



September - October 2015

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UNITED NATIONS NEWS

24 October 2015 / [On the United Nations 70th Anniversary UN Chief Says It Is a Time to Reflect on the Promise of the Charter, and the Pledge of the Sustainable Development Goals](#): On the



70th anniversary of the United Nations, 24 October, the UN Secretary-General said that the blue flag of the UN remained “a banner of hope,” and that “we have brought freedom to millions, dismantling colonialism, defeating apartheid and defending human rights for all, regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender or sexual orientation.” Mr. Ban noted that the UN Charter was written “deliberately, in the voice, not of governments, but of 'we the peoples,’” adding that it was a Charter

for everyone, particularly the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized. Speaking of the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General said that Member States had united, with “a promise to end poverty and provide a life of dignity for all on a healthy planet within a generation.” To achieve the goals outlined in the new Agenda, Mr. Ban said that what was needed was “a strong UN for a better world,” and that UN day was a time to “reflect on the promise of the Charter, and the pledge of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Read more [here](#).

21 October 2015 / [Human Rights-Based Approaches ‘Urgently’ Needed to Mitigate Global Crisis of Migration Governance](#): The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) that more effective, human rights-based approaches are urgently needed to address the global crisis of migration governance, as it continued debating the issue in a series of interactive dialogues. He told the Committee that better migration governance, protection of civil society and addressing inequalities through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could assist in solving the world’s multiple migration crises. He mentioned further that crises would only be solved when States applied existing, binding human rights commitments to which they had agreed. **Read more**

[here](#).

28 September 2015 / [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Adopted – Member States Are Urged to Make Human Rights a Reality for All People](#):

“This 70th anniversary of the United Nations must be a defining year to confirm and invigorate the universal values that we – the peoples – agreed upon in the Charter. No one shall be left behind,” Mogens Lykketoft, the President of the General Assembly, urged Heads of State and Government and other high representatives gathered for the opening session of the Assembly’s annual General Debate in New York. “I am sure that Member States – building on our great 2030 Agenda – will increase efforts to make human rights a reality for all people without discrimination – from fundamental rights such as safe access to food, clean water, quality health and education services and decent work,” he added, urging action on civil and political rights such as freedom of expression and association; and from the rights of migrants and indigenous peoples to those of women, children and persons with disabilities. “Now, we face the even more daunting task of transforming our vision into action,” said Mr. Lykketoft, underscoring that the ambition of UN Member States will only be realized in a world of peace and security and respect for human rights. **Read more [here](#).**



Ahead of the UN Sustainable Development Summit from 25-27 September, and to mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, a 10-minute film introducing the Sustainable Development Goals is projected onto UN Headquarters. UN Photo/Cia Pak

22 September 2015 / [President of UN Economic and Social Council States: Women’s Rights Will Be Enhanced by New Sustainability Goals](#):

Addressing high-level participants of the 2015 Empowering Women and Sustainable Development Summit at United Nations Headquarters, the President of the UN Economic and Social Council, Oh Joon, declared that the empowerment of women and the full realization of their human rights are essential for achieving sustainable development and for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Emphasizing that women must be able to influence decisions on economic, social, and environmental issues, he said “gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the full realization of their human rights are essential for the achievement of sustainable development and for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies.” **Read more [here](#).**

NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

28 October 2015 / [UN Rights Experts Tell Third Committee: Respecting Human Rights is the ‘Bedrock’ of Development](#):

During the UN General Assembly’s Third Committee’s (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights, UN Special Procedures underlined the importance of the international community’s continued engagement with countries to open space for cooperation, while keeping in mind that respect

for human rights was the bedrock of successful development. Delegates at the Third Committee raised concerns on trafficking and targeted violations against women, indigenous people and other groups. Among several Special Procedures to present reports to the Committee, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism also stated that civil society has “the unique ability to reach out to local communities,” adding that they played “an integral part in the realization of longer term development goals.” **Read more [here](#) and [here](#).**

25 September – 2 October 2015 / [Human Rights Council Stresses the Importance of Following-Up Recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review to Have Impact on the Ground](#): A general debate was held during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) segment at the 30th session of the Human Rights Council (14 September – 2 October) stressing the importance of following-up and implementing recommendations in order to have impact on the ground. Reporting on the implementation of previous recommendations was highlighted as key to ensure accountability and continuous progression between UPR cycles. It was recalled that recommendations had to be concrete, action-oriented and implementable. **Further information can be read in Chapter VI of the advance unedited version [here](#) (For access please register [here](#)).**

