



## INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON

### **Inclusion in the Making of Constitutions – Who are ‘We the People’?**

**Friday, 31 March 2017 Conference Room 12**

12:15 – 14:30 United Nations Headquarters, New York

11:45 – 12:15 Light Lunch

Thomas Paine described the origins of a constitution as follows: ‘The constitution of a country is not the act of its government, but of the people constituting its government’.

But this begs the question – which people?

Constitution making increasingly involves mechanisms of broad involvement of the citizenry – to solicit opinions, for popular ratification and through inclusive representation on the body which is tasked with negotiating and drafting the text. The role of popular participation has received increasing attention in recent years, and the subject of constitutional referendums has received detailed examination as well, but there has been less discussion of what is meant by inclusive representation. This despite the fact that initial comparative studies indicate that the role of elites – and who gets to sit at the drafting table - is likely more important than the degree of public involvement in determining the final legitimacy and durability of the constitution, as well as a decreased likelihood of a return to conflict in post-conflict constitution making.

Thus, we know that inclusion is important. However, there has been little analysis of what is actually meant by inclusive representation.

In this International IDEA-UNDP-UNDPA event, we examine key questions and assumptions relating to the issue of inclusive representation in post-conflict constitution building processes.

The format will be a moderated panel discussion, with adequate opportunities for interaction of the panel with the audience.



United Nations



## AGENDA

### Welcoming Remarks:

H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra

Ambassador Extraordinary & Permanent Representative for Peru to the UN

### Moderator:

Mr. Sumit Bisarya, Head of Constitution Building, International IDEA

### Panelists:

Mr. Rohan Edrisinha

Senior Political Officer & Constitutional Advisor, Policy & Mediation Division, UN DPA

Mr. Jason Gluck

Policy Specialist, Political Dialogues and Constitutional Processes, UNDP

Ms. Mabrouka M'Barek

Former Member of the Tunisian Constituent Assembly (2011-2014)

Open discussion.

Concluding Remarks:

Mr. Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the UN

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