



UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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

February - March 2015

[UN News](#) | [HR Bodies](#) | [UN in Focus](#) | [Learning](#) | [Resources](#) | [Publications](#) | [HuriTALK](#) | [Vacancies](#)

## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

8 March 2015 / [International Women's Day – UN Secretary-General States that Discrimination Against Women Remains a Thick Barrier that Must be Shattered](#): To mark International Women's Day, senior



Photo: UN Women/Anindit Roy-Chowdhury

United Nations officials highlighted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago that set the agenda for realizing women's rights. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, noted that women living in societies at peace remained targets of domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence that traumatise individuals and damage whole societies. He said outrage needed to be translated into meaningful action and, as women and girls are often the first targets of attack, their rights had to be at the centre of the global strategy to address the staggering

and growing challenge. “Discrimination remains a thick barrier that must be shattered,” Mr. Ban said. “We need to expand opportunities in politics, business and beyond.” Speaking on the same occasion the Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, emphasized that the world remained far away from achieving equality between men and women, boys and girls. “Not one single country has achieved equality, it is even more urgent than ever that we define – and stick to – a time frame [for doing so]” she said. [Read more here](#). [Learn about the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action here](#).

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**17 February 2015 / [Climate Change Impacts the Enjoyment of Human Rights](#):** A group of human rights and climate change experts discussed how human rights should be a part of any approach to take effective action to mitigate climate change. The “Climate Justice Dialogue” was sponsored by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice. The event brought together more than 50 representatives from the climate change and human rights communities to discuss ways to strengthen the links between the two. Flavia Pansieri, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that “a human-rights-based approach allows us to identify the most pressing needs of individuals in a highly inequitable global society, with greatly differing social, environmental and economic levels of development, apart from being a human rights obligation, ensuring effective participation of those concerned in conceiving the response to climate change also ensures that it is effective.” **Read more on this story [here](#). Read OHCHR’s info note on applying a human rights-based approach to Climate Change [here](#).**



Flooded Outskirts of Cap Haitian, Haiti. Photo: Eric Anderson

## NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

**27 March 2015 / [Human Rights Council adopts the UPR outcomes of 14 countries and holds a general debate on the UPR](#)** (*Contributed, with thanks, by Asako Nozawa*): At the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (2-27 March 2015), the UPR outcome reports were adopted of the following 14 countries reviewed in the 20th UPR Working Group session in October - November 2014: Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, San Marino, Slovenia. The Human Rights Council also held a general debate on the Universal Periodic Review and stressed the importance of following-up and implementing recommendations in order to have impact on the ground. The principles of universality, dialogue, objectivity, independence and impartiality were also reiterated. Some of the challenges identified were the provision of clear and specific replies on States’ intentions on the recommendations. The importance of capacity building and technical and financial assistance provided by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was also emphasized. It was recalled that States had to present a reasonable number of recommendations to avoid overloading the system. A recurring problem was the lack of quality of some of the recommendations made. **Read more [here](#)** (*OHCHR extranet credentials required*).

**26 March 2015 / [The UN Human Rights Council Establishes a New Mandate on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism](#):** On 26 March 2015, the Human Rights Council established an



Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism. This important new mandate will help give a voice to people with albinism and contribute to their protection, through a dialogue with concerned States, enhanced awareness raising and reporting, and the provision of advisory services and technical assistance. The UN Human Rights Office has received information of more than 200 ritual attacks since 2000 in 15 African states. Due to the secretiveness of the practice, it is believed that many attacks remain undocumented and unreported. **Read more [here](#). Watch a recent video produced by OHCHR on albinism in Tanzania [here](#).**

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**19 March 2015 / [The UN Human Rights Council Holds Panel Discussion on Challenges and Good Practices in Mainstreaming Human Rights in National Policies](#):**

The Human Rights Council held a panel discussion on national policies and human rights, which focused on identifying challenges, further developments and good practices in mainstreaming human rights in national policies and programmes. The panel discussed different worldwide experiences on the issue of mainstreaming of human rights in national policies of States in order to bridge the gap between the sphere of legal obligations on human rights and concrete action by the State to promote effectively the full enjoyments of these rights by all its citizens. Juan Esteban Aguirre Martinez, Vice President of the Council, in his opening remarks, said that the discussion aimed at bridging the gap between the sphere of legal obligations on human rights and concrete actions by States to promote effectively the full enjoyment of human rights by all citizens. Some of the challenges that were mentioned during the discussions were the development of indicators to measure improvements, bridging the gap between norms and their implementation, corporate social responsibility, and the accountability of different actors. **Read more [here](#). The report by OHCHR on technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies is available [here](#) (PDF).**

