

2021 Economic and Social Committee Humanitarian Affairs Segment

The Challenges Ahead: Equipping the Future with Anticipatory Action

Sponsors: German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Co-Organizers: Anticipatory Action Task Force [(Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFRC, OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), Start Network and World Food Program (WFP)) and the Anticipation Hub

Date: Wednesday, 23 June 2021, from 17:00 – 18:30 (Geneva time), virtual (link to join provided below)

This is one of the virtual side-events to be convened on the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *“Strengthening humanitarian assistance to face the challenges of 2021 and beyond: mobilizing respect for international humanitarian law, inclusion, gender, innovation and partnerships”*.

Background and Objectives of Event

The number of people exposed to climate-related hazards is drastically increasing, causing cascading humanitarian, social, economic and political impacts around the globe. According to the [IFRC's World Disasters Report 2020](#), 83% of all disasters in the last decade were caused by climate- and weather-related disasters, such as floods, storms, and heatwaves. Since the 1990s, climate-related disasters have risen in frequency by almost 35% and impacted over 1.7 billion people around the world.

The [IFRC's Cost of Doing Nothing Report](#) predicts that by 2050, 200 million people every year could need international humanitarian aid due to climate-related disasters and their impacts, costing more than \$20 billion per year in additional humanitarian aid.

Most recently, the [Anticipatory Action Task Force](#) consisting of FAO, IFRC, OCHA, Start Network and WFP have been shifting their humanitarian response and investing in anticipatory action, from waiting and then reacting to a disaster to acting ahead of them, all of which protects diverse, vulnerable, and marginalised communities and finite resources. To date, anticipatory action initiatives are being successfully implemented by these organisations in over 60 countries and have helped drive significant policy achievements that are building global momentum to scale up anticipatory action, including the [G7 Famine Compact](#) and [ECHO Guidance note on Disaster Preparedness](#) and have developed [key policy asks](#) for anticipatory action.

Anticipatory action needs to be part of a system-wide shift and this work must be driven by local actors, who especially focus on vulnerable communities. Additionally, more effort is required to make anticipatory action applicable to a wider variety of natural and human-induced hazards, shocks and compounding risks. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified this need to assess and anticipate compounding risks and the associated cascading impacts, looking beyond hydro-meteorological hazards to include other shocks such as pandemics, disease outbreaks, pests and the impacts of armed conflict, and violence such as displacement.

While significant progress has been made over the last five years, we know what works and now is the time to critically reflect on the challenges to tackle the escalating hazards, shocks and compounding risks expected by 2050, to evaluate the opportunities of anticipatory action, and to identify how we can further scale-up, mainstream and adapt the approach to be fit for our changing future world.

Objectives:

1. Critically reflect on the progress by the key agencies implementing anticipatory action (Anticipatory Action Task Force, who consist of FAO, IFRC, OCHA, Start Network and WFP).
2. Assess how actors can be ready for the intertwined climate and humanitarian challenges ahead in 2050.
3. Explore the ways we can further scale up anticipatory action measures for the future.

Discussion Points or Guiding Questions

Setting the scene: What do the scientific projections to 2050 tell us about the challenge ahead and what do these mean for anticipatory action?

Panel session: How is anticipatory action equipped to tackle future challenges?

1. How are the programmes of WFP/ FAO supporting famine prevention and how can anticipatory action play a role in reducing the number of people facing a food crisis by 2050? What is the role of the High-Level Task Force for preventing famine and G7 Global Compact in helping to achieve this?
2. How are National Societies advancing anticipatory action in emerging contexts and how do platforms like the Anticipation Hub help to stimulate knowledge exchange to ensure we can achieve this by 2050?
3. How can anticipatory action approaches be applied in fragile contexts?
4. How are NGOs responding to the compounding challenges facing us up to 2050 (e.g., climate, conflict, displacement)?
5. What field level lessons did you learn from implementing anticipatory action in Somalia that can help us to adapt anticipatory action for the future challenges and be more inclusive to the needs for diverse, vulnerable and marginalized communities?
6. What challenges are faced to manage multiple compounding risks up to 2050 and what opportunities do we see for anticipatory action to strengthen national risk management and associated cross-sectoral policies and plans?

Reflection and discussion topics: What can be done for scaling up anticipatory action in 2050? What will be different? What can you/ your organisation do now to help us get there?

Visual materials and interactive tools (e.g. mentimeter polls, cartoons) will be used to interact with the audience and collect questions during the panel and discussion.

