



## European Humanitarian Forum

### Humanitarian Impact of Climate and Environmental Crises

March 21st, 2022, 15:45-17:30

**Panellists:** *Aïssatou Diouf*, Climate Action Network Coordinator for West Africa and Enda Énergie; *Martin Griffiths*, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); *Xavier Castellanos*, Under Secretary General for National Society Development and Operations Coordination, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); *Catherine Chabaud*, Member of the European Parliament; *Filippo Grandi*, High Commissioner, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); *Stéphane Romatet*, Director, Crisis and Support Centre, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France; *Paraskevi Michou*, Director-General, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission

#### Interventions from the floor:

*Ricklef Beutin*, Director General, German Federal Foreign Office; *Maria Groenewald*, Director, Voice; *Patrick Youssef*, Regional Director for Africa, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); *Octavian Bivol*, Chief of the Europe and Central Asia Region, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); *Fanny Petitbon*, Advocacy Officer, CARE France

#### Executive Summary:

The panel provided a ‘scene-setter’ of current and expected climate change impacts on humanitarian needs and humanitarian aid operations, calling to step up efforts to reduce the humanitarian impact of climate change and environmental degradation. Panellists agreed that climate change is a threat multiplier. It is contributing to humanitarian crises, as underscored in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, affecting particularly vulnerable communities. The gap between humanitarian needs and capacity response is widening as result. Given the above, panellists agreed on the importance of increasing the resilience of local populations by focusing on disaster preparedness, anticipatory action (AA), reducing the footprint of humanitarian aid and implementing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Panellists stressed the importance of implementing the Paris Agreement, the EU taking the lead in climate mitigation efforts and the need for climate finance. They outlined how donors are increasing their focus on AA in various settings and stepping up accountability towards local communities, looking beyond emergency response and focusing on the resilience of communities.

During the Session the [IFRC-ICRC Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#) was presented, which has already over 220 signatories and has gained support from States and donors including Switzerland, the US and Norway. In addition, the [European](#)

[Parliament](#)'s call for a more integrated approach to strengthen resilience and promote sustainable responses was reiterated. This tool aims to link humanitarian aid, climate change, and development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Regarding this aspect, UNHCR High Commissioner Mr. Grandi illustrated that humanitarian actors are increasingly putting climate change at the heart of their response strategies, for example with sustainable energy in situations of displacement, building the capacity of volunteers, developing of innovative financing mechanisms and making climate risk data accessible to communities.

French Presidency of the Council of the EU and DG ECHO showed EU commitment to mobilise around the climate agenda by launching [Donor declaration on climate and environment](#). They called for donors to express their support to this declaration. The European Commission also presented the newly adopted [EU's minimum environmental requirements for humanitarian partners](#) and expressed its political support to the [IFRC-ICRC Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#).

Panellists stressed the need to scale up adaptation financing, support technically and financially the transition towards “greener” humanitarian action. They also pointed out the importance for adaptation financing for humanitarian action to help strengthen resilience in particularly fragile contexts. France and the Commission called on donors to express their support for the Donor declaration on climate and environment, which mirrors the IFRC-ICRC Charter for Humanitarian Organizations.