

## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

As part of his new commitment to action, the President of the General Assembly, Mogens Lykketoft, will organise a high-level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly focused on Human Rights on 12-13 July 2016.

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as a series of UN reviews and action plans in the area of peace and security lies a demand for a stronger focus on human rights across all aspects of society. These developments demonstrate the ever-increasing linkages between the three pillars of the UN but they also highlight the need to ensure that each pillar is given equal prominence.

The event takes place in the context of the 50th anniversary of the International Human Rights Covenants, the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the process to select and appoint the next United Nations Secretary-General. It will be an opportunity to take an overarching view of the human rights situation in our world today, reinforce the foundations for human rights and how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development and vice-versa, as well as highlight ways to strengthen the United Nations' role in this area and identify actions to unleash rapid improvements in the realization of human rights globally.

High-level representatives from States, the UN-system, regional organisations, human rights bodies and mechanisms, civil society, think tanks and private sector will participate. Declared candidates seeking to become the next Secretary-General will also be invited.

## **Focus areas**

### **Tackling discrimination and inequalities**

Non-discrimination is a central principle of international human rights law and indispensable to realizing all human rights. Yet people continue to be directly and indirectly discriminated against on a number of grounds. In addition, inequalities and discrimination are among the major drivers of poverty, exclusion and disenfranchisement which must be tackled to prevent conflict and realize the 2030 Agenda. How can we mobilize greater action at global and national levels to address issues of discrimination and inequalities?

### **Strengthening governance, the rule of law and access to justice**

Human Rights will not be realized without access to justice, the rule of law and effective, transparent, accountable and inclusive institutions. Making progress at the national and global levels on these issues is also central to global peace and security and realizing the 2030 Agenda. These issues however are often among the most challenging areas for governments and other actors to tackle. How can actors work together to overcome these challenges?

### **Enabling active participation in society**

Progress on global issues in the 21st century is increasingly dependent on the ability of actors – governments, the private sector, civil society, human rights defenders, and international organizations – to work together. Yet to do so, the rights of these actors to engage, to advocate and to criticize must be respected. How can we create environments that facilitate positive inter-action, protect civil society space and fundamental freedoms?



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 May 2016

Excellency,

In line with the theme of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, A New Commitment to Action, I will convene a third High-level Thematic Debate on 12-13 July 2016 entitled “UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The event takes place in the context of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Human Rights Covenants, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the process to select and appoint the next United Nations Secretary-General.

It will be an opportunity to:

- take an overarching view of the human rights situation in our world today
- reinforce the foundations for human rights and how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development and vice-versa
- highlight ways to strengthen the United Nations' role in this area and identify actions to unleash rapid improvements in the realization of human rights globally

The Debate will comprise of an opening segment, a plenary debate and interactive segments on three areas of focus: *Tackling Discrimination and Inequalities*, *Strengthening Governance*, *The Rule of Law and Access to Justice* and *Enabling Active Participation in Society*.

A preliminary outline and provisional programme is attached and I encourage your Mission to view the event website for updated material as it becomes available: <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/human-rights/>. My office also stands ready to provide additional details.

It is my hope that this Debate will secure the highest possible level of participation from your government.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**  
***High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly***

**12-13 July 2016 – Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**  
**Preliminary outline**

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***Background***

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as a series of UN reviews and action plans in the area of peace and security lies a demand for a stronger focus on human rights across all aspects of society. These developments demonstrate the ever-increasing linkages between the three pillars of the UN but they also highlight the need to ensure that each pillar is given equal prominence.

As part of his overall efforts to foster ‘A new Commitment to Action’, President Mogens Lykketoft will therefore focus his third High Level Thematic Debate (HLTD) on ‘**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**’.

***Objectives***

In light of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the international human rights covenants, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the process to select and appoint the next UN Secretary-General, the HLTD will be an opportunity to:

- take an overarching view of the human rights situation in our world today
- reinforce the foundations for human rights and how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development and vice-versa
- highlight ways to strengthen the United Nations' role in this area and identify actions to unleash rapid improvements in the realization of human rights globally

***Format***

This event will comprise an opening segment, a plenary debate with ministerial participation and interactive segments on three areas of focus. Moderators for each interactive segment will draw on expert contributors and engage member states in an open discussion on these issues.

On the margins of the HLTD, an event is planned on 12 July to solicit the views of candidates for the position of UN Secretary-General on the challenges and opportunities facing the UN in the field of Human Rights.

***Areas of focus***

Combating discrimination and inequalities: Non-discrimination is a central principle of international human rights law and indispensable to realizing all human rights, civil and political, economic, social and cultural. Yet people continue to be directly and indirectly discriminated against on a number of grounds. In addition, inequalities and discrimination are among the major drivers of poverty, exclusion and disenfranchisement which must be tackled to both prevent conflict and realize the 2030 Agenda. How can greater action be mobilized at global and national levels to address issues of discrimination and inequality?

Strengthening governance, the rule of law and access to justice: Human Rights will not be realized without access to justice, the rule of law and effective, transparent, accountable and inclusive institutions. Making progress at the national and global levels on these issues is also central to global peace and security and realizing the 2030 Agenda. There has been a consistent increase in demand for UN support, and for peer-learning amongst Member States in this area. How can actors strengthen collaboration to deliver on these areas?



Enabling active participation in society: Progress on global issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is increasingly dependent on the ability of stakeholders – governments, the private sector, civil society, human rights defenders, international organizations and others – to work together. Yet to do so, the right to engage, to advocate and to criticize must be respected. How can environments be created that facilitate positive inter-action and protect civil society space and fundamental freedoms?

