



June - July 2015

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## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

### 14 July 2015 / [UN Experts: States Must Align Standards for Business Practices in Development with Human Rights](#):

The United Nations Working Group on business and human rights has urged Governments across the world to ensure that corporations do not undermine sustainable



*UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

development, and called for greater transparency and accountability for how businesses address risks of human rights violations. “States must set a clear vision for connecting the increasing role of the private sector and businesses in development with accountability and agreed standards for business practices aligned with human rights,” the independent expert group said in a letter to lead negotiators as they entered the final stages of negotiating the ‘Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.’ They caution that

business activities can undermine respect for human rights if not properly regulated. **Read more [here](#). The letter of the Working Group on business and human rights is available [here](#). Read the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights [here](#).**

### 8 July 2015 / [20th Anniversary Commemoration of Srebrenica - UN Deputy Secretary-General: The World Expects the UN to Uphold the Right of All People to Live in Peace and Dignity](#):

The United Nations Security Council held a meeting to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the massacres in Srebrenica at UN Headquarters on 8 July 2015. In a statement to the Security Council the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, briefly narrated the key events leading up to the massacres in Srebrenica. He went on to describe the real sound of genocide as not the howling of machine-guns but the “dull, low moaning of ten thousand and more living victims of genocide – all the mothers, the sisters and daughters of the murdered 8000 boys and men.”



*In 1995, a government soldier reads out the names of soldiers who are confirmed survivors or escapees of Srebrenica. UNICEF Photo/ LeMoyne*

The Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, affirmed to the Security Council that “the world looks to us here at the United Nations and to the UN Security Council and expects us to uphold [the right of all people to live in peace and dignity] and to meet those aspirations. That is our shared responsibility today. And it is how we can best pay homage to the victims of Srebrenica.” **Read more [here](#). Read the remarks of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Security Council meeting on Bosnia and Herzegovina (Srebrenica) [here](#).**

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**8 July 2015 / [Can Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Be Predictors of Conflict?](#):** On 8 July 2015 an expert meeting was held on the integration of economic, social and cultural rights into conflict early warning systems. The meeting sought to shed light on the links between the denial of economic, social and cultural rights and ensuing violence, unrest and conflict. If there are linkages, the possibility of discerning patterns that can be included in models for early warning and coordinated action – such as the Human Rights Up Front initiative – to strengthen prospects for peace and true development. **Read more [here](#). The High Commissioner’s report on the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in conflict is available [here](#).**

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**15 June 2015 / [UN Human Rights Chief Opens 29th Session of Human Rights Council - Integration of Human Rights into New Development Agenda can be a Turning Point](#):** While 70 years of work by the United Nations has helped build a formidable system of rights protections, the nagging persistence of “everything else” – wars and ongoing deprivation – is deeply worrying, the top UN human rights official declared, urging renewed action to promote economic and social rights for all and tackle pervasive discrimination and repression. Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed in his opening remarks to the 29th session of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council that 2015 is a year of “vast opportunity for development,” with the summit on the post-2015 development agenda in September in New York. “The integration of human rights in that agenda can become a turning point. Sustainable development is about freedom from fear and freedom from want for all,” he concluded. **Read more [here](#).**

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**13 June 2015 / [Water Will Be Prominent in the Sustainable Development Goals - UN Chief States: Water Is Dignity. Water is a Human Right](#):** The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that the prominence of water among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will greatly surpass its placement among the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at a celebration of the achievements of the “Decade for Action: Water for Life 2005-2015” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. He emphasized that “Water is life. Water is health. Water is dignity. Water is a human right.” The shape of international development over the next decade and a half will be determined by the Post 2015 Development Agenda. He affirmed that the road to development must be sustained by a deep commitment to human rights. A vital first step in



*UN Photo/Albert González Farran*

establishing peoples and local communities as “right holders” and not clients or aid recipients is to ensure that the goals and targets relating to water and sanitation are rooted in the human rights framework and establishes the obligations of States as “duty-bearers.” **Read more [here](#).**

## **NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS**

**3 July 2015 / [UPR Outcome Reports of 14 Countries Were Agreed at the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council – General Debate Held on the Universal Periodic Review](#):** During the UPR segment at the 29th session (15 June - 3 July 2015), the Human Rights Council adopted the UPR outcome reports of the 14 countries reviewed in the 21st UPR Working Group session in January - February 2015 (Armenia, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Spain, Sweden, Turkey). With the adoption of these outcomes by the Human Rights Council, 126 countries have now completed their reviews in the UPR 2nd cycle. 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. It was recalled that recommendations had to be concrete, action-oriented and implementable. Furthermore, States had to present a reasonable number of recommendations to avoid overloading the system. The principles of universality, dialogue, equality, objectivity, independence and impartiality were also reiterated. **Read more [here](#). The advance unedited version of the report of the HRC 29 session is available [here](#) (Register for OHCHR extranet access [here](#)).**

