



Human Rights 75 – High-level Event Agenda¹

The High-level Event is convened by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and is co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland.

Monday 11 December

Master of Ceremony: Peter Okwoche

Moment of silence to mourn and honour all victims of human rights violations.

9:00-10:30

Welcome by Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Room XX

Opening panel: Universality and indivisibility of human rights

In 1948, States came together to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: a blueprint to guarantee the rights of every individual everywhere, enshrining the universality of human rights. It laid the foundation for human rights achievements across regions and cultures. However, the promise of universality and indivisibility of human rights remains unfulfilled. The panel will address some of the challenges, reflecting on how to ensure equal and fair attention to all human rights. The panel will also illustrate the value of the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and discuss how to achieve greater diversity of voices in decision-making. A renewed commitment by States and others to the universality and indivisibility of human rights is critical, so that tangible improvements in peoples' lives can be realized.

Panellists:

- Yadh Ben Achour, academic and former member of the UN Human Rights Committee
- Epsy Campbell Barr, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and former Vice-President of Costa Rica
- Karmen Ramírez, Indigenous leader and Member of Parliament, Colombia
- Shalini Randeria, Rector of Central European University
- Philippe Sands, writer and academic
- Farida Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education
- Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Chair and Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

¹ 12 December 2023

Moderated by Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

10:30-11:30

Voices in defence of human rights 1: bringing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to life

Room XX

Each and every action that promotes and protects human rights, each person who stands up for the dignity of others, and every person who speaks up on behalf of those who go unheard bring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to life. During these sessions, speakers will share human rights stories and offer contributions that showcase the power of the Universal Declaration to uphold people's rights. The session will (1) bring together impressive actions towards the advancement of human rights as part of Human Rights 75 and beyond; (2) highlight lessons learned and challenges that individuals have had to overcome in their defence of human rights; and (3) enable participants to present their pledges to advance human rights.

Panellists:

- Tala Odeh, Human Rights 75 Youth Advisory Group
- Youth taking the floor from Bangkok (Virtual Hub)
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments
- Martin Chungong, Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Pooja Patel, Programme Director, International Service for Human Rights

Moderated by Ilze Brands Kehris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Music interlude by Wassim Mukdad

11:30-13:00

Pledging Tree Session 1

States: Heads of Delegations

Room XX

Pledges have the potential to transform the enjoyment of human rights for many across the globe. The pledging session will allow States to announce tangible commitments to advance human rights protection at the national, regional, or global levels. As pledges are presented, a virtual pledging tree will grow, symbolizing collective progress and commitment.

Moderated by Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

13:00-14:00

You have the Floor

Room XVII

Anchored in the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 'You have the Floor' session is designed to be a vibrant and welcoming forum. It will amplify diverse voices

and demands for action on human rights issues. This session also provides a platform for the Human Rights 75 Youth Advisory Group to unveil its Youth Declaration.

- Abdul Aziz Muhamat, human rights advocate for migrants and refugees
- Karthoum Dembele, artist and one of the winners of the UN Human Rights' 2023 International Contest for Minority Rights
- Ahmad Joudeh, dancer and choreographer, human rights' advocate
- Eleanor Kennedy, Senior Advocacy Advisor at the Open Society Foundations
- Mariam Oyiza Aliyu, women's rights defender and founder of Learning Through Skills Acquisition Initiative

Moderated by Nelufar Hedayat, journalist and presenter

14:00-15:00

Pledging Tree Session 2

States: Heads of Delegations

Room XX

Pledging session by States continues.

15:00-16:30

Voices in defence of human rights 2: *bringing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to life*

Room XX

Panellists:

- Maryam Al-Attiyah, Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
- Mary Harvey, Executive Director, Centre for Sports and Human Rights
- Melissa Martínez, human rights defender
- Hassan Shire, Executive Director, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project and Chairperson of the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network

Moderated by Ilze Brands Kehris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Music interlude by Wassim Mukdad

Child representatives close the Voices segment

16:30-18:00

Bolstering the human rights ecosystem

Room XX

The international human rights ecosystem that has emerged since 1948 is complex and interconnected. This panel aims to take stock of this system, highlighting challenges and opportunities, and exploring how to bolster it further, so that it remains a powerful force for justice and human rights in a rapidly evolving world.