### ***Participation***

High-level representatives from States, the UN-system, regional organisations, human rights bodies and mechanisms, civil society, think tanks and private sector will participate.

Note: Member States who will have Ministers in attendance are asked to contact the Office of the PGA (opga70@un.org) to discuss possible lead discussant roles in one of the interactive sessions.

### ***Outcome***

The concrete output will be a summary by the President of the General Assembly to be circulated to all Member States and posted on his website.

<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/human-rights/>

**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**  
***High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly***

**12-13 July 2016**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**  
**Provisional programme**

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Tuesday 12 July 2016</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	
9:30am – 10:00am	<b><u>Opening Segment</u></b>
10:00am – 11:30am	<b><u>Ministerial Plenary Debate</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
11:35am – 1:00pm	<b><u>Interactive segment 1: Combatting discrimination and inequalities</u></b> Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
3:00pm – 4:30pm	<b><u>Interactive segment 2: Building the foundations for Human Rights – governance, the rule of law and access to justice</u></b> Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors
4:35pm – 6:00pm	<b><u>Interactive segment 3: Enabling active participation in society</u></b> Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors
6:30pm	<i>Moderated conversation with the candidates seeking to become the next UN Secretary-General – Challenges and opportunities facing the UN in the field of Human Rights (tbc)</i>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Wednesday 13 July 2016</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	
10:00am – 12:50pm	<b><u>Plenary Debate continued</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
3:00pm – 5:50pm	<b><u>Plenary Debate continued (as required)</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
5:55pm	<b><u>Closing Remarks:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the United Nations General Assembly</li> </ul>



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 June 2016

Excellency,

The High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights that I will organise on 12-13 July 2016 is raising considerable interest within the General Assembly and beyond.

Following on from the preliminary outline and provisional programme annexed to my letter of 20 May 2016, I have the honour to bring to your attention today an updated concept note and programme.

I have asked my office to organize an informal briefing on the general preparations for this High-Level Thematic Debate. The informal briefing chaired by my Chef de Cabinet, Ambassador Tomas Anker Christensen, will take place on Wednesday, 29 June from 11:00am – 1:00pm in Conference room 4.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**  
***High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly***

**Concept Note**

**Background:** At the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as a series of UN reviews and action plans in the area of peace and security lies a demand for a stronger focus on human rights across all aspects of society. These developments demonstrate the ever-increasing linkages between the three pillars of the UN alongside the need to ensure that each pillar is given equal prominence.

As part of his overall efforts to foster ‘A new Commitment to Action’, President Mogens Lykketoft will therefore focus his third High Level Thematic Debate (HLTD) on ‘**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**’.

Taking place in the context of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the international human rights covenants, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the process to select and appoint the next UN Secretary-General, this HLTD will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- reinforce the foundations needed for the enjoyment of human rights
- identify how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development and vice-versa
- highlight ways to strengthen the United Nations' role and effectiveness in this area

**Format:** This event will comprise an opening segment, a plenary debate, interactive segments on three areas of focus and a moderated conversation with candidates for the position of UN Secretary-General. A series of side-events are expected to be organized around the event.

Whereas the plenary segment will focus on the overall role of the UN in the area of human rights; the interactive segments will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into three themes of immense relevance to the enjoyment of human rights in today's world and to consider what strategies can be used to address those issues.

Each segment will draw on expert contributors. Moderators will seek to engage member states in an open free-flowing discussion. Delegations who will have Ministers in attendance are asked to contact the Office of the PGA ([opga70@un.org](mailto:opga70@un.org)) to discuss possible lead discussant roles in one of the three interactive segments.

Further substantive and logistical information is provided below on the plenary debate, the interactive segments and the event with SG candidates.

**Participation:** The HLTD seeks to attract High-level representatives from States, the UN-system, regional organisations, human rights bodies and mechanisms, civil society, think tanks and the private sector.

**Outcome:** A summary by the President of the General Assembly will be circulated to all Member States and posted on his website after the event.

### ***A. Plenary Segment***

*‘The United Nations protects human rights because that is our proud mission – and because when people enjoy their rights, economies flourish and countries are at peace.’*

UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon  
Human Rights Day, 2014

The UN’s role in the area of human rights has evolved considerably since the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948 and the international human rights covenants some 50 years ago and continues to evolve today.

Throughout the years, the United Nations has continuously recognized human rights as one of its three pillars. To name a few examples, following the UN Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established to lead UN efforts in respect of the promotion and protection of human rights, and also support the mainstreaming of human rights work across the UN system. Following the World Summit of 2005, member states moved to establish the Human Rights Council. Most recently, the UN also adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an agenda grounded in human rights. The UN system has also embarked on human rights initiatives, such as the Secretary-General’s Human Rights Up Front initiative, to ensure the UN system takes early and effective action to prevent or respond to large-scale violations of human rights of international humanitarian law.

As the UN marks its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as member states gear up to appoint a new UN Secretary-General, the Plenary segment is an opportunity for member states to outline ways to further strengthen the UN’s role in this area, to respond to global trends and to ensure even greater impact on the human rights situation in our world.

#### Key questions

- What strategies can the UN employ to further advance human rights in our world?
- What changes are needed to enable the overall UN system respond better to human rights concerns and support member states in meeting their obligations?
- What do major developments like the adoption of the 2030 Agenda or the recent reviews on peace and security, mean for the UN’s approach to human rights?

