



International Workshop

Setting up a Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies to deliver more, better and faster

MONDAY, 20 January 2020

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation – Lisbon, Portugal

DRAFT PROGRAMME (Subject to change)

- ❖ **REGISTRATION- 09h00 – 09h30**
- ❖ **OPENING SESSION¹ – 09h30 - 11h30**
- **WORDS OF WELCOME BY THE CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION (tbc)**
- **WORDS OF WELCOME BY PRESIDENT JORGE SAMPAIO**
- **KICK-OFF PLENARY – 09h40 -10h30**

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NOW TO ENABLE THE GLOBAL COMPACTS FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO DELIVER ON THEIR TRANSFORMATIVE PROMISE?

Providing higher education opportunities in emergency situations and in conflict-affected societies is not only a matter of realizing rights and granting protection to the critical 18-24 year age bracket, it is also a question of charting a strategic vision for the future of conflict-affected societies. Yet higher education has long been a neglected sector from a policy, practitioner and financial perspective. In any case, according to UNHCR, just three per cent of refugees attend university compared to a global average of 37 percent. But the new international frameworks – the SDGs Agenda, the Agenda for Humanity, the New York Declaration, the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants -, represent true opportunities for change. Against this backdrop, how can we fast-track higher education and make it an independent and self-regulated entry-point of the triple nexus – humanitarian, development and peace - agenda? What kind of road map is needed to reach the new announced target of having 15% of refugees acceding to higher education by 2030? How can the role of higher education be strengthened as a catalyst for

¹ Portuguese-English simultaneous translation provided

recovery? How to ensure sustainable financing for higher education in emergencies? These are questions to be raised in this session as a kick-off to the one-day debates. Speakers in this panel will include:

Ms Mariana Vieira da Silva, Minister of the Presidency and Minister of State, Portugal, Mr Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal, Ms Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Mr Eugenio Ambrosi, Chief of Staff at the Office of the Director General, IOM, Mr José Pena Amaral, BPI/ La Caixa Foundation.

Moderator: Ambassador Moraes Cabral (Special Envoy for Higher Education in Emergencies, Portugal)

- **OUT OF THE BOX MOMENT² – 10h30 -11h00**

NEW INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN THE PIPELINE – THE YES! FUND

After a quick presentation of the YES! Fund, a number of partners from various backgrounds will share their thoughts on the potential of this new initiative and why they have decided to embrace it.

Speakers in this panel will include (tbc):

Ms Inês Oom de Sousa (Board Member, Santander Bank), Professor Isabel Capeloa Gil (Rector of the Catholic University), University of Porto, Polytechnics Institute of Lisbon, Ms. Thais Roque (Oxford alumna, awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Prize for Champion of Refugee Students)

Moderator: Gonçalo Carrilho (Global Platform for Syrian Students)

- ❖ **COFFEE-BREAK – 11h00 -11h30**

- **CALL TO ACTION - 11h30 – 12h15**

DOING MORE, BETTER AND FASTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES – A PLAN OF ACTION³

The *Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies and Conflict-affected Societies (RRM)* is a multi-stakeholders project in the making, aimed at providing more, better and faster academic opportunities for students in crisis situations at large, who are either in vulnerable situations or face humanitarian emergencies created by wars, conflicts and natural disasters. The RRM is designed upon the experience gained from an emergency scholarship program for Syrian students launched in 2013 under the leadership of Mr. Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, in the framework of the

² Portuguese-English simultaneous translation provided

³ Portuguese-English simultaneous translation provided

Global Platform for Syrian Students. Furthermore, the RRM is also based on exchanges held with international partners since 2014 and on lessons learned and best practices available.

Against this backdrop, in this session the RRM will be presented as a unique, informal platform for dialogue and cooperation on higher education in emergencies and conflict-affected societies. Bringing together a variety of partners and stakeholders, the RRM aims to become the main multilateral platform linking the academic community, philanthropies, the private sector, humanitarian and development players and political decision makers at national, regional and global level. It will have 5 main core missions: to provide a platform to strengthen academic capacity to respond to crises, foster collaborative responses, generate untapped resources, improve understanding and accountability as well as inspire political commitment so that higher education is viewed both by governments and donors as a top priority during crises.

