

European Humanitarian Forum

Forum humanitaire européen



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Climate change, disasters and displacement: Time for a comprehensive approach

21 March 2022, 13:45 – 15:30

Moderator: *Ali Al-Jaberi*

Keynote speakers: *António Vitorino*, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); *Paraskevi Michou*, Director-General for Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid, DG ECHO; *Caroline Roose*, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Panelists: *Andrew Harper*, Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); *Runa Khan*, Founder and Executive Director of Friendship; *Atle Solberg*, Head of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) Secretariat; *Martin Seychell*, Deputy Director General for Directorates G&R, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)

Interventions from the floor: *Cristina*, young leader affected by the climate crisis in Mozambique; *Viviane Clement*, Senior Climate Change Specialist at the World Bank and author of the “Groundswell Part 2 report: Acting on Internal Climate Migration”; *Lizzy Whitehead*, Head of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, Mercy Corps; *Silvia Sinibaldi*, Humanitarian Director at Caritas Europa and VOICE Board member

Executive Summary:

This panel focused on the EU approach to disaster and climate-related displacement. Representatives from various EU services, UN entities and NGOs discussed the challenges faced in addressing displacement caused by disasters, as well as how to strengthen the response before, during and after displacement.

In their opening remarks, keynote speakers highlighted the impact of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change on forced displacement worldwide. Keynote addresses also provided an opportunity to present the instruments used by the EU to respond to disaster and climate-related displacement, and to announce the upcoming EU Chairpersonship of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), which will start on 1 July 2022 for a period of 18 months.

Regarding the EU chairpersonship of the PDD, panelists saw it as a chance to further improve data collection and analysis as well as policy development. In addition, they stated that internal displacement must be taken into account, emphasizing the crucial importance of UNSG’s draft Action Agenda on Internal Displacement as milestone for this process.

In the panel discussion that followed, speakers, giving concrete examples from the work of their respective organisations and insisting on the need for a better collaboration among humanitarian partners, formulated general recommendations.

Recommendations from the panel:

- Include more strongly affected communities in decision-making processes
- Enhance global leadership on this issue,
- Promote preparedness and pre-emptive actions
- Develop more joint approaches between partners and enhance multilateralism.