**Format:** The plenary debate will consist of two parts. A ministerial plenary segment will be held from 9.30-11.30am on Tuesday 12 July. Member states who are not represented at ministerial level who wish to address the plenary debate will be provided an opportunity to do so on Wednesday 13 July. Speakers are asked to limit their statements to three minutes. The time-limit will be strictly enforced.

Speakers list: All delegations wishing to speak in the plenary debate are kindly requested to inscribe in the list of speakers, General Assembly Affairs Branch (Ms. Antonina Poliakova (e-mail [poliakova@un.org](mailto:poliakova@un.org) ; tel. 1 (212) 963-5063)).

### ***B. Interactive Segment 1: Combatting discrimination and inequalities***

Equality and non-discrimination are the foundational principles of all of the international human rights covenants, and indispensable to realization of all human rights, including the right to development. Unless progress is made on these issues at the global and national levels, efforts to reduce poverty, achieve sustainable development and secure the social cohesion necessary to deliver peace and security will be significantly undermined.

Today, discrimination remains pervasive. Countless children, women and men continue to be discriminated against on a daily basis as a result of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability, and sexual orientation, migrant or other status. Millions face not only one form of discrimination, but multiple and intersecting forms that exacerbate their disadvantage and exclusion. Deep-seated discriminatory norms, harmful gender stereotypes, prejudices as well as gender-based violence against women and girls continue to prevent equality and the full realization of women's rights.<sup>i</sup> There are worrying signs of a rise in racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly against ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities and migrants.

In addition, inequalities are rising. Inequalities are the result of discrimination in laws, policies and practices and the failure to protect the rights of the most marginalised. The rise in income inequalities across the majority of countries is also further exacerbating inequalities in opportunities and outcomes relating to education, health, food security, employment, housing, health services access to justice and political participation.<sup>ii</sup> Deep inequalities between ethnic and religious groups can also threaten social cohesion, radicalize groups and heighten the risk of tensions escalating into political crisis and violent conflict. Inequities in the global governance system, including in the trade, finance and investment rules, reproduce inequalities both within and between countries, operating as obstacles to the realisation of the right to development.

The 2030 Agenda provides a new opportunity to put the human rights promise of equality and non-discrimination back at the heart of sustainable development. It calls for a world where no one is left behind, a world of "equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity" and includes two dedicated goals on eliminating discrimination and reducing inequalities (Goal 5 and Goal 10). Other SDGs and their means of implementation aim to achieve more inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory development at national and global levels while the call for disaggregated data is also crucial to ensuring that those furthest behind will be reached first.

#### Key questions for this segment:

- What are the major obstacles to eliminating discrimination and reducing inequalities?
- What can be done most effectively first? How can rapid improvements be made?
- How can we ensure that the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to 'leave no one behind' contributes to the realization of the principles of equality and non-discrimination?

- How can we mobilize greater political will at global and national levels, among governments and ordinary people, to engage everyone in realizing this vision?

### *C. Interactive Segment 2: Strengthening governance, the rule of law and access to justice*

Good governance, the rule of law and access to justice are the essential tools through which human rights are realised and protected. At the same time, good governance and the rule of law are defined through the extent to which State institutions are constituted and act in compliance with international human rights standards and principles. Together they provide the foundation for peaceful and inclusive societies, and for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development, ensuring that no one is marginalized or left behind.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, member States have again recognized these interconnections and have committed to strengthen the rule of law, provide equal access to justice for all, fight against organised crime and corruption, and enhance access to information, as well as participatory and representative decision-making. Similarly, the link between sustaining peace and issues such as the rule of law, access to justice and good governance was also recognized in the recent UN Peace building architecture review.

At the international level, an order based on the rule of law and respect for the principles of international law is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation amongst States. It provides the conditions conducive to peaceful settlement of disputes, prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding, as well as for economic, environmental and scientific cooperation across borders, and for ensuring that crime or impunity is not tolerated. The first 70 years of the United Nations have seen the development of an international legal framework for the protection of human rights, as well as of institutions and mechanisms to support Member States in the implementation of their obligations, or to keep them to account when they fail to do so.

At the national level, member States have incorporated the international standards to their national legal frameworks to varying degrees, respecting the national context and legal traditions, and the particular challenges of each society. These legal frameworks are implemented through State institutions. When institutions are founded on central principles of the rule of law, such as the division of powers, equality before the law, and transparency and accountability, they provide a solid foundation for good governance and for protection of human rights.

This interactive discussion will examine the role of the legal system, both laws and the courts, at the national and international levels, as well as of institutions of good governance in the protection and promotion of human rights.

#### Key questions for this segment:

- What are some of the most effective strategies to achieve better protection of human rights and accountability through the national legal system? What about at the international level?
- How have legal frameworks in compliance with international standards facilitated socially and economically inclusive development and helped to build peaceful and inclusive societies?

- What practical measures can State institutions take to embed principles of transparency and accountability into their work in order to achieve the SDGs including Goal 16?
- What kind of support can non-state actors – civil society, national human rights and ombuds institutions, the private sector, the UN and other international organizations – provide to Governments to strengthen good governance and the rule of law?

#### *D. Interactive Segment 3: Enabling active participation in society*

International human rights law places an obligation on States to respect freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association and the right to participate in public affairs.<sup>iii</sup> The exercise of these rights drives civic activity and helps individuals mobilize to realize social change.

Effective avenues for civic participation contribute to societal cohesion and give a voice to people, including minorities and those at the margins of society. Civil society plays a crucial role in educating and facilitating participation in public life and can allow people to contribute to policy development and decision-making. Allowing voices to be heard, even when they express criticism or unpopular views, is key to holding decision makers to account and to ensuring that policies are reviewed, lessons-learned and improvements made.

