



**Intersessional workshop on the implementation of the right to participate in public affairs
in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery**

Wednesday 31 May 2023, 10:00 – 13:00 CET & 15:00 – 18:00 CET

Palais des Nations, Room XIX, Geneva, and remote participation via Zoom

PROGRAMME

10:00 – 10:25

High-level opening

Speakers:

H.E. Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

H.E. Mr. Václav Bálek, President of the Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva

H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

H.E. Ms. Mpho Michelle Mogobe, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland (co-sponsor)

10:30 – 12:15

Session - I: “Challenges and good practices in ensuring the right to participate in public affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic”

Moderator:

Mr. Simon Walker, Officer-in-Charge, Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch, OHCHR

Panellists:

Ms. Vasilka Sancin, Professor of International Law at the University of Ljubljana, Member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, and former Member and Vice-Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee

Ms. Lysa John, Secretary-General, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Ms. Nicole Ameline, Member and Former Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Ms. Milene Molina Arancibia, Lesbian Activist and President of Luanda, a civil society organization of women of African descent from the Chilean Tribal People of African Descent based in Arica

Mr. Martin Lundstedt, Researcher, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

12:20 – 13:00 **Session - II: “The role of participation in securing public health, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery: experiences and good practices”**

Moderator: *Ms. Lynn Gentile, Human Rights Officer, Focal Point on the Right to Health, OHCHR*

Panellists: *Ms. Carmen Ryan, Coordinator, Public Advocacy and Support for the Implementation of Public Policies, Huesped Foundation, Argentina*
Ms. Nanoot Mathurapote, Head of Global Collaboration Unit at the National Health Commission Office, Thailand

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch Break**

15:00 – 16:00 **Session - II (continued)**

Dr. Rachel Mary Hammonds, Human Rights Lead, Department of Gender Equality, Human Rights and Health Equity, World Health Organization

Ms. Svetlana Rusu, Head of the Department of Public Policies and Legislation, Office of the People’s Advocate of the Republic of Moldova

Ms. Jenny Chicaiza, Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Specialist

16:05 – 17:45 **Session - III: “The way forward: building trust through institutionalised participatory spaces and an enabling environment for improved response to the pandemic and future health crises”**

Moderator: *Mr. Todd Howland, Officer-in-Charge, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR*

Panellists: *Dr. Maria Chiara Campisi, Health Law Program Coordinator, International Development Law Organization*

Dr. Dheepa Rajan, Health System Expert, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, World Health Organization

Mr. Emmanuel Ganse, Civic and Digital Rights Campaigner & President of Tonafa Institute, Young Leader of the 2022 Cohort of Young Leaders for the SDGs

Dr. Margaret Lubaale, Executive Director, Health NGOs’ Network (HENNET)

Mr. Charlie Martial Ngounou, President of AfroLeadership

17:45 – 18:00 **Closing**