


PUBLIC LAUNCH OF THE NEW

“Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Transitional Justice as a Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace”

 **Wednesday, 11 October 2023, 03:00 – 04:30 PM EDT**

 United Nations Headquarters, New York,
Conference Room 11 and online

AGENDA

To attend in-person or via
WebEx, please register here
before Monday, 9 October
12:00 PM (noon) NY-time

REGISTER

Welcome

- **Ilze Brands Kehris**

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

- **H.E. Pascale Baeriswyl**

Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

Introductory Messages

- **António Guterres**

UN Secretary-General

- **International Network of Victims and Survivors of Serious Human Rights Abuses** (grassroots perspectives), TBC

Panel discussion in Q&A format

Moderated by **Pablo de Greiff**, former and first UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

Interventions by co-sponsors

- **H.E. Omar Hilale**

Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

- **H.E. María del Carmen Squeff**

Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, TBC

Reflections from Member States, Questions and Answers

PANELISTS:



Volker Türk

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



Sima Sami Bahous

Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



Elizabeth Spehar

Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



Mohamed Ag Ayoya

Deputy Special Representative for the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and Resident Coordinator for the Central African Republic



Sara Ferrer Olivella

UN Development Programme Resident Representative in Colombia

BACKGROUND

In fractured societies that are grappling with legacies of conflict and large-scale human rights abuse, transitional justice can be a strategic tool to help build justice and inclusive futures. This potential of transitional justice – as a transformative policy tool that helps acknowledge experiences, reaffirm dignity, build trust, enhance inclusion, and tackle root causes of conflict – is often underutilized by States and other stakeholders.

This is deeply regrettable in a global context marked by low levels of interpersonal and institutional trust, rising social fractures and protests fomented by a loss of shared truth, and increased levels of grievance, power imbalance, inequality and other forms of marginalization that call into question the very idea of a shared social contract.

To further tap into transitional justice’s potential, the United Nations adopted a new Secretary-General Guidance Note on “Transitional Justice as a Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace”, following a two-year UN-wide consultative process. The Guidance Note incorporates lessons learned from 20 years of practice and is to help the Organization and its practitioners to promote and use transitional justice as a strategic, flexible, and catalytic policy instrument for prevention, accountability, social cohesion, reconciliation, and sustainable development. It encourages greater innovation in the design and implementation of transitional justice support, as well as tangible and transformational impact for people and communities.

This public launch event, co-organized by a wide range of United Nations entities and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Argentina, Morocco, and Switzerland, is the first in a series of outreach and roll-out activities. Its objective is to provide Member States and other interested stakeholders with an understanding of the strategic ways in which the United Nations seeks to support transitional justice processes, and the principles that underpin its engagement in this regard. The event brings together United Nations senior officials and practitioners, Member State representatives, and civil society actors, for a critical reflection on innovation and impact in transitional justice.

The Guidance Note will be available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sg-guidance-note-transitional-justice>, from the day of the event.



Co-sponsored by:



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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

EVENT DETAILS

The event will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in Conference Room 11, as well as online via WebEx, on **Wednesday, 11 October between 3:00 and 4:30 PM EDT**. For in-person participants, interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. The event will be webcast (without registration) via [UN-WebTV](#). To attend in-person or via WebEx, **please register at <https://forms.gle/Mi2bt3vNFkEceBhh8> before Monday, 9 October 12:00 PM (noon) NY-time.**