





European Humanitarian Roundtables 2016 - East

2 March 2016 - Grand Ball Room, Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace
32 Krakowskie Przedmieście, Warsaw, Poland

Participants & Speakers Bios

Elmi Abdi

Vice-President, Foundation for Somalia

Mr Abdi came to Poland as a refugee in 1996 and became a Polish citizen in 2004. Since 2005, he has been the President of the Somali community in Poland and became the vice-president of the Foundation for Somalia in 2015.

Alisa Ananbeh

Former UNHCR officer

NOHA program graduate in 2015, with 3 years of experience in Syrian emergency response in UNHCR - Jordan. Ms Ananbeh worked in Ukraine with Protection cluster in information management sector. She is passionate about innovation, technological advancement within humanitarian settings.

Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala

Researcher and Academic Teacher, University of Warsaw

Ms Bieńczyk-Missala has been a researcher and academic teacher at the Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw since 2004. She is also the Chairman of the scientific project Prevention of Massive Violations of Human Rights, financed by Poland's National Scientific Centre, Vice Director for Academic Research and International Cooperation at the Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw (2008-2012). Her main areas of research are international protection of human rights, prevention of mass atrocities and humanitarian issues.

Sophie Borel (facilitator)

NOHA General Manager

Ms Borel has worked 15 years in the field in the human rights and humanitarian action sectors, managing a wide range of projects and programmes. From DRC, to Lebanon, Yemen, Cambodia and Jordan, Ms Borel has worked with a number of governmental and non-governmental organisations, of which the United Nations, Save the Children and the European Commission. More recently, she managed The Carter Center's operations in DRC. She specialises the development of training programmes in the human rights and humanitarian sectors, with a focus on local civil society strengthening. She has designed, coordinated and implemented a wide range of training and capacity building programmes based on state of the art adult learning methodologies for humanitarian and human rights actors. Ms Borel is currently the General Manager of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA).

Sylvie Cambou Prokopowicz

NOHA Student, University of Warsaw

Iohan Cels

Secretary of the Executive Committee and Head of the Governance and Partnership Service at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr Cels studied at several universities such as the University of Louvain (Degree on Economics), the Johns Hopkins University (International Relations Diploma), the Ohio University (Master of Arts, International Relations), the University of Notre Dame (Doctor of Philosophy) and the University of Oxford. In 1986, Johan Cels was a Research Consultant at the European Consultation on Refugees and Exiles in the United Kingdom.







Then, he has been assigned to the Ministry of Defense in Brussels from 1987 to 1988. It is in his capacity of Legal Assistant in the Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission in Hong Kong from 1988 to 1991 that he has started his professional career at UNHCR. Thereafter, he was Eligibility Officer in Rome and Repatriation Officer in Ankara during the year 1991. He occupied different positions within UNHCR from 1992 to 2013 such as Legal Officer in Sofia (Bulgaria), Executive Assistant to the High Commissioner in Geneva, Assistant Representative (Protection) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Project Leader and report drafter at the Independent Commission on Human Security in New York, Senior Policy Adviser (Peace and Security) in New York and Representative in Japan. Johan Cels is the Secretary of the Executive Committee and Head of the Governance and Partnership Service since 2013. He speaks Dutch, English and French.

Jürgen Clemens

Senior Programme Advisor, Malteser International, General Secretariat

Mr Clemens is a trained geographer (MSc and PhD) with empirical research experience in development studies, natural resource management, land use planning and rural development. He spent several years at different German universities as a research assistant and geography lecturer. Since 2005 with Malteser International, based in Cologne. 2005-2012: portfolio management of tsunami relief and rehabilitation work in Sri Lanka, of the earthquake, flood and civil crisis relief and rehabilitation in Pakistan and partner support in Afghanistan; 2012-2014: Head of Africa Department; 2014 until today: Senior Program Advisor. He was seconded to DKKV e.V. (national German DRR platform) for the WHS preparation work (participant Thematic Team 2: Managing Risk and Reducing Vulnerability), and participation at: "Face to Face Meetings in Bonn (Apr. 2015) and Berlin (Sept. 2015) as well as the Global Forum in Geneva (Oct. 2015).

Celia Cranfield (facilitator)

VOICE Advocacy and Communication Officer

Ms Cranfield is responsible for advocacy and communications at VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies), a network of 84 European humanitarian NGOs. Based in Brussels, she has worked on EU foreign affairs for close to a decade, both in the government and NGO sectors. With a postgraduate degree in Human Rights Law, she has worked on the EU's development cooperation, in particular on inclusion and rights based approaches and on legal and institutional issues related to EU security and defence cooperation. With VOICE her focus is on EU humanitarian policy, including the preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit, the EU's aid architecture and EU humanitarian funding.

