



## PROGRAMME

# THE MANY FACES OF HUMANITARIANISM

## 3-PART HUMANITARIAN HARDTALK SERIES

No one owns “humanitarian action” and there is no copyright on the word “humanitarianism,” which has been used to describe the principles and practices of humanitarian action. The widely diverging views on what constitutes humanitarian action deserve some reflection in the run up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. Some would say that the use of the word ‘humanitarian’ has been abused, as it has become a label to describe many different actions, many times far from anything resembling it, and sometimes to the point of extreme such as when in 1999 NATO called its intervention in the Kosovo conflict ‘a humanitarian war.’

This second round of Humanitarian HardTalk Series, organised by AECID and DARA, will focus on the following issues:

- Should there be an international mechanism to monitor and sanction the use of the label “humanitarianism”?
  - Is it possible to have a common approach to applying humanitarian principles?
    - How is humanitarian aid perceived in host countries?
    - How well is the traditional community coordinating with newer actors?
- How can we better include beneficiaries as active agents in humanitarian response?

### DIVERSITY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION



**7 APRIL**  
16:00-17:30  
**KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA**  
European Commissioner, International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

### UNIVERSALITY OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION



**24 APRIL**  
16:00-17:30  
**YVES DACCORD**  
Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

### COORDINATION WITH NEWER ACTORS



**TBC**  
**JOHN GING**  
Director of the Operational Division at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

### Introduction

Gonzalo Robles Orozco, AECID Director / Secretary General of the International Development Cooperation, Spain

### Series moderator

Rosa María Calaf, Journalist and Former RTVE Correspondent

### Venue (for all events)

Salón V Centenario, Sede de la AECID, Avenida de Reyes Católicos 4, 28040 ([map](#))

Guests are advised to arrive 15 minutes early  
The events will take place in English

# THE MANY FACES OF HUMANITARIANISM

3-PART HUMANITARIAN HARDTALK SERIES

## 7 APRIL: DIVERSITY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Diversity has long been maintained as a key element in the Union's humanitarian policy for the simple reason that the various EU member states have different views and policies. The EU Consensus on humanitarian aid also refers to diversity in the context of the various partnerships that the EU has as a donor to operational organisations. It advocates for the plurality of partners. Also the Commissioner has been an advocate for diversity as she has noted that "no conflict, no disaster is the same."

This sounds all good and well, but it does not make it clear where the EU puts its boundaries to diversity. Diversity and demands for efficiency may not necessarily point in the same direction. **How many different partners can or does the EU want to support? Commissioner Georgieva will be asked where she sees the limitations and how she wants to handle the diversity of the humanitarian community.**

## 24 APRIL: UNIVERSALITY OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In recognising that most humanitarian actors are different from the ICRC, the Geneva-based body has always been clear in what approach it follows. It has asked other organisations to do the same in order to achieve clarity on who is who in the sector and allow for different approaches in undertaking humanitarian action. The question is, however, if the ICRC has been able to receive this clarity from others and **how it wants to distinguish itself from organisations that also claim to follow a principled approach.** Another related question that will be discussed is the issue on the **universality of humanitarian action, in particular, different ways of operating in light of new perceptions.** With the increased diversity in the sector, some have said that they would like to introduce new codes of conduct or renegotiate existing texts. What are the ICRC's views on these developments?

## DATE TO BE CONFIRMED: COORDINATION WITH NEWER ACTORS

Humanitarian coordination is OCHA's business. In view of an ever growing humanitarian community, undertaking coordination efforts has been qualified as "herding cats." This may be even more the case as OCHA has made it its ambition to reach out to the newcomers in the humanitarian enterprise and build relations between the traditional humanitarian community and those who have relatively little experience in providing humanitarian response. The World Humanitarian Summit has been noted in particular as a platform for realising this ambition.

What OCHA omits to say is whether or not it keeps in mind that humanitarian principles and goals may be watered down with more diverse minds around the table. A coordination effort with like-minded actors may be less of a daunting task. In addition, **does OCHA expect the newcomers, especially national humanitarian actors in war or disaster-affected countries to join the structures it sets up (e.g. Humanitarian Country Team, clusters), or is it prepared to engage and build on structures that exist locally?**

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## ABOUT AECID

AECID is the governing body for Spanish policy on international development cooperation, and its fundamental aim is to promote, manage and implement public policies for international development cooperation, with particular emphasis on reducing poverty and achieving sustainable human development in developing countries, as defined in each four-yearly AECID Master Plan. Combating poverty is the ultimate goal of Spanish policy for international development cooperation, as part of Spain's overall foreign policy, and AECID's actions are based on the belief that interdependence and solidarity are essential elements of international society. For more information: [www.aecid.es](http://www.aecid.es)

## ABOUT DARA

DARA is an independent non-profit organisation committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action for vulnerable populations affected by armed conflict and natural disasters. Through research and evaluations, we encourage organisations to reflect on the impact of their work and help them take evidence-based decisions at the policy, strategy and programming levels, and in critical moments of delivering assistance. DARA actively promotes humanitarian principles, learning and accountability and supports innovative approaches. For more information: [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org)