



**Building Back Better:
Integrating Human Rights in Sustainable and Resilient
Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

14 January 2021 | 15:00 – 17:00 PM CET | Virtual session

PROGRAMME

15:00-15:20

Opening Session:

During this session senior State and UN Officials will bring opening remarks outlining their vision on inclusive recovery strategies to build back better from COVID-19 while applying human rights-based approaches to strengthen SDG implementation, particularly SDGs 10 and 16.

Speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva – Chair and Moderator – **Opening remarks** – 3 minutes
- H.E. Ms. Keva L. Bain, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office in Geneva - Vice President of the Human Rights Council – **Opening remarks** – 3 minutes
- Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) New York – **Opening remarks** – 3 minutes
- Ms. K. K. Shailaja, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Kerala State, India – **Keynote speech** – 10 minutes

15:20 - 16:55

Panel Discussion:

This panel will discuss how historic, systemic and institutional discrimination has exacerbated inequalities in the context of COVID-19 and contributed to impeding the realisation of SDGs 10 and 16. The speakers will share national and community level examples of good practice of inclusive, non-discriminatory recovery strategies based on human rights. In so doing, they will highlight the contribution of UN human rights mechanisms, the critical role of civil society and human rights defenders and the importance of institutions that are transparent, effective, inclusive and accountable, to protect against discrimination and address inequalities post COVID-19. The floor will be open for questions/ interactive dialogue.

Speakers: 3 minutes each

- Ms. Carolina Ferreira, Chief Advisor, Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation
- Ms. Dominique Day, Chair of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
- Mr. Tauriq Jenkins and Ms. Francina Nkosi, C19 People's Coalition, South Africa
- Ms. Francoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia

16:55 – 17:00

Closing:

The Chair and Moderator of the meeting will close the meeting by providing an overview of the discussions as well as an initial indication of the main conclusions and recommendations to be taken forward to the HLPF in July 2021.