28 September 2015 / [Human Rights Council Holds General Debate on Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#): The Human Rights Council held a general debate on the follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which presented the international community with a common plan for the strengthening of human rights work around the world and reaffirmed the universality and inalienability of the right to development. In the general debate on the follow-up to and the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, speakers stressed the importance of combatting discrimination on all grounds, including against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. They highlighted the fundamental role of civil society organizations, and strongly condemned unacceptable acts of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders. **Read more [here](#).**



"The War of Human Rights" was displayed throughout the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.

24 September 2015 / [More Needs to Be Done to Protect Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – UN and Regional Experts on the Occasion of the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#): A group of international and regional human rights experts urged Governments to seize the opportunity of the new United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to renew their commitments and ensure full respect, protection and fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The joint statement from the group of experts from the UN, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights said “despite clear obligations for States to ensure

women’s sexual and reproductive health, violations remain prevalent and widespread in all the regions across the world.” The experts, which include the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on the right to everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, also stated that “the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a unique opportunity to combat inequalities and discrimination, including the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices, which often lie at the heart of violations against women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights,” the experts said. **Read more [here](#).**

24 September 2015 / [Human Rights Council Holds Panel Discussion on Human Rights-Based Approach to Good Governance](#): The Human Rights Council, during its 30th Session, held a panel discussion on a human rights-based approach to good governance in public service. Ibrahim Salama, Director of the Human Rights Treaties Division at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in an opening statement, said human rights and good governance were intrinsically inter-linked, and a human rights-based approach to good governance required States to guarantee non-discrimination and equality in the provision of public services. Privatization of public services potentially had adverse impacts on human rights. **Read more [here](#).**

UN WORK IN FOCUS

29 September 2015 / [UN Agencies Call for End to Violence and Discrimination Against LGBTI Community and Ensure Their Inclusion in Development Processes](#): 29 September – Twelve UN agencies called for an end to violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) adults, adolescents and children, and set out specific steps to protect these individuals and ensure that LGBTI people are consulted and participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and programmes that affect them, including development and humanitarian initiatives. At a high-level event on LGBT rights, held in New York on the margins of the annual debate of the General



Assembly, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon applauded the agencies for “speaking in one voice” on this critical issue. “When the human rights of LGBT people are abused, all of us are diminished. Every human life is precious – none is worth more than another,” he stated. Ending marginalization and exclusion of LGBT people is a human rights priority – and a development imperative, he continued. The statement outlined the UN’s readiness to support and assist Member States and other stakeholders as they work to address the challenges – including through constitutional, legislative and policy changes, strengthening of national institutions, and education, training and other initiatives to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights

of all LGBTI people. [Read more here](#). The statement is available for download in six languages [here](#).

26 September 2015 / [UNAIDS And UNICEF Strive for Greater Collaboration Across Health and Education in New Development Agenda](#):

Responding to the challenge and opportunity posed by the interconnected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leaders in health and education from across the world came together on the sidelines of the UN Sustainable Development Summit to



UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Jan Beagle speaks at an event on financing health and education and girls driving development. New York, 26 September 2015. Credit: UNAIDS

discuss ways in which the health and education sectors can collaborate and integrate towards joint, people-centered results. Emphasizing how gains in the AIDS response have been proven to maximize impact across other development outcomes, Jan Beagle, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director said: "The AIDS response has shown the value of a multi-sectoral and people-centered approach. From the outset, it was clear HIV was much more than a health issue. It is a development issue, a rights issue, a gender issue that has inclusion of

affected communities and evidence and rights-based approaches at its core. Lessons learned from this can be transferred not just to health and education, but across the SDGs." [Read more here](#).

AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Course / [Diploma in Sustainable Development and Human Rights](#) / University for Peace: The Human Rights Centre of the United Nations mandated University for Peace is pleased to announce the first offering of a new Professional Development Diploma in Sustainable Development and Human Rights, courses for which can be taken entirely online. As the name suggests, 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. [Learn more here](#).

