Concept Note

Last updated: 25 November 2020

On 1 December 2020, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) will host one of four sequential launches to present the 2021 United Nations Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) in Berlin.

Background

The GHO is the world’s most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based overview of the current state and future trends in humanitarian action and is published by OCHA.

The event will take place as part of a global strategy to:

- Engage decision-makers and humanitarian actors in highlighting the key themes covered in the 2021 GHO;
- Amplify the voices of affected people;
- Encourage partners to contribute generously to humanitarian operations.

The virtual event in Berlin is co-hosted by H.E. Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany and Mr. Mark Lowcock (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator).

Programme

The event will run from 11:00 to 12:30 CET and is envisaged to be divided into two segments.

The first segment will include keynote remarks from H.E. Minister Maas, a recorded message by the UN Secretary-General and a presentation by USG/ERC Lowcock. Mr. Lowcock will present the latest trends, analyses, challenges and opportunities in humanitarian action, as well as an overview of the coordinated plans for humanitarian response in 2021. The first segment is concluded by a short film on the efforts of the international community to respond to crises over the past year.
The second segment will include a lively and engaging panel discussion on climate change and anticipatory action. The panel will provide an insight into ongoing anticipatory financing projects and will share experiences from the field. It will also shed a spotlight on the impacts of climate change as a precursor for displacement and a deepening factor on existing gender inequalities. The panel discussion will be followed by a short Q&A session.

The moderated interactive panel is to be composed of five eminent persons/experts in the field of climate change and anticipatory action.

Suggestions for panellists - (5 + moderator)

Moderator: Ms. Lisa Carty, Director of Humanitarian Finance and Resource Mobilization, OCHA
1. Dr. Bärbel Kofler, Member of the Bundestag and Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany
2. H.E. Mr. Mr. Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Kuwari, Director General of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)
3. Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees
4. Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
5. Christina Bennett, Start Network (NGO)

Government officials, Parliamentarians, humanitarian agencies, diplomatic representatives, civil society, private sector, academia and media will be invited to the event and have the opportunity to engage with the panel speakers on the topic.

Logistics points
The event will take place on a virtual platform. Details will follow shortly.

The focal points are:
- GFFO: Rebecca Alt, s08-0-1@auswaertiges-amt.de
- OCHA: Karim Saba, saba@un.org

For more information and to register, please visit https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2021.