There is also a persuasive economic case for a strong civil society. Indeed, business and civil society have a shared interest in an environment that respects the rights to freedom of expression and association, is pluralistic and non-discriminatory, upholds the rule of law, and promotes transparency and access to information.

Governments and leaders that bristle at calls for change, are unprepared, short of better alternatives, or are overly sensitive about criticism, gamble that the benefits of dismantling public freedoms outweigh the costs. And civil society actors—those very individuals and groups advocating for change—are the most visible and easily identifiable targets for efforts to stop or prevent the words they say and the work they do.

Civil society also faces threats from non-State armed groups, and there are a growing number of allegations of intimidation and threats by the private sector against, for example, environmental and land rights activists. In many countries, women civil society actors face disproportionately adverse reactions, based on discriminatory stereotypes.

Countries where civil society space is nurtured reap significant dividends in terms of development and long-term stability. In a recent report, the High Commissioner for Human Rights identifies five essential ingredients in this regard: a robust legal framework compliant with international standards of public freedoms and effective access to justice; a political environment conducive to civil society work; access to information; avenues for participation by civil society in policy development and decision-making processes; and long-term support and resources for civil society.<sup>iv</sup>

#### Key questions for this segment:

- How can Governments and international organizations work together to incentivize a pro-civil society culture in support of human rights and the SDGs?



- How can fears of those who seek to limit or dismantle public freedoms, be disarmed?
- What can civil society actors do to better leverage online space for effective advocacy?
- How can we build better appreciation and solidarity to safeguard the “super-rules” across all sectors within which civil society actors are engaged?
- Within the inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations, what can be done to meaningfully widen the space for civil society participation?

### *E. Conversation with candidates for the position of UN Secretary-General*

A public event entitled: “Leading the UN: A Global Townhall with SG candidates” will take place in the General Assembly Hall on Tuesday, 12 July from 6:30pm – 9:00pm. This event seeks to enhance public interest in the work of the United Nations and its next Secretary-General and is distinct from the UN General Assembly mandated informal dialogues with candidates.

The event will be made available to broadcasters across the world and will be open to participation from member states, civil society and UN staff.

A professional moderator will engage attending candidates in an open discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing the next Secretary General including on how to ensure that Human Rights are at the centre of the global agenda. A process is now underway to source questions from the global public which the moderator will draw from to inspire discussion. The moderator will take additional questions from the floor, time permitting.

Further logistical information, including in relation to tickets, participation etc, will be provided on the website of the PGA closer to the date (<http://www.un.org/pga/70>).

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<sup>i</sup> UN Women Progress of the World’s Women 2015-2016, : <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/>

<sup>ii</sup> UNDP, Humanity Divided: Confronting Inequality in Developing Countries (2014)

<sup>iii</sup> These rights are guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (articles, 19, 20, 21); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 19, 21, 22, 25); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural (articles 8, 15); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (article 3); International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (article 5); Convention on the Rights of the Child (articles 13, 15); Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (articles 21, 29, 30); International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance (article 24); and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (article 26). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on practical recommendations for the creation and maintenance of a safe and enabling environment for civil society, based on good practices and lessons learned, A/HRC/32/20.

<sup>iv</sup> Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on practical recommendations for the creation and maintenance of a safe and enabling environment for civil society, based on good practices and lessons learned, A/HRC/32/20.

**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**  
***High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly***

**12-13 July 2016**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**

**Provisional programme**

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Tuesday 12 July 2016</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	
9:00am – 9:30am	<p><b><u>Opening Segment</u></b>  <i>Keynote Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft</b>, President of the United Nations General Assembly</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon</b>, United Nations Secretary-General</li> <li>• <b>H.M. Queen Mathilde of Belgium</b>, SDG advocate</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Agnes Leina Ntikaampi</b>, Executive Director, Illaramatak Community Concerns, Kenya</li> </ul>
09:30am – 11:30am	<p><b><u>Ministerial Plenary Debate</u></b>  <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions from member State Ministers</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Choi Kyonglim</b>, President of the Human Rights Council, Permanent Representative of South Korea to the United Nations (Geneva)</li> </ul>
11:35am – 1:00pm	<p><b><u>Interactive segment 1: Combatting discrimination and inequalities</u></b></p> <p><i>Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Kate Gilmore</b>, Deputy High Commissioner, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Opal Tometi</b>, Co-founder, Black Lives Matter</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka</b>, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mutuma Ruteere</b>, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Diakhoumba Gassama</b>, Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ) Senegal</li> </ul>

	<p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. José María Viera</b>, Human Rights Policy Advisor and Coordinator, International Disabilities Association</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Zamir Akram</b>, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development</li> </ul>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
3.00pm – 4.30pm	<p><b><u>Interactive segment 2: Building the foundations for Human Rights – governance, the rule of law and access to justice</u></b></p> <p><i>Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr. Ken Roth</b>, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch</p> <p>Panellist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Irene Khan</b>, Director General, International Development Law Organization</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jacqueline Moudeina</b>, lead lawyer for the victims of the Hissène Habré regime</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi</b>, President, International Criminal Court</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Harkristuti Harkrisnowo</b>, Professor, University of Indonesia</li> </ul> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Yury Fedotov</b>, Executive Director, UNODC</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ian McDougall</b>, Executive Vice President &amp; General Counsel, Lexis Nexis</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ivan Šimonović</b>, Assistant Secretary General, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> </ul>
4:35pm – 6.00pm	<p><b><u>Interactive segment 3: Enabling active participation in society</u></b></p> <p><i>Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Laura Trevelyan</b>, BBC Correspondent</p> <p>Panellist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Salil Shetty</b>, Secretary-General of Amnesty International</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Alaa Murabit</b>, founder of Voice of Libyan Women, SDG Advocate</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Christophe Deloire</b>, Director-General, Reporters Without Borders</li> <li>• <b>Representative from a Social Media company</b> (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Maina Kiai</b>, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association</li> <li>• Human Rights Defender (tbc)</li> </ul>
6.30-9pm	<p><b><i>‘Leading the United Nations – A Global Townhall with SG candidates’</i></b> (General Assembly Hall)</p>

