



UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

UN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY NETWORK  
**HURITALK**  
MONTHLY RESOURCE UPDATE

August 2015

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## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

**31 August 2015 / [UN Secretary-General: We Are Being Challenged to Strengthen Our Collective Resolve to Promote Peace and Security, Sustainable Development and Human Rights Around the World](#):**

On 31 August 2015, the UN Secretary-General opened the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) by urging legislators to help drive forward the new UN sustainable development agenda. He reaffirmed the important role that legislatures have in ensuring that the new development agenda is translated from the global to the national and emphasized that “we are being challenged to strengthen our collective resolve to promote peace and security, sustainable development and human rights around the world.” He told the IPU that, earlier this month, UN Member States took a bold step in this direction by concluding negotiations on the “ambitious and transformative” agenda for the next 15 years. In his remarks, the Secretary-General said that people “want full respect for their human rights and they are rightly demanding a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives,” and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals provide a roadmap for building a life of dignity for all. **Read more [here](#). Read the UN Secretary-Generals full statement [here](#).**



*Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) addresses the opening session of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas*

## NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

**17 August-4 September 2015 / [The Committee on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Holds 14th Session - 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals Are Specific to Persons With Disabilities](#):**  
The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities opened its 14<sup>th</sup> session, 17 August to 4



*New York City held its first Disability Pride parade on 12 July, marking the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz*

September, with the representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, James Heenan, emphasizing the role of human rights in the Sustainable Development Goals. He noted that the Post-2015 Outcome document included welcome human rights features and at its heart was the need to combat inequalities, discrimination and exclusion, including of persons with disabilities. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Chairperson of the Committee, noted that the Sustainable Development Goals included five objectives specific to persons with disabilities, such as the need for inclusive cities, transport and public space, the implementation

of resources, and capacity building. The Committee will discuss how to strengthen cooperation with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities and other competent bodies, in order to enhance the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. **Read more [here](#).**

## UN WORK IN FOCUS

### **26 August 2015 / [UN Sets Up ‘Child-Friendly’ Space at Migrant Rest Area Near Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Border Urging Authorities to Recognize the Rights of All Children](#) /**

**UNICEF and UNCHR:** The United Nations Children’s Fund has established a child-friendly space within the compounds of a migrant rest area, established by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, with a mobile team to support women and children fleeing violence in their home countries and moving through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The UN is urging authorities to recognize and treat all migrant children – regardless of their legal status, religion or affiliation – first and foremost as children with rights, as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, the Secretary-General’s report on international migration and development (A/68/190) urges an age- and gender-sensitive and rights-based approach to international migration. According to UNICEF, over the last month, the rate of migrants transiting through the country has increased to 1,500 to 2,000 per day – approximately 30 per cent of whom are women and children. Many are escaping conflict in their home countries of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. **Read more [here](#). The Secretary-General’s report on international migration and development is available [here](#).**



*Influx of refugees from FYR Macedonia to Serbia includes exhausted mothers with children resting in any kind of shade they can spot. Photo: UNHCR/I.Szabó*

## AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Online Course / [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Integrated Water Resource Management](#) / Stockholm International Water Institute** (September 28 – November 13, 2015): This virtual course offers participants an introduction to the main principles and concepts for a human rights-based approach to integrated water resource management, as an essential condition to improve access to water and sanitation and achieve the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. **Registration deadline was 4 September 2015 but is still open. Learn more [here](#).**

**Call for Submissions / [Human Rights Essay Award - “Extractive Industries and Human Rights”](#) / American University Washington College of Law** (May 31 – June 17, 2015): The American University Washington College of Law’s annual essay competition seeks to stimulate the production of scholarly work in international human rights law. This year’s topic is “Extractive Industries and Human Rights.” Articles may be published in the American University International Law Review. Awardees receive a full scholarship to attend the Program of Advanced Studies of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. **The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2016. Learn more [here](#).**

**Call for Submissions / [Study on “Climate change and the right to health”](#) / OHCHR:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is requesting contributions for their detailed analytical study on climate change and the human right to health. The study was requested of OHCHR by Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/29/15) of 30 June 2015 entitled “Human Rights and Climate Change”. **Deadline for submissions is 31 October 2015. Learn more [here](#).**

**Call for Submissions / [Best Practices – Anti-Corruption Measures with Realization and Protection of Human rights](#) / OHCHR:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is requesting inputs with respect to best practices that link anti-corruption measures with the realization and protection of human rights. **Deadline for submissions is 30 November 2015. Learn more [here](#).**

**Short course / [International Human Rights Law](#) / University of Nottingham, UK:** This 10-week course is designed to give an in-depth understanding of human rights standards across the world through seminars, guest lectures, workshops, visits, tutorials and conferences. It provides insight and contextual knowledge of the practical operation of human rights law for those interested in human rights protection, from NGOs, international organisations, government, judiciary, police, charity or legal professionals, academia, media and business. **Deadline to apply is December 1, 2015. Further information is available [here](#).**