Maciej Fagasiński

Director, Refugee.pl Foundation

Mr Fagasiński is a board member managing the legal, research and advocacy department at the Refugee.pl Foundation, an NGO based in Warsaw, Poland. Previously he worked for several NGOs in Poland and served as a consultant to UNHCR, ODIHR and UNDP. He holds MA in political science (University of Warsaw) and MA in European Interdisciplinary Studies (College of Europe). His research interests include EU asylum and migration policy, reception of vulnerable asylum-seekers, researching on country of origin information, and resettlement of refugees.

Verónica Foubert

Learning Coordinator, CERAH

Ms Foubert has been working in the humanitarian sector for the past 15 years. She is responsible for the coordination of the "campus-based" DAS and the MAS programmes; coordinates the CAS "People Management in Humanitarian Settings" and the DAS week on Vulnerability: evolving concept and new challenges. She worked at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, mostly supporting the Kosovo crisis response. In late 1999 she joined the Sphere Project where she had a wide variety of responsibilities including facilitating the piloting of Sphere Standards in a country-pilot programme in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua; Democratic Republic of Congo and India. Since 2008 she was responsible for learning and training







management at the Sphere Project, and most recently was in charge of the development and roll out of the Sphere E-learning course: Sphere Handbook in Action. She also collaborated on the early stages of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). Fields of interest: Quality and accountability in humanitarian work; Vulnerability, capacity and resilience of affected populations; Professionalisation of humanitarian actors; Adult learning, elearning, training of trainers.

Grzegorz Gruca

Vice-president, member of the Board and expert in Polish Humanitarian Action

Mr Gruca has participated in establishing PHA missions to Iraq, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Somalia; he also took part in a humanitarian mission in North Korea. Between 1990 and 1994 he worked as an executive manager and consultant at various trade companies. Between 1995 to 1997 – as the NGO liaison coordinator of the Warsaw office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He has been working for PHA since 1997, always being a board member, at the beginning also an executive manager. In 1998 he participated in a technical cooperation program under the Program of the Agency for International Development of the Government of the United States of America in the field of Emergency Management. Since 2002 he's been a steering committee member for Trialog NGDO project. In January 2003 the Prime Minister appointed him a member of the Counselling Body for Non Governmental Organizations on EU enlargement. He is a member of Polish Fundraising Association. In November 2011 he was honoured by the Minister of Foreign Affairs the Bene Merito badge award for strengthening the activities of Polish position on the international stage. He also plays an active role in projects designed to create modern CSR schemes in Poland in cooperation with CentrumCSR.PL.

Samuel Hagos

NOHA Student, Ruhr-University Bochum & University of Warsaw

Hans-Joachim Heintze

NOHA Director, Ruhr-University Bochum

Mr Heintze is a Professor of International Law at the Ruhr-University Bochum. His research interests focus on, inter alia, minority rights (Co-author of the OSCE Lund Recommendations), self-determination of peoples, human rights and rule of law, international humanitarian law, post-conflict law, United Nations and international security, prohibition of the use of force and the law of humanitarian assistance.

Salla Himburg

Advisor – Disaster Management and Humanitarian Aid, Red Cross EU Office

Ms Himberg has worked almost a decade in the field of humanitarian aid, disaster management and development cooperation, both in the UN system and with the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. She has been managing a wide range of projects and programmes and has focused specifically on humanitarian coordination, information management and humanitarian principles. She has field experience from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and the Philippines. Ms Himberg holds a M.Sc. in Human Geography and she joined the Red Cross EU Office in the end of 2015 as the Advisor on Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Management.

Charles-Antoine Hofmann (speaker)

Senior Thematic Advisor, WHS Secretariat

Mr Hofmann is currently Senior Thematic Adviser with the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, based in UNOCHA Geneva. Previously, he was the Executive Coordinator of the Disaster Response Dialogue, an initiative sponsored by the IFRC, ICVA, OCHA and the Swiss Government to improve trust and collaboration between national and international humanitarian actors. He was between 2009 and 2012 the Executive Secretary of SCHR, an alliance of nine of the world's leading humanitarian organisations. He worked over the last 20 years in the humanitarian sector, most recently with the British Red Cross, as Humanitarian Policy Adviser and also with Oxfam GB, the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI, the World Health Organisation and Médecins Sans Frontières, where his last assignment was Head of Mission for South Sudan. He has field experiences in Tanzania, Rwanda,







Niger, China, and conducted and managed a number of evaluations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Some of his research and publications cover needs assessment, impact assessment, cash transfer programming and civil military relations. Mr Hofmann holds a M.A. in International Relations from the University of Kent, and a B.A. in Political Sciences from the University of Lausanne. He is married with three children.