Panellists:

- H.E. Mr. Václav Bálek, President of the 17th cycle of the Human Rights Council, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic (keynote)
- Louiza Belmahdi, petitioner to the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Bensaoula Chafika, Lady justice of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Alice Mogwe, President of the International Federation for Human Rights
- Siobhán Mullally, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
- Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee
- Maria Claudia Pulido, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Frans Viljoen, Director, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria and member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
- H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, Permanent Representative of Argentina, President of the 16th cycle of the Human Rights Council

Moderated by Attiya Waris, UN Independent Expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations and human rights

18:30

Palais des Nations, Bar du Serpent

Human Rights 75 reception

Offered by the City of Geneva, the Geneva Canton and the Swiss Confederation.

For Heads of delegation + 1

Tuesday 12 December: Leaders' Segment

Masters of Ceremony: Peter Okwoche (Room XX) and Alessandra Vellucci (Room XIX)

9:00-10:00

Opening Ceremony with Heads of State

Room XX

Opening remarks by President of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Mr. Alain Berset, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk.

Remarks by Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Srettha Thavisin from the Virtual Hub in Bangkok.

Discussion with Heads of State, moderated by Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

- President of Estonia, H.E. Mr. Alar Karis
- President of Greece, H.E. Ms. Katerina N. Sakellariopoulou
- President of Poland, H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda
- President of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Macky Sall
- President of Slovenia, H.E. Ms. Nataša Pirc Musar
- Vice President of Colombia, H.E. Ms. Francia Márquez Mina
- Vice President of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Hussain Mohamed Latheef

10:00-12:45

Round table 1: The Future of Human Rights and Peace and Security

Room XX

Conflicts are at the highest level since 1945, causing devastating loss of life and unimaginable harm. In a volatile, contested global environment, this round table will examine how we can leverage the full potential of human rights to prevent conflict and violence; strengthen protection; and shape solutions towards lasting peace.

Chair: Vice President of Colombia, H.E. Ms. Francia Márquez Mina

Keynote: President of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Macky Sall

Moderator: Melissa Fleming, UN Under-Secretary-General, Department of Global Communications

Panellists:

- President of Poland, H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, H.E. Ms. Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, H.E. Mr. Riad Al-Malki
- Minister of Justice and Public Security of Haiti, H.E. Ms. Emmelie Prophète-Milcé
- Beatrice Fihn, Director, Lex International, former Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

- Thant Mynt-U, Academic, Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge

Respondents:

- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chad, H.E. Mr Mahamat Saleh Annadif
- Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow
- Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, H.E. Mr. Yasin Ekrem Serim
- Deputy Minister of Justice of South Africa, H.E. Mr John Jeffery
- Permanent Representative of Israel, H.E. Ms. Meirav Eilon Shahar
- Chairperson of the Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mrs. Elvira Azimova
- Eamon Gilmore, European Union, Special Representative for Human Rights
- Isha Dyfan, Chair, UN Coordination Committee of Special Procedures
- Pablo de Greiff, Adjunct Professor and Director of the Transitional Justice Programme at New York University
- Itonde Kakoma, President of Interpeace

10:15-12:15

Round table 2: The Future of Human Rights and Digital Technologies

Room XIX

Artificial intelligence, surveillance technology, social media platforms and a host of other new and emerging technologies present a plethora of opportunities – and challenges – for human rights and efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet uncertainty and trepidation mark many national and global debates about digital technology and our future world, even as their potential benefits seem almost limitless.

This round table will delve into how we can ensure that human rights are central to the way tech is developed, used, and governed, including through recent United Nations initiatives.

Chair and keynote: President of Slovenia, H.E. Ms. Nataša Pirc Musar

Moderator: Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union

Panellists:

- President of Estonia, H.E. Mr. Alar Karis (closing remarks)
- Prime Minister of Liechtenstein, H.E. Mr. Daniel Risch
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Maneesh Gobin
- Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Sweden, H.E. Mr. Johan Forssell
- Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Alejandro Solano Ortíz
- Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology
- Nighat Dad, Executive Director, Digital Rights Foundation
- Agustina Del Campo, Director, Centre for Studies on Freedom of Expression, University of Palermo

Respondents:

- Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia, H.E. Ms. Anja Šimpraga
- Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, H.E. Ms. Karien van Gennip
- Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education of Ireland, H.E. Mr. Thomas Byrne
- Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Vahan Kostanyan
- Vice Minister, Ministry of External Affairs of India, H.E. Mr. Sanjay Verma
- Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, H.E. Mr. Víctor Verdún
- Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, United States Department of State, H.E. Ms. Uzra Zeya
- Antoine Bernard, Director, Advocacy and Assistance of Reporters Without Borders
- Maria Paz Canales, Head of Legal, Policy, and Research, Global Partners Digital
- Teresa J. Hutson, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft

