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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Humanitarian diplomacy in COHAFA strategic work

Delegations will find in Annex a background note by the Czech Presidency on the humanitarian diplomacy.

HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY IN COHAFA STRATEGIC WORK

1. In view of the growing global fragility and increasing need for humanitarian action, the Czech Presidency has proposed humanitarian diplomacy as a possible element in the strategic work of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA).

I. HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY AND CONSENSUS ON EU HUMANITARIAN ACTION

2. Humanitarian diplomacy can enhance several of the strategic topics of the EU humanitarian action, as outlined in the 2007 Humanitarian Consensus. It can in particular shape the EU efforts to raise awareness of and take into account the international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles in relation to current humanitarian crises and in approaching various involved stakeholders.
3. Humanitarian diplomacy can also contribute to shaping the international humanitarian agenda in the relevant international fora and advocacy efforts for humanitarian issues, in particular for safe and unhindered humanitarian access.
4. Moreover, humanitarian diplomacy can enhance the efficiency of anticipatory humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

II. HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY AND 2021 COMMUNICATION ON THE EU'S HUMANITARIAN ACTION: NEW CHALLENGES, SAME PRINCIPLES

5. Humanitarian diplomacy can further contribute to the comprehensive goals of the 2021 Communication, such as advocacy for enabling environment for the delivery of principled humanitarian aid; boosting of anticipatory approaches to humanitarian action and preventing crises; aligning of humanitarian and climate response; and ensuring that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding policies work together to reduce needs and tackle the root causes of conflicts and crises, in full respect of humanitarian principles, protection of civilians and international humanitarian law.

III. HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY AND COHAFI ROLES AND INSTRUMENTS

6. COHAFI can continue to implement humanitarian diplomacy in its reflections of geographical as well as thematic crises, such as the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, the Sahel, Syria, and the current global food and energy crisis.
7. The role of humanitarian diplomacy can be reflected in the formulation, distribution and use of the COHAFI common messages, similar to the recent case of Ukraine.
8. COHAFI can further contribute through humanitarian diplomacy to the implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and Team Europe Initiatives in fragile settings while highlighting the humanitarian and protection needs, and preserving humanitarian principles.
9. COHAFI can also enhance its contribution to relevant international fora, such as the European Humanitarian Forum, to the international donor conferences and United Nations events, such as the 2022 UNGA event on the role of humanitarian diplomacy in anticipating and preventing food crises.