**Distance learning / [International Human Rights Law](#) / University of Nottingham, UK:** This course is designed to give an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards and of the UN and regional systems that implement them. It has both theoretical and practical dimensions, with an emphasis upon current issues. The course is aimed at those for whom knowledge of international human rights law is of value in their work, or who wish to embark upon a career in human rights. **Further information is available [here](#).**

## RESOURCES

### WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

**Toolkit / [Aligning Business Strategies with the SDGs](#) / The UN Global Compact:** the UN Global Compact is engaged in projects that will help prepare individual companies for aligning their core business with the future SDGs. For example, the UN Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) have joined forces to develop methodologies for companies. The toolkit will offer approaches to aligning business strategies with the SDGs, assessing impact, setting forward-looking goals and communicating results in a credible manner. The toolkit is being developed in parallel to intergovernmental discussions with a view to develop guidance consistent with the future SDGs and associated targets. **Read more [here](#).**

### REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOKS

**Book, 7 September 2015 / [A Guide for Recommending States at the UPR](#) / UPR Info:** This document aims to serve as a comprehensive guide for Recommending State representatives. It serves both as an introduction to the UPR and a reference companion. It outlines the various points of participation for Recommending States, the best practices to ensure effective engagement with the UPR mechanism and it provides resources for additional information. Additionally, UPR Info has a webpage on statistics of UPR recommendations grouped by thematic issues including Development. **Read more [here](#). The page on UPR recommendations related to Development is available [here](#).**

**Book, 19 August 2015 / [Practitioners Guide: Human Rights-Based Approach to Water in Informal Settlements](#) / The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:** This publication is aimed at strengthening the capacity of human rights advocates and development practitioners to advance rights globally. The purpose of this publication is to provide an analysis of how to best incorporate the human right to water in the context of development and focus on the challenges of making the human right to water a reality in informal settlements. The Guide also includes several case studies and provide lessons learned on how to better incorporate the right to water into human rights-based development. **Read more [here](#).**

**24 August 2015, Article / [UN Strategic Adviser On How 1.8 Billion Youth Can Change This World](#) / Youth Ki Waaz:** The author advocates that we must harness the potential of young people to promote, fulfill, and realize the fundamental rights of humanity and they need to be recognized as right-holders in today's world. The author shares the main lessons learned from the Global Declaration on rights of youth: Strengthening youth participation in creating a human rights-based society; Holding duty-bearers to account so they recognize



fundamental human rights of all young people across the world; And, creating permanent mechanisms that promote participation of the most marginalized young women and men representing youth from communities such as LGBTQ, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, etc. **Read more [here](#).**



**Video / [Gender Issues and Human Rights at the Core of all We Do](#) / UNDP:** UNDP has produced a video elaborating the support a key partner in fighting to eradicate poverty, promote gender equality and democratic governance, and tackle the challenges posed by climate change. **Watch the YouTube video [here](#).**

**August 2015, Newsletter / [Right to Food Newsletter](#) / FAO:** This edition of the Right to Food Newsletter features Bolivia's development of the National Programme on Complementary School Feeding 2015-2020 to implement food sovereignty and Living Well which aims to ensure the human right to adequate food. In addition, this edition highlights the South Asia Right to Food Conference that brought together more than 2000 participants from governments, civil society, NGOs and International Organizations and culminated in the Dhaka Declaration. **Read more [here](#).**

## HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

**INFO / [Request from the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities](#) / Questionnaire on the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making:** The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, requested information, including from UN agencies, funds and programmes, about the right of persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making. Inputs from the questionnaire will be included in her next thematic report, to be presented at the 31st session of the Human Rights Council (March 2016), which will focus on the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in decision making. **The deadline to receive submissions is 15 September 2015. The questionnaire and details on submission are available [here](#)** (the questionnaire is available in English, French and Spanish).

## VACANCIES

**[Author of Background Paper Gender Based Violence Rule of Law, Women's Access to Justice and Human Rights Programming, Home Based with no Travel \(International Consultant\)](#)**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: 14 September 2015

**[International Consultant on Mainstreaming Human Rights in the National Institute of Justice's Training Programme, Chisinau \(International Consultant\)](#)**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: 16 September 2015

[Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights \(ASG\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing Date: 25 September 2015

[Director Human Rights \(D-2\)](#)

Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division

Closing Date: 25 September 2015

[Chief, External Relations \(D-1\)](#)

Executive Direction and Management; External Outreach Service

Closing Date: 26 September 2015

[Junior Professional Officer - Business and Decent Work, Geneva \(P.1/P.2 Fixed-term Appointment\)](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

(DDG/P) Enterprises Geneva

Closing Date: 4 October 2015

[Human Rights Officer, New York \(P-4\)](#)

Department of Political Affairs

Closing Date: 20 October 2015

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**Please send your comments or contributions for the next issue for the Monthly Resource Update to the HuriTALK Facilitator by *Friday 25 September 2015* ([humanrights-talk@undq.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undq.org)).**

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