Overcoming multiple crises: realising the SDGs through a human rights enhancing economy

19 January 2023 | 15:00-17:00 CET | hybrid session

Concept Note

Fifth intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda

Date/time: Thursday 19 January 2023, 15:00-17:00 CET

Venue: Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online platform (Zoom)

Background: The 2023 intersessional meeting is the fifth of a series of inter-sessional meetings of the Human Rights Council on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The inter-sessional meeting was mandated by resolution A/HRC/RES/43/19.

Objectives: The objectives of the intersessional meeting are to:

(a) provide a space for States, relevant United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to share good practices, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned,

(b) explore further steps that the Human Rights Council could take to support accelerated SDG action at the national level,

(c) enhance the understanding of the relationship between the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and human rights processes and mechanisms, and opportunities to strengthen the cooperation.

Theme: The Intersessional Meeting will base its discussions on the theme of the 2023 July HLPF *Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development at all levels* while considering the global situation and multiple crises, reaching from the danger of global recession to the global consequences of the war in Ukraine. As the July HLPF will take place in the year of the mid-term review of the implementation of the SDGs and ahead of the SDG Summit – to be convened in September 2023 – the meeting also offers a valuable opportunity to develop key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit to be transmitted to the HLPF as official input to the meeting.
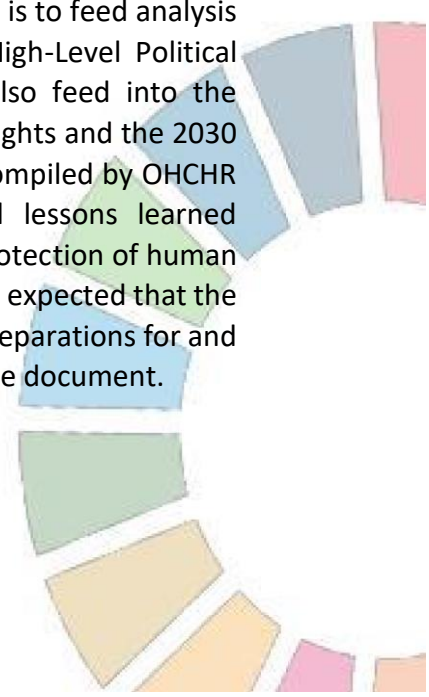
The HRC Intersessional meeting will explore the importance and added value of integrating human rights into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development to resume progress on the SDGs and help overcome the impact of the multiple crises the world is currently facing. Without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the SDGs, particular emphasis will be placed on three of the SDGs which will be reviewed in-depth by the HLPF in July 2023: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 17 (means of implementation and partnerships for the goals).

A keynote speaker will introduce the larger theme and explore current global developments and their socio-economic impact.

The panel discussion will highlight the value added of integrating human rights in economic policy planning including budgeting and domestic revenue generation. The discussion will link to SDG17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development'. The panel will explore country practice and policy solutions that further and support a *human rights-enhancing economy*, geared towards countering inequalities and leaving no one and no country behind. It will highlight the value of putting pre-existing human rights obligations back into economic policy discussions to build an economy that benefits everyone, invests in the SDGs, and underpins inclusive and sustainable development leading to the transformative change envisaged in the 2030 Agenda.

The panel discussion will further focus on two of the SDGs to be examined in depth at the 2023 HLPF, (SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities). The panel discussion will look at the implementation of these SDGs from a human rights perspective. More specifically it will explore the value added of integrating human rights in the delivery of specific SDGs through concrete case studies.

One of the stated objectives of the inter-sessional meetings is to feed analysis and messaging from the Human Rights Council to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The meeting will also feed into the forthcoming Human Rights Council Resolution on Human Rights and the 2030 agenda (March 2023) and will draw on the recent report compiled by OHCHR at the HRC request on best practices, challenges and lessons learned concerning integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is also expected that the official inputs to the annual HLPF meeting will inform the preparations for and deliberations at the 2023 SDG Summit, including its outcome document.

Chair	**H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov,** Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva,, Chairperson
Opening	**H.E. Mr. Václav Bálek,** Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, President of the Human Rights Council
	Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (video message)
Keynote:	**H.E. Ms. Antonia Urrejola**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chile (video message)
Panellists:	**Mr. Grieve Chelwa**, Director of Research, Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, The New School (video message)
	Ms. Attiya Waris, United Nations Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights (video message)
	Mr. Arnaud Peral, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tunisia
	Ms. Leilani Farha, Director of The Shift on the Right2Housing (video message)
Format	The two-hour meeting will be held as hybrid meeting from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. CET on Thursday, 19 January 2023. It will consist of a high-level opening session followed by a thematic session and a closing session. Delegations can indicate their readiness to take the floor by raising their nameplates.
Participation	The meeting will bring together representatives of Member States along with experts from State institutions (including national parliaments, NHRIs, national development agencies and statistical offices); United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms; United Nations agencies and country teams (UNCTs); academia and CSOs. The meeting will be open to observers, including nongovernmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Within existing time limitations, the meeting with try to ensure that space is provided to the voices of all different stakeholders.
Accessibility:	In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel discussion will be made accessible. International sign interpretation and real-time captioning (English) will be provided and webcasted. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for

participants using wheelchairs, in the seventh (last) row. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in the Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities.

Outcome   A summary report of meeting will feed into the discussions of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the progress in the achievement of the SDGs to be reviewed in 2023.

Documents   Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 June 2020 A/HRC/RES/43/19 – Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights A/HRC/51/9 on "Integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level".

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Annex

Overview of past inter-sessional meetings of the Human Rights Council on "Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda

The first intersessional meeting took place on 16 January 2019 under the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". The meeting examined the relationship between the SDGs and human rights and concluded, among other things, that the SDGs would be best realized through a human rights-based approach to their implementation at the national, regional, and global levels.

The second intersessional meeting was held on 3 December 2019 under the theme "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". The meeting reiterated that much more action and delivery would be needed, and faster, to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, including in the adoption of human rights-based public policies.

The third intersessional meeting was held on 14 January 2021 and focused on "Building back better: integrating human rights in sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic", highlighting SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and gender mainstreaming in all 2030 Agenda implementation. The meeting concluded that COVID-19 represents a historic opportunity for States to build a 'new social contract', based on human rights and equal opportunities for all that addresses historic, systemic, and institutional discrimination.

The fourth intersessional meeting was held on 18 January 2022 and focused on "Investing in sustainable recovery, advancing gender equality and strengthening partnerships – Towards a

renewed social contract anchored in human rights", with a focus on SDG 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls', SDG 17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development', and the overarching promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and to reach those furthest behind first.

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