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**20 February 2015 / [UN Human Rights Experts Insist that New Development Framework is Fully Inclusive of Persons with Disabilities](#):**

A group of UN human rights experts has drawn attention to the fact that “one billion people – 15 per cent of the world’s population – are persons with disabilities, and their rights cannot be ignored.” Their call comes as the Second Session of International Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was held in New York on 17-20 February 2015. “No one should be left behind if we want to ensure a fully inclusive society for all,” they said, urging international negotiators and all UN Member States to firmly include the human rights of persons with disabilities in the new development framework. The experts noted that, “as we enter the critical final stages of negotiations on the new SDGs, it is imperative that we maintain the important achievements already attained and that the global community fulfils its promise to guarantee human rights and development for all on an equal basis, including for persons with disabilities.” The UN human rights experts consisted of: Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the right to food; and Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. **Read more [here](#).**



A young student at a school for children with disabilities in the poor neighborhood of Cité Soleil in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. UN Photo/Logan Abassi

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**11 February 2015 / [UN Human Rights Office Launches Major Online Database of Treaty Body Case Law](#):**

The UN Human Rights Office has launched a major public online database that contains all case law issued by the UN human rights expert committees - the Treaty Bodies. “The database is designed to be a key reference tool for scholars, lawyers, civil society organisations, governments and civil servants, our UN

partners and the general public,” said Ibrahim Salama, Director of the UN Human Rights Treaties Division. “Just as importantly, we hope it may help individuals who are preparing to submit complaints to the committees by giving them access to the views and decisions taken by the expert members on specific human rights issues.” There are 10 Treaty Bodies that review and monitor how States that have ratified a particular treaty are implementing the rights contained in it. Eight of these Treaty Bodies can also consider complaints by individuals who believe their rights have been violated and who have exhausted all the legal steps in their own country. The database enables the general public, governments, civil society organizations, United Nations partners and international regional mechanisms to research the vast body of legal interpretation of international human rights law as it has evolved over the past years. **Read more [here](#). Access the database [here](#).**

## UN WORK IN FOCUS

**25-26 February 2015 / [UN Development System and UN Human Rights System Share Unified Message that Measurements of the Sustainable Development Goals are Human Rights-Based and Grounded in International Human Rights Law](#)**: The UN development system and the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provided strong human rights messaging and guidance to the Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda held in New York on 25-25 February. Member States and UN entities attended the meeting to discuss the key elements and principles for the development and design of the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda. Substantive issues included: Developing a framework of global indicators; the multi-stage process of developing an indicator framework; the development of an architecture for the indicator framework; and, criteria for indicator selection and setting quantitative targets. A statement was prepared by [the UNDG Human Rights Working Group](#) as a contribution to help define people-centred and human rights-based indicators that are both technically robust and transformative with a view to bringing to life an ambitious development agenda that leaves no one behind. The aim of the statement was to also provide a useful reference point to work at the country, regional or global level. This statement was reinforced by the information note which OHCHR shared on 'Statistics and Human Rights'. OHCHR's note spells out what a human rights-based approach to the data revolution would be in practice and outlines an indicators framework that is fully consistent with international human rights law. A final proposal is expected to be provided towards the end of 2015, once the development agenda has been agreed. **Read more [here](#). The UNDG Human Rights Working Group's statement is available [here](#) (PDF). OHCHR's information note on statistics and human rights is available [here](#) (PDF).**

## AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Online Course, 18 May – 19 June 2015 / [Working at the Nexus Between Human Rights and Conflict Transformation](#) / UN System Staff College (Shared, with thanks, by Svenja Korth)**: This course offers insight on how conflict transformation and human rights approaches complement one another, and how practitioners can utilise these linkages concretely in their work. Practical examples and case studies will be used to demonstrate how to address the issues and challenges to planning and programming and how the inter-connectedness can enhance development practice. **Register by 18 May 2015. Learn more [here](#).**

