

19 August 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
for World Humanitarian Day**

On this World Humanitarian Day, the UN family marks the efforts of all humanitarian workers across the globe who have lost their lives in the service of peace. Every day, thousands of humanitarian aid workers continue to put themselves at risk in order to support people in need.

On this day we commemorate the twenty-two people who died in the 2003 bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad.

World Humanitarian Day is not only an opportunity for our international community to celebrate the spirit of humanitarian work, but also to underscore the need to do more, as growing humanitarian crises continue to threaten millions of the most vulnerable communities where lives have been torn apart by war and other natural disasters.

As we look to implement a new sustainable development agenda, eradicating poverty while maintaining peaceful societies based on an inclusive, people-centred approach will be essential components if we are to achieve success and build a just and prosperous future for all the world's citizens.