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Wednesday 13 July 2016</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	
10:00am – 12.50pm	<b><u>Plenary Debate continued</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
3:00pm – 5.50pm	<b><u>Plenary Debate continued (as required)</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
5:55pm	<b><u>Closing Remarks:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the United Nations General Assembly</li> </ul>



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 July 2016

Excellency,

I am pleased to forward to you the final programme for the High-Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights, which takes place on 12-13 July.

Please note that the High Level Thematic Debate will take place in the Trusteeship Council Chamber and will begin at 09:00 a.m. on Tuesday 12 July.

I look forward to the active participation of your delegation in this event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**  
***High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly***

**12-13 July 2016**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**

**Final programme**

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Tuesday 12 July 2016</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	
9:00am – 9:30am	<p><b><u>Opening Segment</u></b>  <i>Keynote Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the United Nations General Assembly</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General</li> <li>• H.M. Queen Mathilde of Belgium, SDG advocate</li> <li>• Ms. Agnes Leina Ntikaampi, Executive Director, Ilaramatak Community Concerns, Kenya</li> </ul>
09:30am – 11:30am	<p><b><u>Ministerial Plenary Debate</u></b>  <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b></p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What strategies can the UN employ to further advance human rights in our world?</li> <li>- What changes are needed to enable the overall UN system respond better to human rights concerns and support member states in meeting their obligations?</li> <li>- What do major developments like the adoption of the 2030 Agenda or the recent reviews on peace and security, mean for the UN's approach to human rights?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions from member State Ministers</li> <li>• H.E. Choi Kyonglim, President of the Human Rights Council, Permanent Representative of South Korea to the United Nations (Geneva)</li> </ul>
11:35am – 1:00pm	<p><b><u>Interactive segment 1: Combatting discrimination and inequalities</u></b></p> <p><i>Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors</i></p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the major obstacles to eliminating discrimination and reducing inequalities?</li> <li>- What can be done most effectively first? How can rapid improvements be made?</li> <li>- How can we ensure that the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to 'leave no one behind' contributes to the realization of the principles of equality and non-discrimination?</li> <li>- How can we mobilize greater political will at global and national levels, among</li> </ul>

	<p>governments and ordinary people, to engage everyone in realizing this vision?</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Kate Gilmore</b>, Deputy High Commissioner, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Opal Tometi</b>, Co-founder, Black Lives Matter</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka</b>, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mutuma Ruteere</b>, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance</li> <li>• <b>Mr. José María Viera</b>, Human Rights Policy Advisor and Coordinator, International Disabilities Association</li> </ul> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Zamir Akram</b>, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Diakhoumba Gassama</b>, Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ) Senegal</li> </ul> <p>Contributions from member states encouraged. Initial contribution from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>H.E. Mr David Stanton</i>, Minister of State for Justice, Equality, Immigration and Integration, Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
3.00pm – 4.25 pm	<p><b><u>Interactive segment 2: Building the foundations for Human Rights – governance, the rule of law and access to justice</u></b></p> <p><i>Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors</i></p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are some of the most effective strategies to achieve better protection of human rights and accountability through the national legal system? What about at the international level?</li> <li>- How have legal frameworks in compliance with international standards facilitated socially and economically inclusive development and helped to build peaceful and inclusive societies?</li> <li>- What practical measures can State institutions take to embed principles of transparency and accountability into their work in order to achieve the SDGs including Goal 16?</li> <li>- What kind of support can non-state actors – civil society, national human rights and ombuds institutions, the private sector, the UN and other international organizations – provide to Governments to strengthen good governance and the rule of law?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr. Ken Roth</b>, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch</p>

