

EU-Switzerland co-chairs

High-Level Meeting

1 July 2020 – via WebEx

AGENDA

14:30-15:00 Opening remarks

Paraskevi Michou, Director General, European Commission, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

Manuel Bessler, Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Federal Dpt. of Foreign Affairs

Claus Lindroos, Director, Unit for Humanitarian Assistance and Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

15:00-16:00 Promoting principled and effective humanitarian action in the context of the UNDS reform roll-out: opportunities, challenges, gaps one year-on.

Exchange of views with Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Development Coordination Office

Though not explicitly targeting the UN humanitarian architecture, the UN reform process and the repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS) in particular, is a critical opening to improve the international humanitarian response. Progress in the implementation of the UNDS reform has created an enabling environment to further advance on priorities such as working towards results, efficiency and effectiveness, empowered leadership, greater accountability, synergetic and Nexus (funding and programming) efforts among the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding constituencies. The response of the UN system to the COVID-19 pandemic is thus a litmus test for the reformed UNDS, in particular at country level.

- *What are the key lessons learnt / opportunities / gaps after one year of implementation of the UNDS reform (in light of, but also beyond the COVID-19 pandemic)?*
- *How best to utilise the reform dynamics and ensure greater coordination and coherence, particularly at country level, while continuing to ensure independent, impartial and effective humanitarian coordination? What role for good humanitarian donors in this endeavour?*

16:00-17:00 EU/DG ECHO–Switzerland co-chairmanship (2018-2020) – Strategic outlook for GHD: exchange of views

The overall objective of the EU/DG ECHO-Switzerland co-chairmanship has been to position GHD as the relevant platform for donor coordination and strategic engagement with the humanitarian ecosystem, in line with donors' commitment to the GHD principles, in order to promote principled and effective humanitarian action and preserve the humanitarian space in an increasingly challenging environment.

- *How has GHD collectively contributed to achieving this overall objective over the past*

two years and how can this be further strengthened in the future?
- Subject to GHD members being in agreement with EU/DG ECHO-Switzerland carrying on as co-chairs for another year, which amongst the four original priorities ought to be further pursued?

17:00-17:30 AOB and concluding remarks