**Questionnaire Section I: Taking Stock**

**Responses can address some of the questions or all of them, as feasible or preferred. Additional issues or topics, in particular with regard to future work, are welcome.**

The first section of this call for contributions and inputs for the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights focuses on achievements of the mandate since its establishment in 1998. This stocktaking exercise looks at all areas covered by the various mandate-holders in the past.

For over twenty-three years, the work of the mandate and former Independent Experts has focused on the issue of foreign debt, and its impact on human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development. Among some of the specific topics of attention, [reports](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx), [country visits](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/CountryVisits.aspx) and other activities, there are:

1. Addressing [debt-related problems caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/Call-for-Input-COVID-19-impact-financing-development.aspx) and providing guidance to States in this context.
2. Debt burden, servicing and relief, including by providing [guidance to States](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/GuidingPrinciples.aspx) and other relevant stakeholders on how to address the impact on foreign debt on human rights. (See in particular the [Guiding Principles on foreign debt and human rights](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/GuidingPrinciples.aspx), endorsed by the Human Rights Council in 2012)
3. International debt architecture reform, the [international investment arbitration system](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/DebtDisputesInternationalInvestmentArbritration.aspx), as well as human rights issues of concern with the lack of accountability and regulation of [credit rating agencies](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/CreditRatingAgencies.aspx)
4. The impact of economic reform policies on human rights; this topic has included a specific focus on women’s rights and on labour rights, and it led to the development of [Guiding Principles on human rights impact assessments of economic reforms](https://www.undocs.org/A/HRC/40/57).
5. Issues related to economic inequality, financial crisis and human rights.
6. Impact of [private debt of individuals and households on human rights](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/ReportPrivateDebt.aspx)
7. [Illicit financial flows, human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/IllicitFinancialFlows.aspx); the impact of illicit financial flows, including tax evasion, corruption, and other economic crimes, on the enjoyment of human rights
8. [Financial complicity- lending practices to States involved in gross human rights violations](https://www.undocs.org/A/74/178)

Questions:

1. In your view, what are the **main contributions and achievements** made by the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, as part of the Special Procedures mechanism, alone or in collaboration with other stakeholders, at the international level, the regional level and the national level? (Please specify the institutions, countries or regions concerned).
2. Please indicate any specific topics and areas of work carried out by the mandate of the Independent Expert that in your view, were **particularly important in promoting or protecting human rights in relation to foreign debt and other related financial obligations**? Wherever possible, please explain how the work of the UN Independent Expert in the areas identified played a positive role.

1. Which of these themes, topics and areas of work of the mandate have been **most useful** to you? Which of these areas of work of the mandate do you find most useful and would encourage future work to focus on? Please explain why.
2. In your view, what are the **main lessons learned** that could be drawn from the trajectory of the mandate on the impact of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations on human rights in order to strengthen further the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights for all?