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**22-26 June 2015 / [27th Meeting of Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies: Greater Cooperation Between International and Regional Human Rights Protection Systems Deepened – Joint Statement on Post-2015 Released](#):** The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of Chairpersons of human rights Treaty Bodies was held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 22 to 26 June 2015 which included meeting with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights in order to deepen cooperation between the international and the regional protection systems for the benefit of right-holders and contributing towards coherence in international law. The Chairpersons encouraged, inter alia, individual treaty bodies to intensify cooperation with the Inter-American and other regional human rights systems. Additionally, the Chairpersons released a joint statement at the meeting which emphasized that “it is critical that the mainstreaming of human rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda is captured” in the discussions on financing for development to ensure equitable and inclusive development without discrimination. They also underlined the “synergy between human rights, sustainable development and the environment.” **Read more [here](#). Read the joint statement of the Treaty Body Chairpersons on Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda [here](#).**

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**5 June 2015 / [Human Rights and the Environment – UN Experts: Our Generation Must Meet the Great Challenge](#):**

A group of 28 United Nations independent experts urged governments worldwide to make sure human rights are at the core of climate change governance, including by signing the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action to promote and respect human rights in climate action. “Bringing a human rights perspective to climate change not only clarifies what is at stake; it also helps to ensure that responses are coherent, effective and responsive to the concerns of those most affected,” the experts noted. UN experts have warned earlier this year that the 2 degrees goal being discussed “is not ambitious enough to protect human rights” in a report presented to the UNFCCC to warn States about the threats to the rights to life, health, food and water and sanitation if the world temperature warms just 2 degrees. **Read more [here](#). Read the joint statement by UN Special Procedures on the occasion of World Environment Day [here](#).**



*View from the Polar ice rim during Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's visit to witness impact of climate change on icebergs. UN Photo/Mark Garten*

## UN WORK IN FOCUS

**13-16 July 2015 / [UN Women and OHCHR Push for Transformative Development Agenda That Balances Human Rights - Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#)**

*(Contributions received from Nerea Craviotto, AWID / WWG on FfD):* UN Women and OHCHR co-sponsored a workshop on financing for women's development, human rights and gender equality during the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) that was held in



*Photo/Women's Working Group on Financing for Development*

Addis Ababa on 13-16 July. With the outcomes of FfD3 expected to impact the ability of States to fulfill their human rights obligations, including the Sustainable Development Goals, workshop participants examined the implications for financing human rights, gender equality and economic justice within the financing for development process.

The challenges that development financing present for gender equality and human rights, including women's rights were discussed as well as what actions can be taken to ensure a human rights balance while pushing for a transformative development agenda. A statement delivered at FfD3 on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, stated that “financing for development must satisfy the demands of all persons to have their most basic needs met in a world that does not lack the means, but has failed to demonstrate

the will, to make human rights a reality for all.” **Read more on the workshop [here](#). Read the full statement of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [here](#).**

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**1 July 2015 / [Human Rights Advisers Contribute to UN Agencies Successes in Realizing Human Rights](#):** The impact of Human Rights Advisers were presented by Flavia Pansieri, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Co-Chair of the UNDG Human Rights Working Group, to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council. She provided an overview of successes, good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of OHCHR and relevant UN Agencies technical assistance and capacity building support in cooperation with Members States. Among the examples were a number of initiatives by Human Rights Advisers of the UNDG Human Rights Working Group. In Timor-Leste, the Human Rights Adviser supported the preparations for a National Human Rights Action Plan in cooperation with the National Directive Commission led by the Ministry of Justice. In Tanzania, the Human Rights Adviser and the United Nations Country Team are working with the Government, the National Human Rights Institute and civil society to raise awareness and put in place measures to address the issue of discrimination, exclusion and violence against people with albinism. **Read more [here](#). Learn more about the work of the UNDG Human Rights Advisers [here](#).**

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**2 June 2015 / [UN Human Rights Chief Speaks to UN Development System: The System Relies on Resident Coordinators as the Eyes and Ears and Brains of the UN on the Ground](#):** On 2 June 2015, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights spoke to UN Resident Coordinators, Agency Representatives, Regional and HQ Directors on the practical application of human rights in



[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

harnessing the UNs comparative advantage at UN DOCO’s seminar on Delivering in a Post-2015 World in Geneva. The High Commissioner, in a conversation that ranged from human rights as the UN’s common purpose to Human Rights up Front, highlighted the importance of Resident Coordinators to the UN development system as “the eyes and ears and brains of the UN on site to distill the information for us.” He also stated that “the right to development must be something ensured but it has to be done through a human rights sensitive lense where the dignity and worth of every individual is secured.” The overall

objectiveof the Seminar was to provide a forum to better understand how “Delivering Together” will facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. **Watch a video of the High Commissioner’s interview [here](#). An overview of the dialogue on the practical and political realities of leading the human rights agenda on the ground is available [here](#). The seminar report for Geneva is available for download [here](#) (pdf).**

## AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Online Training, 30 September – 10 November 2015 / [Environment and Human Rights Course & Field Visit in Costa Rica](#) / Human Rights Education Associates and the University for Peace** (Optional Field Visit, Costa Rica: 7-12 December 2015): This annual blended learning program provides participants with the opportunity to study the intersections of the environment and human rights through a 6-week e-learning course and a 1-week field visit in Costa Rica. **Registrations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Further information including registration is [here](#).**

**Training Workshop, 20-23 October 2015/ [Human Rights Defenders Academy](#) / Human Rights Education Associates** (Brussels, Belgium): The Human Rights Defenders Academy is an annual four-day series of intensive workshops on advocacy, monitoring, and personal security and protection. The Academy is open to staff and volunteers of human rights organisations, representatives of national human rights institutions and other individuals working to promote, protect and uphold human rights. **Registrations are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Further information including registration is available [here](#).**

**L.L.M., Spring 2016 / [International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#) / American University:** The American University Washington College of Law offers a hybrid LL.M. program in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law with online and residential course components. This LL.M. is designed for practitioners and other human rights advocates with two years of experience who wish to pursue advanced studies in international human rights law and humanitarian law alongside their existing work responsibilities. **Deadline to apply is December 1, 2015. Further information is available [here](#).**

**Call for Papers / Presentations / [Panel on Integrating Human Rights into Development: Donor Approaches, Experiences and Challenges](#) / World Bank Group** (16-19 November 2015, Washington D.C.): This panel aims to examine a number of themes regarding HRBA including (i) what is the range of donor approaches to integrating human rights into development; (ii) what is the difference between human rights-based approaches (HRBA) and other approaches to development (iii) what in concrete terms is the value-added of a HRBA, what is the state of evidence of such value added? Proposals for papers or presentations on the above topics are welcome. **Deadline is 20 August 2015. Further details and a full list of topics is available [here](#).**

## RESOURCES

### WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

**Platform / [Social Protection and Human Rights](#):** This platform began in 2013 as a collaboration between the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda to enhance awareness of, and develop the capacity to, implement a human rights-based approach to social protection. It is now partnered with 6 UN agencies. **Access the platform [here](#).**

**Platform / iLearn:** iLearn, developed by UN Women, is a global mobile learning platform that allows for women entrepreneurs to share the decisions that led to their success. It provides an opportunity to learn about their strong motivation, personal drive, knowledge and skills. **iLearn is available [here](#).**



## REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOKS

**Article, 28 July 2015 / [Demystifying Universal Periodic Review](#) / Jessica Braver:** The author examines the role of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) system in mainstreaming human rights, encouraging colleagues to work together in a more cohesive and coherent way. The author states that in Argentina, the Resident Coordinator's office has been working on positioning the topic in the UN agenda, as well as on building an inter-agency culture for the Universal Periodic Review, so as to install human rights mainstreaming as a priority. Read the entire article [here](#).

**Publication, 27 July 2015 / [Handy Guide on UN Coherence](#) / UNSSC and UNICEF:** The guide addresses UN coherence issues relevant to UN staff by providing a simple summary of official guidance, and in many cases linking to it. The guide also gives an overview of UNDG country programming principles including the human rights-based approach. A joint product of UNICEF and the UN System Staff College, the Handy Guide aims to help UN agencies and staff partner together to achieve results on the ground. **The guide is available for download [here](#).**



Photo/UNICEF

**Article, 23 July 2015 / [The Case for a Rights-Based Development Sensitive Approach to Drug Control Policy](#) / UNDP:** The author examines the complex and multifaceted relationship between drug control policy and human development and their shared objective to reduce drug-related harms. Yet drug control, human rights, public health and human development agendas often exist in isolation from each other. The author recommends that specific guidelines on human rights should be developed to guide the development of rights-based drug control measures. **Read more [here](#).**

**Article, 21 July 2015 / [How Can We Harness Supply Chains for the Sustainable Development Goals? Bring Children's Rights Back in](#) / UNICEF:** This article explores the crucial role of business in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to deliver a framework that includes vast ambitions ranging from ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, to achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, the author argues that the business sector must be engaged. The article also raises the question of how global value chains can be directed towards these goals and targets. **Read more [here](#).**

