



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

## SAVE THE DATE

Panel discussion on the occasion of the  
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Human Rights Council

### **Are Human Rights under Assault?**

*Massive human rights violations, violent extremism,  
and shrinking democratic space in a troubled world*

15 March 2016, 3-5pm, UNHQ, New York, ECOSOC Chamber

#### Programme

- 1. Opening of the event** (moderated by ASG for Human Rights)
  - Keynote address by **Mogens Lykketoft**, President of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly
  - Keynote address by **Ban Ki-moon**, UN Secretary-General
  - Ambassador **Choi Kyong-lim** (RoK), President of the Human Rights Council
- 2. Video messages**
  - **Didier Burkhalter**, Foreign Minister of Switzerland
  - **Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 3. Panel discussion + Q&A** (moderated by Kirsten Saloomey, Al Jazeera)
  - **Jan Eliasson**, Deputy Secretary-General and President of the General Assembly in 2006
  - **Louise Arbour**, former High Commissioner for Human Rights; former Prosecutor (ICTY and ICTR)
  - **Adama Dieng**, UN Special Adviser on the prevention of genocide
  - **Leymah Gbowee**, Nobel Peace Prize and women's rights defender

#### Objectives

- Mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Human Rights Council across Headquarters by bridging New York (where the General Assembly voted for its creation on 15 March 2006), and Geneva (where it was formally constituted on 19 June 2006).
- Contribute to the advancement of the United Nations Human Rights agenda by leading a discussion on current human rights challenges and what must be done to address them.
- Highlight the transformative potential and value of the United Nations human rights architecture at a time of extraordinary human rights challenges across the world.
- Discuss the positive dynamics between the UN in Geneva and New York in human rights area, including Human Rights up Front (HRuF).

#### Justifications

As the Human Rights Council marks its 10th anniversary, this panel is one initial platform for a series of activities aimed at marking this symbolic moment. The panel discussion aims to stress how the UN human rights architecture (of which the Human Rights Council is a central actor) provides some of the elements needed to respond to the challenges in a complex world. It should also help Member States better understand the importance of human rights standard-setting in Geneva, mainstreaming in New York and operations in the field.

Event will be webcast live on [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org).

#### Contacts

André-Michel Essoungou | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Nenad Vasic | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

| [essoungou@un.org](mailto:essoungou@un.org) | 917 367 9995  
| [vasic@un.org](mailto:vasic@un.org) | 212 963 5998