

European Humanitarian Forum

Forum humanitaire européen



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Boosting the localisation agenda towards inclusive humanitarian action

22 March 2022, 9:00-10:45 am CET

Panelists:

Michael Köhler, Deputy Director-General, DG ECHO, European Commission; *Xavier Castellanos Mosquera*, Under-Secretary-General International Federation of the Red Cross; *Jiří Kozák*, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czechia; *Smruti Patel*, Global Mentoring Initiative /Alliance for Empowering Partnership; *Ahmed Abdi*, Arid Lands Development Focus (ALDEF); *Marta Valdés García*, Oxfam Deputy Humanitarian Director

Speaking from the floor:

Juan Carlos Vilorio, President of the Coalition for Venezuela; *Sorcha O'Callaghan*, Head of the Humanitarian Policy Group at Overseas Development Initiatives; *Dr Win Tun Kyi*, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) /Caritas Myanmar; *Tatiana Barantsova*, government's commissioner for people with disabilities, Ukraine; *Filiep Decorte*, Chief Programme Development Branch at United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat)

Moderator: Ikenna Azuike

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion was presented as a kick-off for the consultative process to develop DG ECHO's upcoming guidance on equal partnerships with local responders as announced in the March 2021 Communication on the EU's Humanitarian Action "New challenges, same principles".

Mr Köhler (DG ECHO), Mr Jiří Kozák (CZ MoFA) and Mr Xavier Castellanos Mosquera (IFRC) offered an institutional perspective to the challenges, bottlenecks and actions needed to boost the agenda. Coming from a civil society angle, Ms Patel, Ms Valdes Garcia and Mr Abdi shed light on operational and administrative hurdles, including unethical partnership practices that have hampered progress on the agendas. The speakers from the floor echoed their thoughts and recommendations.

The debate elicited practical steps that DG ECHO and other localisation stakeholders may take to bolster localisation. These takeaways include steps to improve partnership arrangements, re-examine administrative processes that are creating inefficiencies, as well as solutions to address risks challenge, promote the respect of humanitarian principles, and to effectively support women-led organisations and marginal actors. There were several proposals to engage local actors through an advisory group or platform.