

SOCIAL FORUM 2021



Fighting against COVID-19, for Human Rights and for International Solidarity

**“Good practices, success stories,
lessons learned and challenges”**

11 and 12 October 2021



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The Social Forum is an annual meeting convened by the Human Rights Council. It is a unique space for open and interactive dialogue between civil society, representatives of Member States, and intergovernmental organizations, on a theme chosen by the Council each year.

The 2021 session will focus on challenges, good practices, success stories, lessons learned in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on international cooperation and solidarity, and from a human rights perspective.

The event will be held online and in person in Room XVII at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. In order to attend the event online, you must first register at: <https://indico.un.org/event/20108/>

All the documents related to the event will be posted here: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2021.aspx>

For additional information, please contact: socialforum@ohchr.org



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

OPENING

Monday October 11th
10:00am-10:30am
@ Room XVII



H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa
Chairperson-Rapporteur
SOCIAL FORUM



H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan
President
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



Ms. Michelle Bachelet
United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights
OHCHR

KEYNOTE PANEL

Monday October 11th
10:30am-11:30am
@ Room XVII



Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Senior Adviser
KHAZANAH RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA
"Sustainable Development and the fight against COVID-19"



Ms. Maria Guevara

International Medical Secretary
MSF INTERNATIONAL
"Challenges from the frontlines in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic"



Dr. Ala Alwan

Vice-Chair of the Bureau, Member States
Working Group
WHO PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSES TO HEALTH
EMERGENCIES
"Lessons learned in pandemic preparedness and response"



Mr. Obiora Chinedu Okafor

Independent Expert
HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
"Human Rights and International Solidarity in fighting COVID-19"



Ms. Nafesha Richardson

Climate Activist and Founder
SPARK SVG
"COVID-19, climate justice and the rights of future generations"

COVID-19 AND CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Monday October 11th
3:00pm-4:30pm
@ Room XVII



Mr. Héryan Vales
Human Rights and Democracy Advisor
OHCHR
Moderator



Ms. Faith Kasina
Coordinator
KAYOLE SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER
*"The right to life, equality before the law and
freedom of expression"*



Ms. Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans
Executive Director
EUROPEAN CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW
*"COVID-19, civic space and fundamental
freedoms"*



Ms. Barbara Bernath
Secretary General
ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE
*"The rights of persons deprived of liberty and
COVID-19"*



Ms. Kasari Govender
Human Rights Commissioner
BRITISH COLUMBIA
*"Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination and Vaccine
Passports"*

COVID-19 AND ECONOMIC SOCIAL & CULTURAL RIGHTS

Monday October 11th
4:35pm-5:20pm
@ Room XVII



Mr. Melik Özden
Director
CENTRE EUROPE-TIERS MONDE
Moderator



Ms. Angela Frigo
Secretary General
EUROPEAN FOOD BANKS FEDERATION
"The right to food in times of COVID-19"



Ms. Soledad García Muñoz
Special Rapporteur - Economic, Social, Cultural &
Environmental Rights
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
"Economic, Social, Cultural & Environmental Rights"



Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque
Chief Executive Officer
UN hosted Sanitation and Water for All
Partnership
*"Imagine COVID-19 in a world with water and
sanitation for all"*



Mr. Obi Aginam
Professor of Law
CARLETON UNIVERSITY OF CANADA
*"Intellectual Property Rights and Access to
COVID-19 Vaccines"*

COVID-19 AND GROUPS IN FOCUS

Tuesday October 12th
10:00am-11:30am
@ Room XVII



Ms. Fadzi Whande
Senior Diversity and Inclusion Adviser
OHCHR
Moderator



Ms. Bimala Rai Paudyal
Member of the National Assembly
FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF NEPAL
*"Gender equality, women's rights and
empowerment – The Experience of Nepal"*



Ms. Mikiko Otani
Chair
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
"Rights of the Child"



Ms. Silvia Perel-Levin
Chair, UN Representative
NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, INPEA
"The rights of older persons"



Mr. Jarrod Clyne
Human Rights Advisor
INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE
"Persons with disabilities and COVID-19"



Ms. Dominique Day
Chairperson
WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT
*"Disrupting systemic racism, discrimination
and xenophobia"*

COVID-19, THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY RIGHTS

Tuesday October 12th
11:30am-12:20pm
@ Room XVII



Dr. Maria Mercedes Rossi
Representative to the United Nations
ASSOCIAZIONE COMUNITÀ PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII
Moderator



Dr. Saif Albadr
Spokesperson
MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
*"Health awareness on COVID-19 in the Middle East
and North Africa Region: Iraq as an example"*



Dr. Armando De Negri
Member
EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHT TO
DEVELOPMENT
*"The Right to Development in the fight against
COVID-19"*



Mr. David Fernandez Puyana
Ambassador
UN UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE
"The Right to Peace"



Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim
Coordinator
ASS. OF PEUL WOMEN & AUTOCHTONOUS
PEOPLES OF CHAD
*"COVID-19, Climate Change and the Right to a
Healthy Environment"*

OVERCOMING GLOBAL CHALLENGES TOWARDS RECOVERING BETTER

Tuesday October 12th
3:00pm-3:45pm
@ Room XVII



Ms. Srruthi Lekha Raaja Elango

Co-Director & Representative to the UN
POLITY LINK

Moderator



Ms. Attiya Waris

UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and
Human Rights

"Foreign debt as an obstacle to recovering better"



Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa

Managing Director
TECHNOLOGY BANK FOR LDCS

*"Transfer of technologies and building
capacities in the most vulnerable countries"*



Ms. Susanna Moorehead

Chair
OECD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

*"Good practices in stepping up Official
Development Assistance"*



Mr. Adel Abdellatif

Director a.i.
UN Office FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

"South-South cooperation in fighting COVID-19"

ROUNDTABLE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Tuesday October 12th
4:30pm-5:45pm
@ Room XVII



Ms. Nada Al-Nashif

Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHCHR

Moderator



Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng

UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone
to the enjoyment of the highest attainable
standard of physical and mental health



Mr. Achal Prabhala

Coordinator
ACCESS IBSA PROJECT



Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria

General Secretary
ACT ALLIANCE



Ms. Azza Karam

Secretary General
RELIGIONS FOR PEACE