



High-level event to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Concept Note

10 December 2018

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Dialogue Room, Bab Ighli Conference site

Organizers:

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Background:

This year's Human Rights Day (10 December 2018) marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The Declaration is a milestone document in the history of human rights providing the foundation for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of *all* people at *all* times. In its recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings without discrimination, the UDHR ushered in a new vision of and commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Over the past seven decades, the UDHR has come to be regarded as one of the pillars of a global ethic, a common conscience for humanity – having played a critical role in sustaining morale among those oppressed, in legitimizing their struggles and in de-legitimizing human rights abuses. Its 70th anniversary provides an occasion not only to take stock of human rights achievements since 1948, but also to set an agenda and vision for the future.

This high-level commemoration provides an opportunity to celebrate how, through the UDHR, dignity for millions has been uplifted, human suffering prevented and the foundations for a more just world put in place. It further provides an opportunity to demonstrate the significance of the UDHR, setting out in practical terms how Member States and other stakeholders can respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all people.

Format:

The opening statements and initial presentations by the panellists will be followed by 2-minute interventions from Member States and stakeholders. Speakers are encouraged to focus interventions on positive examples of Member States engagement in the protection and fulfilment of human rights.

Registration:

Attendance is open to all participants holding a Conference badge. Registration is highly encouraged for the purposes of establishing a list of speakers. Please indicate your interest in speaking by Wednesday 5 December through the dedicated form at: standup4humanrights.org/udhr70marrakesh

Programme

Screening of UDHR70 video

Opening:

- Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
- Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly
- Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco
- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Moderator:

- Ms. Louise Arbour, Former High-Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration

Speakers:

- Ms. Mary Robinson, Former High-Commissioner for Human Rights and Chair of the Elders
- Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Ms. Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights of the Republic of the Philippines
- Mr. Jacob Dubbins, co-founder, Conscious Advertising Network

Interventions from the floor