



## 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



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

### CHALLENGES IN WFP'S FOOD ASSISTANCE



**7 JULY**  
13:00-15:30  
**ERTHARIN COUSIN**  
Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP)

### Introduction

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

### Venue

Salón V Centenario, Sede de la AECID, Avenida de Reyes Católicos 4, 28040

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.**

## 23 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?

## 7 JULY: CHALLENGES IN WFP'S FOOD ASSISTANCE

The World Food Program (WFP) faces a variety of operational and strategic dilemmas to help feed and assist needy people around the planet. Aside from technical issues involving how to appropriately provide food assistance and how to ensure effective targeting that reaches the most vulnerable populations, the WFP deals with the complexities of developing the correct systems that would help achieving people's self-reliance. **In order to appropriately provide food assistance on a global scale, how do we make sure that there is a balanced and cost-effective use of different WFP aid modalities, what is WFP doing to develop partnerships and improve coordination as key components of its strategies? What are the opportunities and limitations of working closely with local and international NGO implementing partners, other UN agencies and the private sector? To what extent is WFP investing in building capacities within local and national institutions? At a higher level, how does WFP look to the World Humanitarian Summit? What are its ideas and priorities for this process?**

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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)