13:00-15:00

Lunch discussion for High-level dignitaries

Upon invitation

15:00-17:00

Round table 3: The Future of Human Rights, Development and the Economy

Room XX

Basic rights to food, health, education, water and sanitation of millions of people have not been met. The Sustainable Development Goals are well off track and the right to development remains unrealised for many. A human rights economy, which makes human rights central to economic decision making, could provide an important path forward. This means designing and assessing policies, and budgets, based on their impact on people and their rights. This discussion will explore how a human rights economy can help fulfil human rights, with tangible outcomes for people and planet.

Chair and keynote: Prime Minister of Namibia, H.E. Ms. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Moderator: Melissa Fleming, UN Under-Secretary-General, Department of Global Communications

Panellists:

- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, H.E. Mr. Alberto van Klaveren Stork
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, H.E. Ms. Battsetseg Batmunkh
- Minister and President of Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Hala Altuwaijri
- Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the UNCTAD
- Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary General and Associate Administrator for UNDP
- Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- Nanjala Nyabola, Writer and Political Analyst

- Magdalena Sepulveda, Executive Director, Global Initiative for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights and Commissioner, Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation

Respondents:

- Vice-President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Kembo Mohadi
- Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba, H.E. Ms. Inés María Chapman Waugh
- Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho, H.E. Ms Justice Nthomeng Majara
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, H.E. Ms. Olivia Ragnaghnewendé Rouamba
- State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, H.E. Mr. Lauri Tierala
- Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, H.E. Mr. Giorgio Silli
- Under-Secretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico, H.E. Mr. Joel Antonio Hernández García.
- Deputy Minister of Justice, Head of the Penitentiary Service of Azerbaijan, Mr. Mirsaleh Seyidov,
- Adviser to the President of Algeria for NGOs and Human Rights, H.E. Mr. Hamid Lounaouci
- Robert Powell, Special Representative International Monetary Fund
- Alejandro Cedeño, Acting Director, Multilateral and International Affairs, World Bank
- Kinda Mohamadieh, Legal Advisor, Third World Network

15:00-17:00

Round table 4: The Future of Human Rights, the Environment and Climate

Room XIX

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is already having massive impacts on the effective enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights to life, food, water and sanitation, health, development, housing, an adequate standard of living, and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment among others. This round table will consider ways to advance human rights in the context of the environmental emergency, to enhance accountability of duty-bearers, including businesses, for environmental harm, to mobilize resources, to achieve a just transition, to protect environmental human rights defenders, and to empower individuals to exercise their rights to participation, to access information and to access justice in environmental matters.

Chair and moderator: Prime Minister of Iceland, H.E. Ms. Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Keynote: President of Austria, H.E. Mr. Alexander Van der Bellen

Panellists:

- Prime Minister of Togo, H.E. Mrs Victoire Sidémého Tomegah-Dogbe
- Vice President of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Hussain Mohamed Latheef
- Vice-President of Zambia, H.E. Ms. W.K. Mutate Nalumango
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Narayan Prakash Saud

- Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs of the Bahamas, Senator the Hon. Mr. L. Ryan Pinder
- Farida Aliwa, Executive Director, Natural Justice
- Joan Carling, Executive Director, Indigenous Peoples Rights International
- Francisco Vera, Founder, Guardianes por la Vida

Respondents:

- Prime Minister of Gabon, H.E. Mr. Raymond Ndong Sima
- Secretary of State in the Office of Human Rights of Honduras, H.E. Ms Natalie Roque Sandoval
- Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs of Marshall Islands, Hon. Ms. Kitlang Kabua
- Minister of Justice of Sao Tome, H.E. Mrs. Ilza Maria dos Santos Amado Vaz
- Secretary General of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, H.E. Ms. Maria Laura da Rocha
- Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Mr. Thongphane Savanphet
- Director-General of Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, H.E. Mr. Shen Bo
- Bethanie Carney Almroth, The Scientist's Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty
- Nahla Haidar, Member, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Áine Ryall, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
- Ann Skelton, Chair, UN Committee on the Right of the Child
- Hélène Tigroudja, Member, UN Human Rights Committee

17:15-18:15

Closing Ceremony

Room XX

The Chairs of each round table will report back to plenary, followed by closing remarks by Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