**Newsletter, 3 July 2015 / [UPR Info's Newsletter - Number 55](#) / UPR Info:** This edition of UPR Info's Newsletter covers the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC29) including the plenary adoptions of the UPR Working Group reports for the States reviewed at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the UPR. As well as making an oral statement at the HRC plenary session, UPR Info participated

in several side events throughout the month. UPR Info also announces it is opening two new regional offices in Bangkok, Thailand and Nairobi, Kenya. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Video / [HRBA – How Does the World Change?](#) / ActionAid Greece:** This video cartoon produced by ActionAid Greece, provides a short and engaging overview of their philosophy and their work on poverty eradication based on the promotion and protection of human rights with focus on the human rights-based approach. **The video can be viewed [here](#).**



**Videos / [The Power of Human Rights to Improve People’s Health and Care](#):** The Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and NHS Health Scotland have joined forces to launch a series of short films highlighting the power of human rights to improve people’s health and the care and support they access. **The videos can be viewed [here](#).**

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**Article, 29 June 2015 / [Doubling Down on Human Rights Data](#) / Open Global Rights:** NGOs have often resisted social science methods, but random sampling and public opinion survey data can help us understand what people actually think and want. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Article, 26 June 2015 / [What Can New York Learn From Geneva?](#) / Social Watch:** This article explores how the human right mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) developed by the Human Rights Council in Geneva, might serve as a model for the follow up of the new development agenda. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Article, 15 June 2015 / [The Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) – Contributions of the UN Human Rights Council to the Debate so Far](#) / Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Shared, with thanks, by Julia Kercher):** The author provides an overview of the contributions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) to the debate on the SDGs since 2012 through various means, including the HRC annual mainstreaming panel, HRC resolutions and a President’s Statement. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Newsletter, 5 June 2015 / [Human Rights Monitor](#) / International Service for Human Rights:** In this edition of the Monitor, ISHR seeks to recognise the work of women human rights defenders and their networks, understand their challenges and underscore their specific protection needs. Four women are interviewed with each outlining recommendations made to UN bodies, particularly the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, and on strengthening their support for women human rights defenders. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Article, 2 June 2015 / [Breaking the Accountability Taboo in Sustainable Development Negotiations](#) / Center for Economic and Social Rights:** The author provides an overview of the human rights elements of the post-2015 discussions from the perspective of civil society. She looks at the role of civil society in the negotiations in keeping pressure on states to agree to a monitoring and review architecture that can contribute to more effective, empowering and rights-realizing implementation. **Read more [here](#).**

## HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

**Query / Mobile Human Rights Initiatives in Post Natural Disaster Situations:** Tek Tamata, UNDP Nepal is requesting experiences and resources from the UN development and human rights community about mobile human right initiatives in post natural disaster situations in order to respond to post-disaster human rights violation cases and ensuring that the human rights-based approach is better mainstreamed in the planning and implementation of early recovery packages. He was particularly interested in the following: Operational guideline and policies, if any; Checklist for human rights monitoring; Code of conducts of the members of mobile human rights camps etc.; Any innovative interventions on coordination, advocacy and mobilization; Lessons learnt, case studies worth emulating. Submission are still welcome. **Please send them to [humanrights-talk@groups.undp.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@groups.undp.org).**

**INFO / Findings from the Study on the Interplay between RBM and HRBA in UN programming:** Teresa Alberio, OHCHR shared the final report of her sabbatical research on the interplay between Results-Based Management (RBM) and the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in UN common strategic programming at the country level. The author states that while the samples are not representative, the evidence gathered is enough to draw some general conclusions and recommendations. The findings of the research seem to corroborate the assumption that while complementary, the concurrent application of RBM and HRBA can generate tensions that, if ignored, threaten to reverse the hierarchy, turning RBM, in theory an enabling tool, into the ultimate ruling principle of UN programming. The report includes a number of recommendations which the author hopes will contribute to the on-going discussion on UN common programming guidelines. **To request a copy of the full report, or to provide feedback on the report, please write to [humanrights-talk@groups.undp.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@groups.undp.org).**

## VACANCIES

### [Administrative Assistant, Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch, New York \(G-5\)](#)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Closing date: Friday, 14 August 2015

### [International Consultant to Develop a Package of Training Tools to Support Gender and Human Rights Capacity Development for Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms, Home-Based \(International Consultant\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: Friday, 14 August 2015

### [International Consultant Human Rights Community Survey Designer, Dhaka \(International Consultant\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: Monday, 17 August 2015

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

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Thursday, 20 August 2015

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

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Friday, 21 August 2015

[Human Rights and Law Adviser, Geneva \(P-4\)](#)

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Closing date: Saturday, 22 August 2015

[Human Rights Officer, Sana'a \(P-4\)](#)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Saturday, 22 August 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 28 August 2015 ([humanrights-talk@undq.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undq.org)).**

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