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**Training, 27 May – 7 July 2015 and 3 – 9 August / [Indigenous Peoples' Rights Course & Field Visit in Costa Rica](#) / Human Rights Education Associates (Shared, with thanks, by Nate Weisenberg)**: This 6-week e-

learning course will address the broad spectrum of issues involved in the field of indigenous peoples' rights, beginning with who qualifies to be "indigenous peoples", the scope of their right to self-determination, the international and regional legal frameworks for the protection of their rights, the challenges associated therewith, and the debates surrounding the concept of indigenous governance. The course will also look closely into human security and human development issues relating to indigenous peoples, the role of extraction and other business corporations in indigenous reservations/areas, and the effect of intellectual property rights on the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples. Strong emphasis will be placed throughout the course not only on theory and law, but also on case studies from around the world. **Further information including registration is available [here](#).**

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**Training, 4-7 August 2015 / [HREA Advocacy Institute 2015](#) / Human Rights Education Associates - Cambridge, Massachusetts USA** (*Shared, with thanks, by Nate Weisenberg*): The HREA Advocacy Institute is an annual advanced training program for human rights practitioners seeking to increase their skills and gain a practical understanding of participatory advocacy methods and tools. Participants come from across the globe and include staff members of NGOs and inter-governmental organizations, academics, educators and activists. **The registration deadline for this training is 1 May 2015. Further information including registration is [here](#).**

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**Fellowship, 1 September – 27 November 2015 / [Senior Minorities Fellowship Position](#) / OHCHR:** The Senior Minorities Fellowship Position aims at giving a better understanding and appreciation of the international human rights system and mechanisms, especially those dealing with minority issues, to a selected member of a national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minority with relevant experience and education. Through the experience gained during three months of working with the OHCHR Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section the Senior Fellow will gain practical knowledge and working level experience by directly contributing to the programmes and activities of the Section. The Senior Fellow is expected to return to his/her community better equipped to contribute towards the promotion and protection of minorities. **The deadline for applications is 20 April 2015. Learn more [here](#).**

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**Course, 24 September – 4 December 2015 / [International Human Rights Law](#) / Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham** (*Shared, with thanks, by Kobie Neita*): This three-month 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 valuable 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 professions, academia, media and business. **The deadline for applications is 1 September 2015. Learn more [here](#).**

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## RESOURCES

### WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

**Tools / [Human Rights Activities for the Classroom](#) / Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education** (*Shared, with thanks, by Mireille Lamontagne*): These classroom activities are based upon activities designed by Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education for the Play it Fair! and Speaking Rights programs. They were collaboratively adapted – including terminology – for use by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and seek to promote human rights, non-discrimination and peaceful

conflict resolution through active participation and capacity-building. Activities are designed for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Reference sheets are provided for each set of activities and include definitions, tips for facilitation, as well as ways to engage students requiring greater accessibility options. **Learn more [here](#).**

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**Website / [Online Database of Treaty Body Case Law](#) / Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights** (*Shared, with thanks, by Karin Lucke*): The jurisprudence database is intended to be a single source of the human rights recommendations and findings issued by all above committees in their work on individual cases. It enables the general public, governments, civil society organizations, United Nations partners and international regional mechanisms to research the vast body of legal interpretation of international human rights law as it has evolved over the past years. **Access the database [here](#).**

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**Website / [The Prior Consultation Information Center](#)**: The Prior Consultation Information Center is a platform for different actors interested in advancing the right to prior consultation to exchange experiences, obtain information, and create ideas to implement the right to free, prior, informed consultation and other rights of indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. The platform offers free videos and audio on the right to prior consultation; opinion pieces written by activists, community leaders, and experts in indigenous peoples law; and keep up with emblematic cases regarding prior consultation. Additionally, users may access the largest global library on the right to prior consultation. The platform is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. **Access the platform [here](#).**

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**Website / ["Commerce, crime & human rights" project website](#)**: International Corporate Accountability Roundtable's Commerce, Crime, and Human Rights (CCHR) project has launched their website which aims to map the prosecution gaps that currently exist, drawing on the experience of lawyers and other practitioners who have encountered these obstacles and with the intent to develop recommendations for State practice in addressing these prosecution gaps for corporate crimes. The project will bring together senior jurists and criminal law experts who will: (i) identify prosecution gaps at the national level and (ii) develop a framework to govern State practice in addressing those gaps. In so doing, the project aims to establish a common baseline for how States should address corporate crimes. This work will also inform calls at the international level (e.g. UN declaration, legal instrument, other) for corporate accountability for human rights abuses. **Further information on the project website can be found [here](#).**