Speakers in this panel will include:

Ms Berta Nunes, Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities Abroad in representation of Mr Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State, Portugal, Professor Carla Martins, Pro-Rector, University of Minho, Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director – Education Sector - UNESCO, representative of the UNHCR, Ms Cristel Molne, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Embassy of Andorra

Moderator: Helena Barroco (Global Platform for Syrian Students)

❖ **NEW STUDY ANNOUNCED - 12h15 – 13h00**

- **PRESENTATION OF A NEW REPORT TO BE RELEASED ON “HIGHER EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES”⁴**

In the aftermath of the first ever Global Refugees Forum, held in Geneva on 17-18 December 2019, this Report is intended to be a contribution for stakeholders around the world – be it international and regional organizations, the academic community, national and local governments, philanthropies, civil society organizations, the private sector, humanitarian and development players – to come together and through collaborative and coordinated actions engage in a joint journey to unleash the transformative power of higher education in conflict-affected societies and among displaced populations.

The presentation of the Report will be followed by Q&A.

❖ **LUNCH BREAK – 13h00-14h00**

⁴ Portuguese-English simultaneous translation provided

❖ **ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS⁵ - 14h00 – 16h30**

Roundtable sessions are intended to generate pro-active discussions among the participants on problems and tricky issues that have to be addressed in order to improve the current delivery of higher education in emergencies. The expected outcomes of these roundtable sessions are suggestions of solutions for these problems. Some participants will be asked to kick off the discussions or share key remarks on these topics.

14h00 – 14h45

In November 2019, the ***Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education*** was adopted by UNESCO's member states. After eight years in the making, the new Global Convention expands the scope of the main principles of UNESCO's regional recognition conventions to assess foreign qualifications in a fair, non-discriminatory and transparent manner. How much this new tool will facilitate the recognition of refugees' and forced displaced students? What are the next practical steps? What are the best practices to go paperless in higher education?

Kick-off remarks: Mr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO

Moderator: Mr Pedro Lourtie, Global Platform for Syrian Students

14h45 – 15h30

What is the role of a coordination mechanism to deliver more, better and faster higher education opportunities and what are its main priority tasks to enable higher education institutions to deliver a systemic response in times of crises?

Kick-off remarks: Mr Eugenio Ambrosi, Chief of Staff at the Office of the Director General, IOM

Moderator: Ambassador Moraes Cabral, Special Envoy for Higher Education in Emergencies (Portugal)

15h30- 16h15

To achieve the goal announced by UNHCR of "expanding access to accredited tertiary education for at least 15 per cent of young refugee women and men by 2030" huge progress will be needed and a fairly tight road map has to be agreed and implemented as soon as possible. What will it look like? What is the scale of the challenge? What are the pathways available to achieve this goal?

⁵ Roundtable sessions in English

Kick-off remarks: UNHCR representative

Moderator: Ms Thais Roque, Global Platform for Syrian Students (tbc)

❖ **COFFEE-BREAK – 16h00 – 16h30**

❖ **CLOSING⁶ – 16h30 -17h30**

During the Closing Session, after a one-on-one conversations with some amazing refugees and forcibly displaced students, a panel of high level speakers will deliver summary remarks with the priorities ahead.

Speakers: President Jorge Sampaio, Global Platform for Syrian Students, Ms Cláudia Pereira, Secretary of State for Integration and Migrations (Portugal), Ms Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Professor Nuno Severiano Teixeira, Director of IPRI, Nova University of Lisbon, and Syrian students

Moderator: Ana Bettencourt (Global Platform for Syrian Students)

❖ **DINNER – 19h30 (optional)**

A NEW YEAR charity dinner will be held at SANA METROPOLITAN HOTEL with the participation of around 40 Syrian students. Participants in the Workshop are warmly invited to sign up (limited seats, booking will be on a first come, first served basis)

⁶ Portuguese-English simultaneous translation provided