Monika Kacprzak

Communication Officer, UNICEF Poland

Ms Kacprzak is a political scientist currently working as Communication Officer at UNICEF Poland. She is also a Ph.D. candidate at the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw. Her research interests focus on challenges and constraints on humanitarian access-related issues. Ms Kacprzak also gained experience in DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission and in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw.

Inez Kipfer-Didavi

Policy Advisor at Johanniter International Assistance

Ms Kipfer-Didavi is a Policy Advisor with Johanniter International Assistance and a Board member of VENRO (the umbrella organization of 124 German humanitarian and development NGOs) and since July 2014 German Focal Point for the WHS. Between 2006 and September 2015 she was the Head of Africa Desk at Johanniter International Assistance, coordinating humanitarian and development projects in 11 African countries in the fields of healthcare, water, nutrition, food security & livelihoods, SGBV & FGM, CBR. She holds PhD in Sociology from Bielefeld University (2004) with Dissertation on Negotiating Women's Rights in West Africa. In 2001-2003 she was a scientific officer and teaching staff at Bielefeld University and was conducting qualitative research on women's rights, legal pluralism and democratization in Togo.

Anita Kołodyńska

Senior expert, Humanitarian Aid Section, Development Cooperation Department, MFA Poland

Ms Kołodyńska works on the European and international humanitarian agenda, IHL, COHAFA working party at the Development Cooperation Department, MFA Poland. She is also responsible for developing and implementing Polish humanitarian aid agenda. Previously she has been dealing with international civil protection and Eastern Partnership cooperation. Before joining MFA, she worked in the International Cooperation and European Funds Dept. in the Ministry of Interior and International Cooperation Dept. in the National HQ of the State Fire Service. She speaks English and Russian.

Darina Kösegiová

Expert Advisor, Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Ms Kösegiová works in international law area, as well as on development cooperation and humanitarian aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Previously she held numerous positions in banking and insurance sectors.

Michał Kurpiński

Vice-President, Free Syria Foundation

Mr Kurpiński is a board member of the Free Syria Foundation (Fundacja Wolna Syria). This Polish NGO has been established in early 2013 to facilitate the efforts of the Syrian community in Poland in terms of humanitarian assistance to IDPs within Syria and Syrian refugees in the region. The earliest aid projects were initiated in 2012, without a formal structure. Since 2013 the organization has built a support base, which allows it to operate in Syria, Turkey, Jordan, the Balkan route and Poland. Their projects in 2016 total over \$ 260 000 so far and cover humanitarian assistance in the region as well as pre-integration activities in Poland. As coordinator with Amnesty International Poland, Mr. Kurpiński was awarded the Volunteer of the Year 2012 award for work with the Urgent Actions program. Professionally a translator and interpreter, he works for the nuclear power program in Poland.







Artur Malantowicz (facilitator)

NOHA Operations Manager

Mr Malantowicz is a geographer and political scientist, with his interests focused on the Middle East and its socio-political crises. He has worked in academic, governmental and NGO settings and since 2012 is professionally involved in humanitarian sector, primarily engaged in projects aiming at its professionalization (e.g. EUPRHA — European Universities on Professionalization on Humanitarian Action, EUHAP — European Humanitarian Action Partnership). Currently works as Operations Manager of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) and serves as Middle East Expert at the Warsaw-based think tank Centre for International Initiatives.

Mayra Marques

Independent Consultant

Elżbieta Mikos-Skuza

NOHA Director, University of Warsaw

Ms Mikos-Skuza is an Assistant Professor in public international law at the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw and a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Natolin. She is a member of the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission established under Protocol Additional I to the Geneva Conventions on the protection of war victims and a member of the Advisory Council of the European Institute of Peace. In 2004-2012 Ms Mikos-Skuza was a Vice-President of the Polish Red Cross. Author of numerous publications on public international law and international humanitarian law.

Eric Mohns

Project Manager Middle East & North Africa, Berghof Foundation

Mr Mohns works as a project manager for the Middle East and Northern Africa Program of the Berghof Foundation, a nongovernmental organization that supports efforts to prevent political and social violence, and to achieve sustainable peace through conflict transformation. Erik oversees Berghof's Syria activities and supports other project work focusing on transition processes in the Arab world. In the framework of the DEMAC project ('Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination') that provides space for dialogues between diaspora humanitarians and the 'conventional' stakeholders of the international humanitarian system, Erik is the focal point for Syrian diaspora humanitarians.