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**Network / [Community of Practice on Human Rights and Development](#)** (*Shared, with thanks, by Andrea Kampf*): The World Bank has launched a *Community of Practice* to foster dialogue and innovative thinking among development and human rights professionals by creating a knowledge-network and platform for the exchange of new initiatives, publications, events, or other relevant developments. **Read more [here](#).**

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## REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOKS

**Report, March 2015 / [The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Turns 20](#) / UN Women**: This summary report provides a review of national level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It includes current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities

for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Newsletter, March 2015 / [Human Rights Monitor](#) / International Service for Human Rights:** The *Human Rights Monitor* is a monthly publication that provides updated international human rights news, views and developments. It also highlights the International Service for Human Rights' work in supporting human rights defenders and strengthening human rights systems, contains notes on treaty body decisions, and information about upcoming opportunities for NGO engagement. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Article, March 2015 / [Empowering Indigenous Peoples to Claim their Rights before National Courts, an Experience from Guatemala](#) / Chapter From "Indigenous Peoples' Access to Justice, Including Truth and Reconciliation Processes" (Shared, with thanks, by the author Antonio M. Cisneros de Alencar):** The author examines how the United Nations is ensuring that the development assistance it provides is effective and results in tangible changes for the lives of the people it seeks to assist and the increased awareness by the United Nations that it needs to work in strengthening the capacity of rights-holders to demand their rights, as much as it works in strengthening the capacity of duty-bearers to meet their obligations; a key notion in the human rights-based approach to development the United Nations now promotes. **The chapter is available [here](#). The entire volume is available [here](#).**

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**Podcast, 19 February 2015 / [Food Democracy - A Discussion with Olivier De Schutter](#) / Columbia**



**University:** The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, the Human Rights Institute, Rightslink, and Graduate Legal Studies co-sponsored an evening discussion of food democracy with **Olivier De Schutter**, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food and current Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Food democracy refers to a set of social innovations that aim to reform food systems from the bottom up, taking citizens' initiatives as a departure point. Such innovations include, for example, climate-smart agriculture schemes, vegetable gardens and other forms of urban agriculture such as farmers markets, and schools that source

food locally. Food democracy refers to a set of social innovations that aim to reform food systems from the bottom up, taking citizens' initiatives as a departure point. **Listen to the audio recording [here](#).**

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**Publication, February 2015 / [Haki Zetu - The Land and Human Rights Handbook](#) / Amnesty International and FIAN International (Shared, with thanks, by Win De Regt):** This booklet deals with the right to work, including free choice of work (and the right to be protected from forced labour, debt bondage and child labour), protection against unemployment and promotion of 'decent work', the right to form and join trade unions, cooperatives or other workers' associations, and just and favourable conditions of work. As the majority of Africans are self-employed in farm work and the informal sector, the booklet provides the perspective of work as a means of livelihood, and how informal workers can also claim protection from deprivation of their means of livelihood, rights to organise and to just and favourable conditions of work. **The entire Haki Zetu series, including this particular handbook, is available for download [here](#).**

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**Publication, February 2015 / [Haki Zetu - The Right to Work and Livelihoods Handbook](#) / Amnesty International and FIAN International (Shared, with thanks, by Win De Regt):** Land conflicts, “land grabbing” and women’s limited access to land are major problems in Africa. Though land rights are not enshrined in human rights treaties, human rights standards can be called upon to address these violations. This booklet indicates which rights and mechanisms are available, and how local activists and organisations can defend these rights, monitor land policies and violations, advocate, campaign and seek redress. **The entire Haki Zetu series, including this particular handbook, is available for download [here](#).**

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**Publication, 28 January 2015 / [The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in Courts Worldwide: A Selection of National, Regional and International Case Law](#) / WASH United and WaterLex:** The cases examined in this publication provide real-world examples that demonstrate how the human rights to water and sanitation can be legally enforced before judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. They cover examples of legal enforcement of the range of human-rights obligations, including the obligations to respect, to protect and to fulfil the rights to water and sanitation and to do so without discrimination. Cases involve direct application of rights to water and sanitation at the national level; the use of internationally recognized norms to inform rights at the national level; how to use the principle of indivisibility and interrelatedness of rights to enforce implicit rights to water and sanitation; and how regional and international mechanisms have enforced such rights when domestic remedies are not available or are insufficient. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Report, 22 January 2015 / [Participatory Monitoring for Accountability: Critical Enablers for the Successful Implementation Of The Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) / United Nations Development Group:** The report discusses four themes related to participatory monitoring and accountability methodology including a human rights framework. The report recommends: drawing on examples of good development practices and lessons learned on participatory monitoring; creating more space for civil society, grassroots and local organizations and individuals to participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda; promoting people-led monitoring; and including intended beneficiaries in decisions about development; and disaggregating data, including by seemingly difficult areas to quantify, such as women and girls who have experienced violence. **Read more [here](#).**

## **HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS**

**Query / [How to Create and Maintain Civil Society Space? What Works? A Report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights:](#)** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has requested inputs for a report of practical recommendations on how to create and maintain the space for civil society to work freely and independently. It is expected to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2016. Input is being asked of civil society actors world-wide, all UN Member States, UN special agencies and bodies, regional organizations, etc. They are looking specifically for: a) your examples and illustrations of these and other ways to maintain space to work; b) if there are limitations, how do you continue to carry out your activities; and, c) useful links, tools, resources, guides (whatever the language). **Please send submissions by 30 June 2015 by email: [civilsociety@ohchr.org](mailto:civilsociety@ohchr.org)**

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## Launch Edition / [Human Rights in Development: The Bulletin of the UNDG Human Rights Working Group](#):

The first edition of the Human Rights in Development bulletin was shared in a launch message from Flavia Pansieri and Kate Gilmore, co-chairs of the UNDG Human Rights Working Group. This bulletin was created to provide a snapshot of the dedicated work of colleagues throughout the UN development system, in the field, in the region and at HQ, to support a human rights-based development agenda. Two experiences of UN Country Teams' work to support people's human rights in Costa Rica and in Malawi are featured in this issue. Recent policy and advocacy messages on implementing human rights post-2015 that can be drawn on for advocacy and to inform conversations on post 2015. There is also a new chronology of UN milestones for human rights and development which charts the relationship and progress between these

two pillars since the inception of the UN. Please also find information on work supporting UN country team engagement with international human rights mechanisms, as well as pragmatic entry points for human rights in the Standard Operating Procedures for "Delivering as one" countries. **Read the bulletin [here](#). Please write to [humanrights@undg.org](mailto:humanrights@undg.org) with contributions or feedback.**

## VACANCIES

### [Chargé de Programme Senior Droits de l'Homme, Bangui, Central African Republic](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: Tuesday, 21 April 2015

### [Regional Project Manager - Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons, Bangkok \(P-5\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: Thursday, 23 April 2015

### [Human Rights Officer, Gbarnga, Liberia \(P-3\)](#)

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Closing date: Saturday, 25 April 2015

### [Human Rights Officer \(three posts\), Bujumbura \(P-3\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Saturday, 25 April 2015

### [Social Protection Specialist, Reference, Brasilia](#)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Closing date: Sunday, 26 April 2015

### [Programme Manager, UPR-info Pre-sessions Programme, Geneva](#)

UPR-Info

Closing Date: Monday, 27 April 2015

### [Senior Human Rights Officer \(Coordinator of the OHCHR Team\), Tunis, Tunisia \(P-5\)](#)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Closing date: Monday, 27 April 2015

### [International Consultant on Implementation of International Treaties into National Legal System, Home-based and one field trip to Tashkent, Uzbekistan \(International Consultant\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: Thursday, 30 April 2015

### [Chief of Branch, Geneva \(D-1\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Thursday, 7 May 2015

[Consultancy - Design of Guidance Note on Indigenous Women, New York \(International Consultant\)](#)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Closing date: Thursday, 18 May 2017

[Protection Officer, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence \(SGBV\) - profile, UNHCR](#)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Closing date: Tuesday, 30 June 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 25 May 2015 ([humanrights-talk@undg.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undg.org))!**

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