Key Concrete Action Points and Recommendations/Take Away Messages

The session expects to generate recommendations on:

- 1) The scale-up of anticipatory action to tackle future risks
- 2) How to better join up anticipatory action with other approaches
- 3) How to connect stakeholders and develop synergies to achieve joint ambitions to scale up anticipatory action up to and beyond 2050

Co-Chairs and Moderator

Co-chairs:

- Dr. Thomas Zahneisen, Director for Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office
- Ms. Pascale Meige, Director of Disasters, Climate and Crisis, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moderator:

Dr. Erin Coughlan de Perez | Associate Professor Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University | Senior Advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre | Lead Author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II

Panel Composition

- Ms. Lia Nicholson, Climate Advisor, Permanent Mission of Antigua & Barbuda to the UN
- Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director of the FAO Liaison Office to the UN in Geneva
- Ms. Fernanda Ayala, Disaster Risk Management Department, Ecuador Red Cross
- Mr. Martin Omoro, Program Quality and Strategy Manager, World Vision South Sudan
- Ms. Randa Merghani, Manager of the Somalia Humanitarian Fund and Head of the Humanitarian Financing Unit at OCHA Somalia

Format of the Side Event

Time	Topic	Speaker
17:00 – 17:10	Opening remarks by co-chairs (5 mins each)	GFFO and IFRC Co-Chairs
17:10 – 17:20	Setting the scene: What do the scientific projections to 2050 tell us about the challenge ahead and what do these mean for anticipatory action?	Moderator: Dr. Erin Coughlan
17:20 – 17:55	<p>Panel: How is anticipatory action equipped to tackle future challenges? (Six mins per panellist)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Four-minute intervention by each panellist ● Ask the audience a related menti-meter question (e.g. framed around a key fact, figure/diagram or cartoon about 2050) to respond during the first intervention ● Two-minute panellist reflection on the results from mentimeter poll 	<p>Moderator: Dr. Erin Coughlan</p> <p>Five panellists</p>
17:55 – 18:20	<p>Vision for anticipatory action in 2050</p> <p>Q&A / discussion from panellists and interaction with audience</p>	Moderator: Dr. Erin Coughlan
18:20 – 18:30	Closing remarks	GFFO and IFRC Co-Chairs

Background Materials (feel free to share links to relevant documents)

- Brighter Future”, <https://www.wvi.org/publications/brighter-future-fragile-contexts>
- WV’s capacity statement on the FCPA that we developed for COVID, <https://www.wvi.org/publications/urban-work/capacity-statement-fragile-context-programme-approach-covid-19>
- A case study from WV DRC on the FCPA approach <https://www.wvi.org/publications/case-study/congo/navigating-nexus-democratic-republic-congo>
- [World Disasters Report 2020](#)
- Anticipatory Action Task Force + 5 Key Policy Asks Video <https://www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/networks-and-forums/anticipatory-action-task-force-aatf/>

- IFRC Cost of Doing Nothing Report <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-IFRC-CODN-EN.pdf>
- G7 Famine compact: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-may-2021-communiqué/g7-famine-prevention-and-humanitarian-crises-compact>
- ECHO DP Guidance https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/dg_echo_guidance_note_-_disaster_preparedness.pdf
- [IASC Climate Key Messages Common Narrative on the Climate Emergency and Humanitarian Action](#)
- When Rain turns to dust <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/when-rain-turns-to-dust-the-impact-of-conflict-climate-change/>
- Global Report on Food Crisis <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2021>
- Human Security: Contribution of Working Group II to the 5th IPCC Report https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-Chap12_FINAL.pdf
- IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land - Chapter 5: Food Security <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-5/>
- IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land: Summary for policymakers <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/>
- An Agenda for Expanding Forecast-Based Action to Situations of Conflict <https://www.gppi.net/2020/09/22/an-agenda-for-expanding-forecast-based-action-to-situations-of-conflict>
- FAO in Action Story: Anticipating the immediate consequences of conflict on agricultural livelihoods and food insecurity <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/1410627/>

Connection details to join the event

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: 23 June 2021, 17:00 (Geneva) or 11:00 (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJwuf-ggpj8uGtaGUobqAdjzqMtTe5Y4_gM

For more information, visit the event page on the Anticipation Hub [website](#).

Contact(s)

	<i>Focal Point 1</i>	<i>Focal Point 2</i>
Name:	Liana Ghukasyan	Lydia Cumiskey
Mission or Organization	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Partnerships and policy consultant, Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross
Email:	liana.ghukasyan@ifrc.org	cumiskey.lydia@gmail.com

