Transmittal Letter of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing to
Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Dear Secretary-General,

We have the honour and privilege to transmit herewith the Report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing entitled “Too important to fail – addressing the humanitarian financing gap”.

We were humbled by your call to serve on this panel in view of the growing financial gap between needs and the resources available to meet them. United in our commitment to the United Nations’ goal of upholding humanity in the face of global challenges we started our work on the premise that in a US$78 trillion global economy, it is unacceptable that anybody should die or live without dignity because we cannot mobilise sufficient humanitarian aid funding.

We undertook a comprehensive assessment of the current humanitarian financing architecture. The report and its recommendations are based on an extensive consultation process carried out during the course of the last six months. The panel also received written submissions from non-governmental organisations, think tanks, Member States and United Nations entities which proved to be of enormous assistance. Their collective feedback deserves to be addressed outside the scope of the present report. Our secretariat will share these with the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat to inform their ongoing discussions.

As the report is only the initial step toward the longer road to the World Humanitarian Summit the panel took a proactive approach to build support and commitments for our recommendations. Among the many engagements, we successfully co-hosted a side event with the United Kingdom at the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14 July and another with Norway during the General Assembly on 26 September. We were also able to present our emerging recommendations at the Informal meeting of the General Assembly on 19 November. These events reunited high-level representation from development and humanitarian organizations, Member States and civil society. We noted unprecedented political support for bridging the humanitarian and development divide and we believe it is vital to build on the momentum for change.

We would like to thank UNOCHA for hosting the secretariat of the panel and the agencies that have seconded staff members: UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF, as well as the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat for its substantive support. We are grateful for technical inputs provided by colleagues from the World Bank and the support provided by Member States – the financial contributions provided by Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the dedicated staff provided by Denmark and the United States of America.
It is our hope that this report will contribute to meeting the challenges of assisting millions of needy people around the world. As a panel we will remain active until the Summit to ensure the buildup of commitments and the advancement of the concrete solutions and initiatives proposed in the report.

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Vice President of the European Commission  
Co-chair of UN High-Level Panel on  
Humanitarian Financing

His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah  
Ruler of Perak, Malaysia  
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