Alojzy Z. Nowak (speaker)

Vice-Rector for Research and Liaision, University of Warsaw

Mr Nowak is a Professor in Economics, Vice-Rector of the University of Warsaw for Research and Liaison. Visiting Lecturer at the numerous universities, among others, University of Cambridge, Postgraduate Business School (Grenoble, France), Rostov University, University of North Carolina, University of North Florida, University of Exeter. Member of many professional associations and editorial boards. Research interests: banking, international economics, risk management in financial and capital markets, macro and microeconomics, economic analysis of the EU.

Gosia Pearson

Policy Officer, DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

Ms Pearson is a Policy Officer in DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission, where she works on the EU's humanitarian aid strategy and international cooperation. Previously, she spent several years in the European Union External Action Service, where she was responsible for the formulation and implementation of the EU's foreign policy on human rights and democracy promotion. Before moving to Brussels, she was an academic assistant and researcher at the European Studies Centre at St. Antony's College and the Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford University. She also gained professional







experience in the EU Delegation to the International Organisations in Geneva, the Polish Embassies in London and Dublin, and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw.

Olga Piaskowska

Head of Humanitarian Aid Section, Development Cooperation Department, MFA Poland

Working in the Humanitarian Aid Section since 2012, Ms Piaskowska is responsible for the Polish humanitarian agenda, multilateral (UN, EU, ICRC) and bilateral cooperation (NGOs, public administration). Before joining Development Cooperation Department, for three years Olga was involved in organization of the preparations and the course of the Polish Presidency in the European Council.

Ewa Piekarska

Director, Polish Medical Mission

Ms Piekarska is a volunteer of Polish Medical Mission from 2004 and President of the Board from 2013. Public health expert, graduate "Academy of Young Diplomats" programme and professional courses for humanitarian aid workers organized by RedR UK and Austrian Red Cross. Mostly involved in development aid as a project coordinator and educational health worker f. ex. in Angola, Kenya, Mauritania, Serbia, Papua New Guinea, Turkey and Uganda.

Matej Poljanšek

European Coordinator, Food For Life Global

Mr Poljanšek is a Board member of the SLOGA Platform since February 2016. Since 2013 he is a member of HOC - Humanitarian Center, he has also coordinated FFL Global European emergency relief for Philippines, Haiti, Serbia, Bosnia, Aanamrita, Indija and in 2015 assisting humanitarian assistance and meals coordination for refugees coming to Serbia, Slovenia. He is a dynamic and forward-thinking team player with experience in research, international relations, administration, grant writing, friend and fundraising, marketing and public relations. A multilingual communicator in Italian, Slovenian, Serbo/Croatian and English Languages with some knowledge of Polish.

Jan Říkovský

Head of the Humanitarian Studies, Caritas - College of Social Work Olomouc

Mr Rikovsky works as the Head of the Humanitarian Studies at Caritas - College of Social Work Olomouc. He has got a background in humanitarian assistance, social policy and public economics. His recent research focus is on disaster risk reduction and resilience, has got a practical experience in related fields from Europe as well as Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Mongolia and other countries. He has been active for many years in community development at local level and is a volunteer board member at the Scout Association.

Khaula Sawah

Chief Executive Officer, Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) USA

Ms Sawah is a Doctor of Pharmacy graduated from UK (University of Kentucky) in 1999, and Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (2010). She joined humanitarian medical relief work for Syria with UOSSM in 2012. She served as an Executive Director of UOSSM Office in Turkey till end of 2013 and assumed her current position as CEO of UOSSM USA and Chair of QA Board Committee in 2015. Also, she is a board member on both UOSSM USA and UOSSM-International. In 2014, she received HPM (Humanitarian Program Management) Certification at Bioforce Institute in Lyon, France.

Claus Sørensen (speaker)

Senior Advisor, European Political Strategy Centre

Mr Sørensen is a Senior Adviser on resilience, humanitarian aid and crisis response. For the past four years he has been the Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). Before that he held the post as Director General of Communication in the European Commission. Mr Sørensen is a career diplomat in the







Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. His first posting from 1981 was in Paris, at the Danish Delegation to the OECD. Between 1988 and 1989 he was trade and finance councillor at the Danish Permanent Representation in Brussels. The following year he joined the Cabinet of vice-president Henning Christophersen working on the EURO, relations with Eastern Europe, the Enlargement with Sweden, Austria and Finland as well as the European Social dimension and Environmental issues. As Sweden acceded to the EU in 1995 he became a member of their first Cabinet dealing notably with the fight against transnational organised crime, social and labor market issues and the further enlargement of the EU to the East. Between 1999 and 2011, Mr Sørensen had management positions within the European Commission, most notably Director for International Environmental issues, Head of Cabinet for the Commissioner for Agriculture and later Head of Cabinet for the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance. Mr Sørensen has a Master of Economic Science and is regularly lecturing at the University of Lund, York and Copenhagen.

