

Concept Note for side-event at the 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development

A Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations

Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters, Wednesday 20 February 2019, 9:45am-11:00am

Background

This side event will focus on an in-depth report called “A Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations” published by the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. in 2017 and revised in 2018. The report looks at an experiment called “The Fortress Experiment” with the objective to find out what is important in all our lives and ultimately how we should live our lives. This experiment followed a small community of people around for up to 13 years, after they were given the ability to be all they could be, and the results concluded that the best way to live our lives is by the fullest expression of one’s mental and physical abilities because it makes us happy. This simple result can be easily expanded to all of humanity and could be looked at as a possible major mandate at the United Nations given its simple nature and the many advantages to improve humanity in general under the umbrella of such a mandate.

Goals and Objectives

The side event will look at the advantages if such a mandate were adopted by the United Nations. Supporting material will include video clips from two TV shows produced on the experiment (broadcast on Canada’s number one and two networks) as well as a feature documentary movie on the experiment. We will look at the possible funding advantages of having this positive mandate at the UN as an umbrella mandate for many initiatives and programs associated with free expression. We will also show how the broad nature of such a mandate could help with the issue of “inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies” (this year’s focal topic) as it could be shown to also be an issue of self-expression, and how this and other social problems could be addressed under such an adopted mandate.

Organizing Partners

Hosted by Maurice Ali, President of the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.

Format

The side-event will be open to questions and insights throughout the side event and further discussion among the attendees and speaker at the end.