, TO AN EXTENT, IN **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW** AS IT CONTINUES TO APPLY IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT.

THESE NORMS INCLUDE PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM ATTACK, ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF THOSE NOT FIGHTING, AND FACILITATING HUMANITARIAN AID.

RISK OF USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

THIS YEAR MARKS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF NUCLEAR DETONATION IN NAGASAKI AND HIROSHIMA, SINCE THEN MORE THAN 2000 NUCLEAR DETONATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AROUND THE WORLD. THESE DETONATIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE HUMAN AND

ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION. TODAY THE RISK OF USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE.

THE PROHIBITION AND ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS A HUMANITARIAN IMPERATIVE. A NUCLEAR CONFLICT WOULD HAVE CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, THE CLIMATE, FOOD PRODUCTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ESWATINI HAS PILOTTED THE 'NUCLEAR RADIATION AND SAFETY BILL.

THE RED CROSS

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (RED CROSS) IS THE ONLY INSTITUTION EXPLICITLY NAMED UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AS A CONTROLLING AUTHORITY. THE LEGAL MANDATE OF THE REDCROSS STEMS FROM THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, AS WELL AS FROM ITS OWN STATUTES. IT'S RELEVANCE EVEN TODAY REMAINS EXCLUSIVELY TO FURTHER ITS HUMANITARIAN MISSION OF PROTECTING THE LIVES AND DIGNITY OF VICTIMS OF WAR AND INTERNAL VIOLENCE AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ASSISTANCE.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS INVOLVES PROVIDING TIMELY, NEEDS-BASED ASSISTANCE TO SAVE LIVES AND ALLEVIATE SUFFERING THROUGH A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DELIVERING FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, AND MEDICAL CARE. THIS ASSISTANCE IS A SHORT-TERM, EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DISASTERS, CONFLICTS, AND HEALTH CRISES, AND ITS GOAL IS TO HELP AFFECTED PEOPLE MAINTAIN THEIR DIGNITY AND RETURN TO A NORMAL LIFE.

IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, WE HAVE A COLLABORATIVE STAKEHOLDER APPROACH TO ADDRESS HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN TIMES OF CRISIS. THE COUNTRY HAS A UNIT, CALLED THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT UNIT. THE KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIT IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE ON SAVING LIVES AND ALLEVIATE SUFFERING THROUGH A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DELIVERING FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, AND MEDICAL CARE IN SITUATIONS OF DISASTER.

ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND REFUGEES.

ESWATINI'S REFUGEE REGIME ENCOURAGES ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY AND THEY PEACEFULLY LIVE ALONGSIDE THE HOST COMMUNITY. ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES ARE ALLOWED TO WORK.

CONCLUSION.

THIS 151ST ASSEMBLY IS ENJOINED TO HEED TO THE FOLLOWING KEY ATTRIBUTES:-

SAVE LIVES:

TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE SUPPORT TO PREVENT LOSS OF LIFE AND SUFFERING.

ALLEVIATE SUFFERING:

AID IS FOCUSED ON REDUCING THE IMPACT OF CRISES ON AFFECTED POPULATIONS.

MAINTAIN HUMAN DIGNITY:

TO ENSURE THE BASIC NEEDS AND DIGNITY OF THOSE AFFECTED ARE PROTECTED.

PROVIDE IMPARTIALITY:

ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BASED ON NEED ALONE, REGARDLESS OF ETHNIC ORIGIN, GENDER, OR IDEOLOGY.

FOR THIS JOURNEY TO BE SUCCESSFUL, COLLECTIVE EFFORTS AT EVERY LEVEL, LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL ARE ESSENTIAL CORE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES.

I THANK YOU – MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.

