

25th session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

Panel discussion

Theme: The contribution of the right to development towards combating discrimination including racial discrimination

Concept note (as of 02 May 2024)

- Date and venue:** Wednesday, 15 May 2024, 15 a.m. to 18 p.m. (UTC+2)
Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva
- Objectives:** The objectives of this panel are:
- **To explore the intersectionality** between the right to development and combating discrimination, particularly racial discrimination,
 - **To identify key strategies and initiatives** that leverage the right to development framework to combat racial discrimination effectively,
 - **to generate recommendations for future actions and areas of focus for the Working Group.**
- Chair:** H.E. Mr. Zamir Akram, Chair of the Working Group on the Right to Development
- Panellists:**
- **Mr. Bonny Ibhawoh**, Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, speaking on “Combatting Racial Discrimination through the Right to Development Agenda”
 - **Ms. Barbara G Reynolds**, Chairperson, Working Group of Independent Experts on People of African Descent
 - **Mr. Michał Balcerzak**, Professor of International Human Rights Law at the Nicolaus Copernicus University speaking on “The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Right to Development: Some Reflections”
- Outcome:** The anticipated outcomes of this discussion include:
- **awareness and understanding among participants** regarding the significance of the right to development in addressing racial discrimination,
 - **actionable recommendations or guidelines for politicians, civil society organizations**, and others to integrate the right to development perspective into their efforts to combat racial discrimination,
 - **A summary report** on the panel discussion to the Human Rights Council.
- Format:** The panel discussion will be limited to three hours. The presentations by the panellists will be followed by an interactive discussion and conclusions from the panellists. States or observers, national human rights institution and non-governmental organizations will have the opportunity to raise issues and to ask panellists questions.
- Background documents:**
- [1986 Declaration on the Right to Development](#)
 - [1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#)
 - [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)
 - Thematic study by the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development: Racism, racial discrimination and the right to development, 2022 ([A/HRC/51/37](#))