Online Course / [Human Rights-based Approach E-course](#) / Danish Institute for Human Rights: This free e-learning course emphasizes that human rights should underpin all aspects of development work. The HRBA to development programming is introduced through a series of interactive lessons. The course covers: the key concepts of HRBA; the history and background of HRBA; and, how to apply the method in practice. This course is a general introduction to the most important elements of HRBA aimed at anyone seeking more information on how to work with

HRBA. Learn more [here](#).

Workshop / [Human Rights-based Approach to Development](#) / UN System Staff College (7-10 December - Bangkok, Thailand): The workshop is designed for UN programme staff who seek to advance their skills to effectively apply HRBA and rights-based RBM tools and principles to their daily work, especially important for the UN Common Country Programming Process. The workshop is inter-active in nature and will use real-time examples and exercises to offer opportunities for participants to learn and internalize these two critical and complementary programming principles. As we emphasize the linkages and complementarities between HRBA and RBM, participants will be able to learn more holistic and effective programming tools. **Registration is open on-line [here](#).**

RESOURCES

WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

Website / [YourHRC.org](#) / Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Universal Rights Group: This new online tool is designed to contribute to international efforts to strengthen the visibility, relevance and impact of the Human Rights Council. The yourHRC.org portal, together with a number of related reports, are designed to provide country-specific information on: cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, participation in Council debates and exchanges, member state voting patterns, political leadership, and Council elections. **Visit the website [here](#).**

Website / [Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#) / International Fund for Agricultural Development: In conjunction with a webpage, IFAD has just published a How to do note on Free Prior and Informed Consent, a guideline for IFAD staff and consultants on how to seek FPIC in IFAD-funded projects. Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of local communities on public development initiatives that may affect their rights, access to land, resources and livelihoods has become an IFAD operational principle through its policies on Improving Access to Land and Tenure Security (2008) and Engagement with Indigenous Peoples (2009). IFAD is the first international financial institution to adopt FPIC as an operational principle in its policy documents. **The webpage is available [here](#).**

Online Database / [The Right to Food around the Globe](#) / UN Food and Agriculture Organization: This tool, developed by FAO, provides a one-stop, easily accessible platform where what is constitutionally committed to on the right to adequate food at the national level can be found. For each FAO Member Nation, you will find quotes of articles from national constitutions relevant for the realization of the right to adequate food as well as the ratification status of some key international instruments. In addition, to facilitate your research, the search can either be performed by Member Nation or by type of constitutional recognition and when possible, the information is available in several languages. Finally, the tool provides links to relevant instruments, texts of constitutions, as well as informative websites, including FAOLEX, the United Nations Treaty Collection and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. **The Right to Food database is available [here](#).**

REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOKS

27 October 2015, Article / [Extreme Inequality as the Antithesis of Human Rights](#) / Open Democracy (*Shared, with thanks, by Heike Alefsen*): Philip Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, writes in this article that extreme inequality directly undermines human rights, and is a cause for shame for the human rights community. He also states that “extreme poverty is best defined as a condition in which the vast majority of human rights cannot possibly be realized.” **Read the full article [here](#).**

Training Material / [Human Rights-Based Approach to Integrated Water Resources Management \(Draft\)](#) / UNDP Cap-Net: This manual introduces human rights and Integrated Water Resources Management to the reader, progressively integrating them into a single approach. These two fields have been brought together as awareness has grown within the human rights community that water management is fundamental to the realization of a range of human rights. Similarly, water management practitioners have become increasingly aware of the crucial importance of water in key human rights domains such as the right to life, the right to health, the right to food and the right to a healthy environment. **Download the draft document [here](#).**

Fall 2015, Publication / [Guidebook on CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 and the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security](#) / UN Women: CEDAW General Recommendation 30 is a landmark document giving authoritative guidance to countries that have ratified CEDAW on concrete measures to ensure women’s human rights are protected before, during and after conflict. It also affirms CEDAW’s linkages with the Security Council’s women, peace and security agenda. The Guidebook provides information on the content of the General Recommendation and the Security Council resolutions and on the reporting and monitoring mechanisms. It includes a checklist for States parties reporting to CEDAW and also provides some examples of where the General Recommendation and Security Council resolutions have been referred to in the Committee’s concluding observations and lists of issues to States parties. **The publication is available for download [here](#).**