Andrzej Szeptycki

Associate Professor, University of Warsaw

Mr Szeptycki (D.Litt., Ph.D. political science) is a graduate of the University of Warsaw and the University of Paris-Sorbonne, Associate Professor at the Institute of International Relations of the University of Warsaw. From 2005–2009, he was a research fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs. He has published extensively on Polish and Ukrainian foreign policies, as well as selected aspects of European integration. He is also a columnist of the "New Eastern Europe" bi-monthly and member of the Council of the Polish-Ukrainian Partnership Forum.

Patricija Virtič

Project Manager, SLOGA Platform of NGOs for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Ms Virtič works for SLOGA, platform of Slovene NGOs for development cooperation and humanitarian aid as a Projects Manager and Global Education Officer. She managed several projects funded by EU, Slovene Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Public Administration and Home Affairs or private funds focusing on migration, humanitarian aid, awareness raising, development cooperation and global education. As Humanitarian Response Centre (HOC) Coordinator she oversees activities and projects related to HOC, coordinates NGOs Working group on Humanitarian Aid and does advocacy work. In her spare time, she does volunteer work for humaniatarian organisations.

Roman Wieruszewski

Poznań Human Rights Centre

Mr Wieruszewski is a Professor of Legal Sciences, employee of the Institute of Legal Studies of Polish Academy of Sciences since 1975. Current positions: director of the Poznan Human Rights Centre, vice-chairman of Scientific Council of the Institute of Legal Studies, professor of Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, member of the Polish Refugee Board, research fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, OSCE Human Rights Expert, member of the Legal Advisory Board of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy in Warsaw, member of the Editorial Board of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, member of the Editorial Board of the Polish quarterly "Legal Studies". Visiting professor and lecturer at Marbourg, Mainz and Bochum universities in Germany and numerous Polish universities (Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan, Torun). From 1992 to 1995 Head of the Former Yugoslavia unit in the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, from 1996 to 1998 Chief of Mission of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Field Operation in the Former Yugoslavia in Sarajevo, from 1998 to 2000 and from 2003 to 2006 Member of the UN Human Rights Committee (Vicechairman from 2002 to 2004). Field of research: international protection of human rights, constitutional law.

Wojciech Wilk

President, Polish Centre for International Aid

Mr Wilk is a President of PCPM - Polish Center for International Aid, one of largest Polish humanitarian NGOs. In 2002-2012 worked with UNHCR and OCHA in numerous emergencies, mainly in the Middle East and Sudan, as







well as in the UN Secretariat in New York and OCHA's Regional Office for the Middle East. Member of UNDAC and UNDP Early Recovery Advisor. As head of PCPM, oversees largest humanitarian aid project benefiting Syrian refugees, implemented by the NGO in northern Lebanon since 2012, funded by Polish Aid and the UN.

Will Wright (facilitator)

NOHA Project Officer

Mr Wright is a current Project Officer at the General Secretariat of the Network on Humanitarian Action. In 2015, he completed the NOHA Masters course at the Ruhr-University Bochum and University College Dublin, focusing his thesis and research on the political legitimacy of non-state armed groups and their compliance with IHL. He is a graduate of the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in International Affairs. He has experience working with international and national NGOs in the United States focusing on civic and political engagement and capacity building.

Joanna Wronecka (speaker)

Undersecretary of State for Development Cooperation, Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Deputy Minister Joanna Wronecka is a diplomat and graduate of the Faculty of Arabic Studies of the University of Warsaw. In 1985, she successfully defended her doctoral thesis in Arab-Muslim philosophy at the Faculty of Modern Languages of the University of Warsaw. She took part in scholarship programmes in Algeria, Egypt and France. Ms Wronecka has worked in the foreign service since 1993, moving up the career ladder from an expert, through the position of adviser to the minister, head of section, deputy director and director of the department, up to the post of ambassador. In 1996-1998, she was deputy director of the Department of the United Nations System, and from 1998 to 1999 director of the Department of Africa and the Middle East. In 2003-2005 she held the position of the Minister's Secretariat Director. For four years (1999-2003) she served as ambassador in Cairo, and in 2005-2010 ambassador in Rabat. In September 2010, the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy appointed Ambassador Joanna Wronecka as Head of Delegation of the European Union in Amman, Jordan. Since September 2015, she served as adviser for Arab states, the Middle East peace process and Iran issues in the Department of Africa and the Middle East.