	<p>Panellist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Irene Khan</b>, Director General, International Development Law Organization</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jacqueline Moudeina</b>, lead lawyer for the victims of the Hissène Habré regime</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi</b>, President, International Criminal Court</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Harkristuti Harkrisnowo</b>, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Indonesia</li> </ul> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ivan Šimonović</b>, Assistant Secretary General, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ian McDougall</b>, Executive Vice President &amp; General Counsel, Lexis Nexis</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Haoliang Xu</b>, Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP</li> </ul> <p>Contributions from member states encouraged. Initial contributions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>H.E. Mr Sidiki Kaba</i>, Minister of Justice of Senegal and President of the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</li> <li>• <i>H.E. Mr Søren Pind</i>, Minister of Justice of Denmark</li> <li>• <i>H.E. Carlos Raul Morales</i>, Foreign Minister of Guatemala</li> </ul>
<p>4.30pm – 5.50pm</p>	<p><b><u>Interactive segment 3: Enabling active participation in society</u></b>  <b><i>Format: Moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors</i></b></p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can Governments and international organizations work together to incentivize a pro-civil society culture in support of human rights and the SDGs?</li> <li>- How can fears of those who seek to limit or dismantle public freedoms, be disarmed?</li> <li>- What can civil society actors do to better leverage online space for effective advocacy?</li> <li>- How can we build better appreciation and solidarity to safeguard the “super-rules” across all sectors within which civil society actors are engaged?</li> <li>- Within the inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations, what can be done to meaningfully widen the space for civil society participation?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Laura Trevelyan</b>, BBC Correspondent</p> <p>Panellist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Salil Shetty</b>, Secretary-General of Amnesty International</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Alaa Murabit</b>, founder of Voice of Libyan Women, SDG Advocate</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Christophe Deloire</b>, Director-General, Reporters Without Borders</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Monika Bickert</b>, Director of Public Policy, Facebook</li> </ul> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Milan Antonijevic</b>, Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Maina Kiai</b>, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Alan Miller</b>, Special Envoy, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions</li> </ul> <p>Contributions from member states encouraged</p>
6.00pm-9.00pm	<i><b>‘Leading the United Nations – A Global Townhall with SG candidates’</b></i> (General Assembly Hall)
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Wednesday 13 July 2016</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	
10:00am – 1.00pm	<b><u>Plenary Debate continued</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
3:00pm – 5.55pm	<b><u>Plenary Debate continued (as required)</u></b> <b>UN@70 – Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda</b>
5:55pm	<b><u>Closing Remarks:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft</b>, President of the United Nations General Assembly</li> </ul>

## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

#### **Death Penalty – Global trends and national pathways**

When:

Monday, 11 July, 2016, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m

Where:

EU Delegation to the United Nations, New York

Organizer:

EU Delegation to the United Nations

Additional information:

# #EU4HumanRights

*Please join us for the first edition of the **EU@UNTalks** series on Human Rights; a platform for interactive discussions on topics on the global human rights agenda, taking in experiences from different corners of the world. EU@UNTalks is part of the year-long #EU4HumanRights campaign.*

## DEATH PENALTY – global trends and national pathways

In 1945, eight countries had abolished the death penalty. In 1978, that number had increased to 16. Today the vast majority of countries have either abolished the death penalty or established moratoriums. As of December 2015, over 140 countries, or more than 2/3 of all States, were abolitionist in law or practice.

In our discussion, we want to look at how the world has been moving away from the death penalty and what the global outlook might be. What national pathways exist to ending the death penalty? What role do moratoriums and national debates play on the way to abolition? Is this trend sustainable in the long-term or can it be reversed? These are some of the issues we aim to discuss with our distinguished speakers and members of the audience during this interactive session hosted at the European Union Delegation.

**Host:** H.E. Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Ambassador of the European Union to the United Nations

**Discussants:**

H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice of Senegal

Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Mr. Ivan Šimonović, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

**Moderator:** Mr. Bernard E. Harcourt, Professor of Law, Professor of Political Science, and Director, Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia University

Date and time: Monday 11 July at 6pm – 7.30pm, followed by a reception

Venue: EU Delegation, 666 Third Avenue, 31<sup>st</sup> floor

RSVP: mandatory by Friday 8 July, email [venise.greffine@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:venise.greffine@eeas.europa.eu)

There will be consecutive interpretation from French to English. Seating is limited.



## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

#### **Launch of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**

When:

Tuesday, 12 July, 2016, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where:

United Nations, New York – Delegate's Dining Room

Organizer:

The Governments of Mexico, Republic of Indonesia, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania

Additional information:



**End Violence  
Against Children**  
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

# One in every two children is harmed by violence.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the goals of Agenda 2030 call for a world where every child grows up free from violence and exploitation.

Join us for a high-level luncheon on  
**July 12th** from 1-3 pm in the UN Delegates  
Dining Hall, UN Secretariat NY

With at least a billion children exposed to violence in 2015, we have an urgent and important challenge before us – to protect children from the violence they experience every day, as they escape conflict and crisis, as they make their way to schools, or find themselves bullied and exploited on the internet. This can be prevented. And we hope you will join us in protecting our most precious assets, our children.

To help contribute to our shared goal of children living free from violence and exploitation, a Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children will be launched on 12 July 2016. This Partnership is supported by governments, civil society, foundations, private sector and UN agencies. It intends to accelerate real action for children in their homes, schools, and communities; build on the political will and opportunity presented to us through the Sustainable Development Goals; and strengthen collaboration between and among organizations, and across borders.

This invitation-only event is co-hosted by the governments of Mexico, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Indonesia who will present their national roadmaps for ending violence against children.

**Please RSVP by July 6 to  
[secretariat@end-violence.org](mailto:secretariat@end-violence.org)**



PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
New York

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

#### **Townhall-style discussion: “Is civil society participation shrinking after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda?”**

**When:**

Tuesday, 12 July, 2016, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Where:**

United Nations, New York – CR12

**Organizer:**

The International Disability Alliance and other civil society partners, in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

**Additional information:**



## Save the Date

# Is Civil Society Participation Shrinking after the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda?

Town hall-style discussion at the  
President of General Assembly's High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights

**Tuesday 12 July 2016, 1:15pm – 2:45pm, CR12**

**Opening remarks**

**Mr Stavros Lambrinidis**  
**EU Special Representative for Human Rights**

One of the strengths of the process leading to the adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda was the active engagement and participation of civil society. We witnessed an inclusive, participatory and transparent process in which the UN and some Member States embraced and invited stakeholders to share their vision and knowledge to formulate a more sustainable future for all.

- **Is the UN system still open to include active civil society participation?**
- **Do Member States value and encourage input from civil society into processes?**
- **Is there risk that we are sliding backward to a UN in which Member States hide behind the General Assembly's rules of procedure and call for intergovernmental processes consequently excluding civil society?**

Representatives of diverse areas of civil society will argue that their participation and active contribution to UN processes will ensure that no one is left behind and that the human rights of all persons are upheld.

## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

#### **Leaving No One Behind: A Human Rights Approach to Combating Inequalities and Discrimination**

When:

Tuesday, 12 July, 2016, 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where:

United Nations, New York – CR11

Organizer:

Mission of Finland, OHCHR, Center for Reproductive Rights, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, International Disability Alliance and Center for Economic and Social Rights

Additional information:





WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



*Save the date: High-Level Political Forum side event*

## Leaving No One Behind

### A Human Rights Approach to Combating Inequalities and Discrimination

**Where:** Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

**When:** July 12, 1:15-2:30pm

As economic inequality reaches a historic high, exacerbating multiple, enmeshed forms of discrimination, states, UN agencies, and civil society must put equality and non-discrimination at the heart of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the most potentially transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda is the commitment to “leave no one behind”. Human rights principles and standards on equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability provide a detailed normative framework for making these commitments a reality.

This event will provide space for international human rights organizations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and representatives of UN missions to discuss ideas and present recommendations on how to address inequalities within and between states to ensure that the implementation, follow up, and review of the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind.



## WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



**Leaving No One Behind:**  
**A Human Rights Approach to Combating Inequalities and Discrimination**  
Concept Note for 2016 High-Level Political Forum Side Event

**Where:** Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

**When:** July 12, 1:15-2:30pm

**Co-sponsors and organizers:**

Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International, Center for Economic and Social Rights, Center for Reproductive Rights, Human Rights Watch and International Disability Alliance

**Thematic focus:**

One of the most potentially transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – and the theme of this year’s HLPF – is the critical commitment to “leave no one behind.”

Under the MDGs, despite important progress at the aggregate level in reducing extreme poverty rates globally, the poorest and most marginalized were often neglected and inequalities increased. Indeed, inequalities have deepened in ways that threaten social and political stability and the sustainability of economic and environmental development. As Oxfam has recently highlighted, the world is richer than ever before but the wealth is concentrated in very few hands – today, the world’s 63 wealthiest people own as much as half the world’s population put together. Pervasive discrimination also continues to affect women and girls as well as many other groups, including persons with disabilities, migrants, minorities, indigenous peoples, among others.

This is why, when the 2030 Agenda was adopted last year, the international community pledged that “no one will be left behind” and “to reach the furthest behind first”, including through combating discrimination and inequalities and by calling for the disaggregation of data to ensure that progress benefits all groups and sectors of society.<sup>1</sup> Notably, the SDGs contain specific goals calling for gender equality (Goal 5) and addressing inequalities of opportunities and outcomes (Goal 10) as well as targets aimed at eliminating discrimination faced by marginalized populations, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and older people, among others, and the disparities that result.

Human rights principles and standards on equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability provide a detailed normative framework for making these commitments a reality. The challenge is to get states to use them in the planning, delivery, and review of the 2030 Agenda. As economic inequality reaches a historic high, exacerbating the overlapping impacts of persistent forms of discrimination and social inequalities, it is time to reflect on its direct impact on

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<sup>1</sup> U.N. Doc. A/RES/70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, para. 4.

individuals, communities, and countries and to call on governments, UN agencies, and civil society to put equality and non-discrimination at the heart of efforts to implement the new Agenda.

This event will provide space for ideas and recommendations on how to address inequalities within and between states to ensure that the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind. In particular, human rights organizations will share proposals based on experience in confronting and seeking redress for inequalities and discrimination. Speakers will make concrete suggestions for how to operationalize key human rights principles in the implementation, follow up, and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional, and global level.

Panelists will:

- highlight human rights perspectives on different facets of existing inequalities;
- outline ways in which different kinds of discrimination further exacerbate inequalities and make recommendations to ensure that policies reach the most marginalized;
- discuss opportunities for an increased role of civil society and outline measures through which the participation of particularly the most disadvantaged groups could be secured in the decision-making and programming related to the 2030 Agenda; and,
- discuss the global monitoring framework of the 2030 agenda and ways to secure participatory, transparent, and universal reviews that address existing inequalities and help drive forward an inclusive agenda that ensures that no one is left behind.



**WITH THE SUPPORT OF:**



***High-Level Political Forum side event***

## **Leaving No One Behind**

### **A Human Rights Approach to Combating Inequalities and Discrimination**

**Where:** Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

**When:** July 12, 1:15-2:30pm

As economic inequality reaches a historic high, exacerbating multiple, enmeshed forms of discrimination, states, UN agencies, and civil society must put equality and non-discrimination at the heart of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the most potentially transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda is the commitment to “leave no one behind”. Human rights principles and standards on equality, non-discrimination, and accountability provide a detailed normative framework for making these commitments a reality. This event will provide space for international human rights organizations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and representatives of UN missions to discuss ideas and present recommendations on how to address inequalities within and between states to ensure that the implementation, follow up, and review of the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind.



#### **Speakers:**

- Mr. Rauno Merisaari, Ambassador at-large on Human Rights and Democracy, Finland
- Craig Mokhiber, Chief of Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Lilian Sepúlveda, Vice President, Center for Reproductive Rights
- Yetnebersh Nigussie, Senior Inclusion Advisor, International Disability Alliance
- Sherine Tadros, Head of UN office, Amnesty International
- Iain Levine, Deputy Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

#### **Moderator:**

- Ignacio Saiz, Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights (moderator)



## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

#### **Launch of the report: “Turning ambition into reality: Platforms and Partnerships for Delivering Agenda 2030” by David Steven and Eric Kashambuzi**

**When:**

Wednesday, 13 July, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Where:**

Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, N.Y.

