



United Nations Forum on  
**HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY  
and the RULE OF LAW**

GENEVA, 21-22 NOVEMBER 2016

**Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law  
First session**

**“Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making”.**

**Room XVII, Palais des Nations**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Monday, 21 November 2016**

**Morning Session**

**10:00 - 13:00**

**I. 10:00 - 10:30 Opening meeting**

Statement by the President of the Human Rights Council, **H.E. Ambassador Choi Kyonglim**

Video Message by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Mr. Jan Eliasson**

Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**

Remarks by the co-Chairs of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law **Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi**, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and **H.E. Ambassador Daniyar Mukashev**, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**II. 10:30 -13:00 Creating an enabling environment for the effective participation of youth in public decision-making**

Discussions will focus on the legal and institutional frameworks required to enable youth to contribute to the formulation of public policies, and to hold policymakers accountable. Discussions will also focus on the realization of all human rights without discrimination as a prerequisite to an enabling environment for the participation of youth in decision-making. Discussions will also consider the importance of education, training, capacity-building and empowerment programmes for youth on human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law as a precondition for their effective engagement.

**Presentations by:**

- **Ms. Sara Oviedo**, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Ms. Chaeli Mycroft**, ability activist, founding member of The KidsRights Youngsters, founder of the Chaeli Campaign
- **Ms. Gulalai Ismail**, peace activist, founder of Aware Girls
- **Mr. Dejan Bojanic**, Board member of the European Youth Forum, youth rights and education policy advisor.

**Moderator:** **Mr. Romulo Dantas**, Executive-Secretary for Youth Empowerment at World YMCA

**Discussion**

**Lunch Break**

**Afternoon Session**

**III. 3– 6 p.m. From formal to transformative participation of youth**

Discussions will include the identification of mechanisms to secure the access of young people to parliaments, and regional and local assemblies, and their participation in electoral system reforms, constitution-making processes and political parties. Participants will identify ways of translating online activism into long-term, sustainable participation of young people in decision-making processes. Discussions will focus on the current challenges with regard to e-participation, such as issues relating to inclusivity and the accessibility of ICT.

**Presentations by:**

- **Ms. Anne Lambelin**, Senator of the Parliament of Belgium and delegate at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Forum of Young Parliamentarians
- **Mr. Tomaž Deželan**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Jean Monnet Chair for Citizenship education and Vice-Dean for Quality Assurance and Development at the University of Ljubljana, policy advisor on youth political participation to the OSCE and International IDEA.

- **Ms. Aya Chebbi**, activist and blogger, and member of the Board of Directors of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation
- **Mr. Anshul Tewari**, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of YouthKiAwaaz.com and Director of the Board of Collectively

**Moderator: Mr. Ian Power**, Executive Director of SpunOut.ie, Ireland's youth information website, and president of the National Youth Council of Ireland.

## Discussion

**Tuesday, 22 November 2016**

### **Morning Session**

#### **IV. 10:00 - 13:00: Participation of youth in sustainable development and human rights protection in specific contexts**

Discussions will focus on the role of youth in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants will also consider how a human rights-based approach contributes to greater recognition of and support for the role of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Strategies and policies that have had a positive impact in scaling up the participation of youth in post-conflict and peace-building efforts (for example, in mediation and negotiations, rebuilding communities, justice and reconciliation processes, including transitional justice initiatives) will be discussed. Participants will also identify concrete measures to ensure the participation of youth in designing and implementing strategies for preventing violent extremism and promoting social inclusion.

#### **Presentations by:**

- **Ms. Ana Saldarriaga**, former Global President of AIESEC, current member of AIESEC Supervisory Board
- **Mr. Scott Atran**, anthropologist at France's National Center for Scientific Research, Oxford University and the University of Michigan
- **Ms. Hajer Sharief**, co-founder of Maan Nabniha (Together We Build It) in Lybia and member of the advisory group of experts for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, mandated by Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).
- **Ms. Martine Kessy Ekomo Soignet**, founder of URU ("Take off") and member of the advisory group of experts for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, mandated by Security Council resolution 2250 (2015)

**Moderator : Ms. Francine Muyumba**, President, Pan African Youth Union

## Discussion

## **Lunch Break**

## **Afternoon Session**

### **V. 15:00 – 17:45 Moving the global youth agenda forward: the role of youth in shaping the agenda of the United Nations and regional organizations**

Discussions will focus on mechanisms and initiatives at the international and regional levels that contribute to moving the global youth human rights agenda forward. Participants will consider measures to ensure the participation of young people in the work of the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, including possible avenues for young people to bring allegations of human rights violations before relevant mechanisms, and ways to ensure that issues relevant to youth are considered by the said mechanisms.

#### **Presentations by:**

- **Mr. Max Trejo Cervantes**, Secretary-General of International Youth Organization for Ibero-America
- **Mr. Alexander Kauschanski**, Youth Delegate Programme Multiplier of the World Federation of UN Associations
- **Ms. Rita Muyambo**, Head of Programmes for World YWCA

**Moderator:** Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

#### **Discussion**

### **VI. 17:45-18:00 Concluding Remarks by the Co-Chairs of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.**

**Session Closes**

**\*\*\* The Programme of Work may be subject to change \*\*\***