25 September 2015, Article / [UN Adopts Agenda 2030, But Will Governments Follow Through?](#) / Center for Economic and Social Rights: This statement was prepared by the Post-2015 Human Rights Caucus in response to the new development framework, highlighting both its strengths and its weaknesses from a human rights perspective. The authors state that 'Agenda 2030', which comes after three years of negotiation and consultations, will have a determinative impact on the future of global development and, as such, the human rights enjoyment of both current and future generations. **The article is available [here](#).**

16 September 2015, Podcast / [UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at UNPFII 2015](#) / Indigenous Rights Radio: Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights

of Indigenous Peoples, talks about the importance of Indigenous Peoples using the range of international instruments and mechanisms in place, to implement changes. **Listen to the podcast [here](#).**

15 September 2015, Publication / [Arabic Version 'Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation'](#) / Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: The publication aims to assist in developing quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure progress in the implementation of international human rights norms and principles. It will be of interest to human rights advocates as well as policymakers, development practitioners, statisticians and others who are working to make human rights a reality for all. **The publication is available online [here](#).**

3 September 2015, Article / [SDG Series: What Might the SDGs Mean for Health and Human Rights? An Introduction to the Series](#) / Health and Human Rights Journal: The Health and Human Rights series SDGs, Human Rights and the Right to Health is exploring what the SDGs might mean for health and human rights. Contributors, including the former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Paul Hunt, have looked at how the SDGs will enhance people's right to health and how the pursuit of SDGs could advance human dignity and the right to health. As health and human rights advocates and scholars, contributors have analyzed the issues and identified essential actions to operationalize human rights in the next stages, including the deliberation on indicators, prioritizing actions, planning, resourcing, implementation, follow-up and review. **Read more [here](#).**

Video / [Human Rights Council: Panel Discussion on Human Rights-Based Approach to Good Governance](#): The panel discussion, recorded at the focuses on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service. The panel discussion aims: to exchange views with regard to the role of the public service for the promotion and protection of human rights; to identify challenges and share good practices with regard to a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service; To examine the findings of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights ([A/HRC/25/27](#)); and, To promote better understanding of international human rights norms and standards relevant to the public service. **Watch the video on UN Web TV [here](#).**

Video / [Amartya Sen on the Sustainable Development Goals – Human Rights Remain Extremely Important](#): In his interview during the UNU-WIDER 30th anniversary events Nobel laureate in economics Professor Amartya Sen gave an interview on the past and future challenges to development. When asked about the SDGs Amartya Sen emphasized democracy and human rights as key for sustainable development, and talks about what makes for good development goals (which might not always be quantifiable). **Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).**

Video / [Twenty Years of Economic and Social Rights Advocacy](#): Leading figures from the world of human rights reflect on progress in the field, and CESR's contribution, since the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. Contributors include former UN High Commissioner for

Human Rights, Mary Robinson, the special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Post-2015 Development Planning, Amina Mohammed and a number of UN Special Rapporteur's, Special Envoys and leading human rights organizations. **Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).**

HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

Query / Request for examples of Human Rights Impact Assessment being applied by UN entities in their work: Rory Mungoven, OHCHR, is seeking to learn from UN colleagues of any initiatives or examples in which UN entities have applied a Human Rights Impact Assessment or similar methodologies in their work. Additionally, he is interested in examples of how UN agencies (or NHRIs) have promoted or built national capacity for conducting HRIAs. **Please send any contributions or inputs to humanrights-talk@groups.undp.org.**

Webinar / Strengthening the Human Rights Agenda: UN colleagues were invited to participate in a webinar (5 November 2015) with the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council in the global context of strengthening the integration of human rights in the work of the UN. The purpose was to raise awareness in UN Country Teams of the work of special procedures and strengthen cooperation between special procedures and Resident Coordinators and UNCTs. A recording of the webinar will be shared with HuriTALK shortly.

VACANCIES

[Expert on Citizenship and Rights \(Consultant\), Lebanon](#)

United Nations Development Programme

Closing Date: 10 November 2015

[Human Rights Officer \(P4\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing Date: 13 November 2015

[Human Rights Officer \(P4\), New York](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing Date: 29 November 2015

[Senior Programme Officer, New York](#)

Open Society Foundations

Closing Date: 30 April 2016

Please send your comments or contributions for the next issue for the Monthly Resource Update to the HuriTALK Facilitator by Friday 27 November 2015 (humanrights-talk@undg.org).

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