**Organizer:**

The Governments of Brazil and Switzerland, in partnership with the Center on International Cooperation, NYU

**Additional information:**

The Governments of Brazil and Switzerland  
invite you to the launch of the report:  
**“TURNING AMBITION INTO REALITY: Platforms and Partnerships for  
Delivering Agenda 2030”** by David Steven and Eric Kashambuzi,  
Center on International Cooperation, NYU

Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, N.Y.  
Wednesday 13 July, 2016, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m

Partnerships are expected to play a critical role in sharing the knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources that will support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This report analyzes the role that global platforms and partnerships can play in catalyzing delivery of the new goals, bringing together actors from multiple sectors behind a common set of objectives, enabling each other to play to their strengths and maximizing the contribution of others. It presents case studies and lessons learned of partnerships under the thematic areas of people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. Opportunities and gaps in the partnership portfolio are identified and recommendations made for where new platforms are needed that can act as a ‘partnership of partnerships.’ The paper concludes with a discussion of what is needed to make the partnership portfolio “fit for results” and to maximize its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

#### **Human Rights in the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda**

When:

Wednesday, 13 July, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where:

United Nations, New York – CR11

Organizer:

The Permanent Mission of Denmark, together with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Additional information:





PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Side-event during the  
**High-Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights, and the  
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

## **Human Rights in the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda**

**Co-sponsored by: The Permanent Missions of Chile and Denmark, jointly with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.**

**Date and time:** 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016, from 11:00 AM to 1 PM, conference room 11

### **Opening Remarks:**

His Excellency Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly

His Excellency Søren Pind, Minister of Justice, Denmark

### **Introductory remarks and moderation of the Panel:**

- Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (TBC)

### **Panelists:**

- Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
  - Mr. Gilbert Hounbo, Deputy Director General, of the ILO
- Ms. Joan Carling, Representative of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group
- Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators
- Mr. Michael Windfuhr, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

### **Introduction:**

The 2030 Agenda is explicitly grounded in international human rights. Research by the Danish Institute for Human Rights shows that 92 % of the targets of the 2030 Agenda reflect provisions of international human rights and labour standards<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, the Agenda specifies that the Follow-Up and Review (FUR) processes at national, regional and global levels should be guided by the principles of accountability, participation and non-discrimination, which are at the core of the human rights-based approach to development.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://sdg.humanrights.dk>



At the global level, the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** is expected to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the Agenda, including through country and thematic reviews. The 2016 session of the HLPF is the first since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and is therefore crucial for exploring and setting precedents for effective and efficient FUR. The theme of the 2016 Session is “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, which reflects the fundamental human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination.

In parallel, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, is organising a **High-Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights on July 12-13**. The Debate will take an overarching view of the human rights situation in the world today and, inter alia, highlight how action globally to realize human rights can contribute to progress on sustainable development.

**Purpose and focus:**

The side event aims at constituting a substantial bridge between human rights and sustainable development, by exploring the operational convergence between human rights realisation and sustainable development. The event will thus reinforce the notion that sustainable development and human rights are mutually dependent in ensuring dignity and prosperity in our common vision of leaving no one behind.

More specifically, the high-level speakers at the side-event will discuss how human rights monitoring and follow-up and review of the SDGs, at national, regional and global levels, can be supplementary and mutually reinforcing.

**Framing questions:**

At the side-event, high-level representatives of the UN-system, States, rights-holders, national human rights institutions and the statistical offices will discuss the following key questions:

- How do human rights underpin the SDGs, and how can the human rights principles of equality, participation and accountability be built into FUR processes?
- How can States use existing human rights reporting to build cost-effective and efficient national FUR processes?
- How can information and recommendations from treaty monitoring bodies and special procedures under the Human Rights Council, as well as ILO supervisory bodies and National Human Rights Institutions contribute to FUR processes and guide SDG implementation?
- What types of data collection, statistical and analytical capacities are necessary to ensure that “no one is left behind”? How can human rights bodies and statistical offices complement each other and work together?



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Side-event during the  
High-Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights, and the  
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA

## CO-SPONSORED BY:

The Permanent Missions of Chile and Denmark, jointly with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

## DATE AND TIME:

13th July 2016, from 11:00 AM to 1 PM, conference room 11

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## OPENING REMARKS:

His Excellency Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly  
His Excellency Søren Pind, Minister of Justice, Denmark

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND MODERATION OF THE PANEL:

- Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (TBC)

## PANELISTS:

- Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, Deputy Director General, of the ILO
- Mr. Michael Windfuhr, Global Alliance of National Human Rights
- Ms. Joan Carling, Indigenous Peoples Major Group
- Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators

The side event aims at constituting a substantial bridge between human rights and sustainable development, by exploring the operational convergence between human rights realisation and sustainable development. The event will thus reinforce the notion that sustainable development and human rights are mutually dependent in ensuring dignity and prosperity in our common vision of leaving no one behind.

More specifically, the high-level speakers at the side-event will discuss how human rights monitoring and follow-up and review of the SDGs, at national, regional and global levels, can be supplementary and mutually reinforcing.

## **High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights**

### **Related events**

**How has the Global South contributed to shaping the international human rights system?**

When:

Wednesday, 13 July, 2016, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Where:

International Peace Institute, 777 United Nations Plaza, N.Y.

Organizer:

International Peace Institute (IPI) and Permanent Mission of Denmark

Additional information: