



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

UN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY NETWORK
HURITALK
MONTHLY RESOURCE UPDATE

January – February 2016

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UNITED NATIONS NEWS

29 February 2016 / [UN Human Rights Council 31st Session Opens – UN Rights Chief Calls for End to Pressure on Human Rights](#): At the opening of the 31st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (29 February to 24 March), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, likened human rights violations to seismic signals that come before an earthquake, and called on leaders to take actions now. He said “unless it is released gradually and soon, through wiser policy making – where the interests of all humans override this strengthening pursuit of the narrowest, purely national, or ideological, agenda. Otherwise - as the reading of human history informs us, its release, when it comes, will be a colossus of violence and death.” The 31st session of the Human Rights Council, taking place in Geneva, sees representatives from nearly 200 countries, as well as NGOs and civil society groups, grapple with and make decisions on pressing human rights issues. This year is also the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Council itself. Speaking at the opening session, General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft called the Council a “vital part of the United Nations architecture” and that it has tools and ability to let States “enter into dialogue about human rights issues with other States, inter-governmental and non-governmental actors.” **Read more [here](#). The full programme of work for the 31st session of the Human Rights Council is available [here](#). Read the full statement of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights [here](#).**

NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

29 February 2016 / [CEDAW Holds General Discussion on Gender-Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change](#):

A half-day general discussion was convened in Geneva at the 63rd session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to prepare the “General Recommendation on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change.” Nahla Haidar, Chair of the Committee’s Working Group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change, said many women experienced disproportionate risks of disasters and climate change, largely because of the inter-sectoral discrimination to which they were exposed. It was noted that



In Yogyakarta, Indonesia, women at a community meeting discuss the reconstruction of their village in the wake of the 2006 tsunami and earthquake. Photo: World Bank/Nugroho Nurdikiawan Sunjoyo

women with disabilities and women living in extreme poverty, for example, were particularly affected. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, underscored how the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction “places significant importance on human rights, gender equality and climate change adaptation,” and that it places emphasis on each State’s responsibility to take actions to protect its own citizens. The Committee Chairperson, Yoko Hayashi, was convinced that the day’s discussions provided a strong foundation upon which to build its general recommendation on gender-related dimensions of disaster-risk reduction and climate change. **Read more [here](#). Further information on the half-day general discussion is available [here](#).**

2-12 February 2016 / [UN Rights Expert Urges Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in 2030 Agenda-Based Policies at 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development](#):

The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, told the 54th session of Commission for Social Development “We can’t wait any longer; no more excuses to exclude persons with disabilities.” The Commission began its general debate on the “Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups,” with participants examining the situation of persons with disabilities, families, older people and youth and outlining measures that aim to help all people realize their full potential. The Special Rapporteur went on to outline ways to ensure the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development built on historic gains in their recognition. **Read more [here](#). The full statement of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is available [here](#).**

18-29 January 2016 / [14 Countries Reviewed at the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review Working Group](#)

(Contributed, with thanks, by Asako Nozawa): The 24th session of the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 18 to 29 January, brought the Universal Periodic Review process a step closer to another cycle with 100%

participation by States - 168 States have now completed their second reviews. Representatives of 14 countries (Namibia, Niger, Mozambique, Estonia, Paraguay, Belgium, Denmark, Palau, Somalia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Latvia, Sierra Leone, Singapore) came before the Working Group and shared information on steps they had taken to implement recommendations posed to them during their first review, including with the support and assistance of the United Nations on the ground through the UN Development Assistance Framework and programmes. They also presented developments that had occurred since the previous review and shared challenges in their follow-up action. Thematically clustered recommendations will be shared by OHCHR with UN country teams in relevant countries, with a view to supporting the integration of human rights into the development programming. **Read more [here](#).**

UN WORK IN FOCUS

29 February 2016 / [Integration of Human Rights in the 2030 Agenda is Focus of High-Level Panel Discussion at the UN Human Rights Council's 31st](#): The annual high-level panel on human rights mainstreaming was held on the first day of the 31st session of the Human Rights Council with the theme focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights with an emphasis on the right to development. The panel discussion convened senior level UN leaders who spoke on how the broader UN Development System is supporting countries to integrate human rights into their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, explained that “in our connected world the link between the three pillars of the United Nations – Peace and Security, Development and human rights have never been clearer or more relevant.” The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, stated that the 2030 Agenda “recognises that development, peace and human rights are interlocking, and build on each other in a virtuous spiral with profound benefit to all.” The Chair of the UNDG and UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, stated that “the 2030 Agenda seeks to realize the human rights of all, and is grounded in the UN Charter,” and shared how the “UNDG Human Rights Working Group launched a Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Co-coordinators and UN Country Teams, and also Policy and Operational Messages” to support UN Country Teams on Human Rights in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. **The entire panel discussion has been archived on UN Web TV [here](#).**

16 February 2016 / [WHO and UN Partners Take a Gender and Rights-Based Approach to the Zika Response](#):

The World Health Organization is playing a lead technical role in the Zika response with support from other UN agencies. WHO and UN partners will provide support to ensure women and adolescent girls' rights to make their own decisions about pregnancy and childbirth are gender rights-based and within national law. WHO is also working with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and others on community engagement to raise awareness, document and combat misunderstandings, myths and falsehoods and ensure that women's reproductive health and rights are respected. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights underlined that amid the continuing spread of the Zika virus, authorities must ensure that their public health response is pursued in conformity with their human rights obligations, in particular relating to health and health-related rights. **Read more [here](#). The 5 February response from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is available [here](#). The full Zika Strategic Response Framework and Joint Operations Plan is available [here](#).**



Screenshot from cover of "Zika Strategic Response Framework & Joint Operations Plan"

AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Online Course (Begins 16 March, 2016) / [Diploma in Sustainable Development and Human Rights](#) / Human Rights Centre, University for Peace: This programme focuses on the human rights dimensions of sustainable development, with a major thrust on the implementation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals through human rights based approaches (HRBA). This Diploma, aimed at professionals seeking training for career development, can be obtained upon successful completion of five of six online courses. **Registration and further information on the six courses can be found [here](#).**

Online Course (29 February – 28 March 2016) / [Working at the Nexus Between Human Rights and Conflict Transformation](#) / UN System Staff College: 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. **Registration is open until 5 March 2016. Further information is available [here](#).**

Course (27 June – 1 July 2016) / [Justice Sector Reform: Applying Human Rights Based Approaches](#) / National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland: The annual International Human Rights Network training programme aims at enhancing the skills of justice sector

personnel in applying Human Rights Based Approaches to Justice Sector Reform. The programme is designed for people working in the justice sector (with state or non-state institutions) or undertaking Rule of law/Governance assignments (e.g. UN, EC Framework Contract Lot 7 - Governance and Home Affairs). It includes a component on human rights-based needs assessment, programme design, implementation, monitoring & evaluation. **Deadline for application is 17 April 2016. Further information is available [here](#).**

Program / [2016 Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#) / American University Washington College of Law: The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is happy to announce its call for applications to the 2016 Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. This annual Program offers 19 courses in English and Spanish lectured by over 40 scholars of relevance in the field of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and gathers more than 150 participants from over 25 different countries and with different levels of professional experience. The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law provides through this Program the unique opportunity to learn and interact with judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations, members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, experts from prominent NGOs and professors from all over the world. **Further information is available [here](#).**

RESOURCES

WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

[50th Anniversary Human Rights Covenants “Our Rights. Our Freedom. Always” Website](#) / OHCHR (shared, with thanks, by Rio Hada): The website features a variety of information highlighting the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The website includes historical information on the Covenants, and downloadable publications, including easy to understand guides on the Covenants and the committees, as well as a "pocket-sized" guide to all the rights and freedoms the Covenants cover. It also features films telling the stories of how the Covenants have directly impacted the lives of ordinary people. **The website can be accessed [here](#).**

[Peer Talk e-library](#) / United Nations System Staff College: The UNSSC Peer Talk offers a free online collection of videos provided by UN senior colleagues sharing their knowledge and discussing their viewpoints on issues of contemporary relevance within thematic areas such as ‘The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, ‘UN Fit for Purpose’, ‘Human Rights Up Front’ and others. Currently there is a talk by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Simonovic, on the importance of human rights for peace and security. **Access this talk [here](#).**

[Human Rights Methodology Lab](#) / Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, Human Rights Watch and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law: The Human Rights Methodology Lab brings together experts to provide advice on human rights research projects in order to innovate and advance research methodology in the human rights field. **Access**

the Human Rights Methodology Lab [here](#).

[Unite4Heritage](#) / UNESCO: #Unite4Heritage is a global movement powered by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. Launched in response to the unprecedented recent attacks on heritage, the campaign calls on everyone to stand up against extremism and radicalization by celebrating the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world such a rich and vibrant place. **The website is accessible [here](#).**

REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOKS

[Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#) / Human Rights Council: In this report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, conceptualizes good practices in the protection of human rights defenders at the local, national, regional and international levels. He outlines protection initiatives in three interrelated areas: practices that strengthen the resources and capacities of defenders; measures that foster an enabling environment for the defence of their rights; and regional and international initiatives that support their protection at the local and national levels. He concludes the report with seven principles underpinning good practices in the protection of defenders, which includes the proposal that States should adopt a rights-based approach to protection, empowering defenders to know and claim their rights and increasing the ability and accountability of those responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights. **The advance edited version of the report (A/HRC/31/55) is available [here](#).**

[The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Discrimination and Violence against Individuals Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity - A Programmatic Overview](#) / OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank and UNAIDS (*Shared, with thanks, by Michael van Gelderen*): The document provides a snapshot of the work in combatting discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and related work in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and intersex communities around the world, together with a contact list of focal points in each UN entity and links and references to documents, reports and other materials that can be consulted for further information. **The document is available [here](#).**

[Eight Case Studies on Integrating the UN's Normative and Operational Work](#) / United Nations Development Group: The case studies in this publication identify findings, common approaches and lessons for the United Nations to continue to work collectively and coherently on integrating its normative and operational work through targeted advocacy, supporting legislative change, capacity development, leveraging the work of relevant UN mechanisms and promoting wider stakeholder participation in development. **The publication is available to download [here](#).**

[Eliminating Discrimination and Inequalities in Access to Water and Sanitation](#) / UN Water, OHCHR: This brief gives guidance on non-discrimination and equality in the context of access to

drinking water and sanitation, with a particular focus on women and girls. It is intended as a resource to help countries address the needs of groups and individuals particularly disadvantaged in access to water and sanitation services. The publication, which features contributions from across UN-Water's nearly 70 Member and Partner organizations underscores the obligations of states and the role of other non-state actors. **The publication is available [here](#).**

[Special Issue: Evidence of the Impact of Human Rights-Based Approaches to Health / Health and Human Rights Journal](#): This special issue of the Health and Human Rights Journal features several articles by UN colleagues including an article by lead author Kate Gilmore, then Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, titled "The Universal Periodic Review: A Platform for Dialogue, Accountability, and Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights." **The entire issue is available [here](#).**

HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

INFO: Call for Submissions / General Comment on children in street situations - The Committee on the Rights of the Child (*Submitted by Nicolas Fasel and Grace Sanico Steffan, OHCHR*): The Committee on the Rights of the Child launched a call for submissions on a General Comment on children in street situations. The experiences, opportunities and challenges facing children in street situations clearly vary widely across different regions and between different groups of children. The Committee is therefore seeking submissions from States parties, civil society and other interested bodies (including UN entities), in all regions and from a wide range of perspectives, to inform the drafting process. **Deadline for submissions is 12 April 2016. A fully detailed list of the questions is available [here](#). Share your inputs with the HuriTALK community by writing to: humanrights-talk@groups.undp.org.**

VACANCIES

<http://unjobs.org/vacancies/1452804045722>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing Date: 13 March 2016

[Senior Human Rights Officer, Brussels \(P-5\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing Date: 13 March 2016

[Proyecto Programa Conjunto ONU/16/00U: Uruguay hacia la agenda de desarrollo sostenible 2030: Fortaleciendo las capacidades del Sistema Nacional de Cooperación desde una perspectiva de derechos humanos., Montevideo \(SC-5\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme

Closing Date: 14 March 2016

[Programme Analyst HIV/AIDS, Human Rights and Gender, Abuja, Nigeria](#)

United Nations Development Programme

Closing Date: 14 March 2016

Consultant- Expert: UN Women and OHCHR Workshop on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Participation in Elections in west Africa, Dakar (International Consultant)

United Nations Development Programme

Closing Date: 29 March 2016

Senior Specialist on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, Kathmandu (P-5)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Closing Date: 31 March 2016

Program Officer (economics and human rights), New York City

Center for Economic and Social Rights

Closing Date: 31 March 2016

Program Officer (accountability and rights monitoring), New York City

Center for Economic and Social Rights

Closing Date: 31 March 2016

Please send your comments or contributions for the next issue for the Monthly Resource Update to the HuriTALK Facilitator by Friday 25 March 2016 (humanrights@undq.org).

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