



## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

**22 September 2016 / [UN General Assembly High-Level Event Marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Adoption of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development](#):** The President of the UN General Assembly convened a one-day high-level segment of the General Assembly to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The event focused on appropriate measures and required policies to promote effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as a requirement to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary objective of the event was to build common ground on how the international community defines and understands the right to development. It also aimed to identify how efforts to fulfil the right to development can be fortified in the future by building synergies and coherence with mutual and consensual understanding of the right to development based on the experience of progress and challenges in the last 30 years. The opening session of the High-level thematic debate featured special addresses by the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary General of UNCTAD. Member States were invited to participate at the highest level possible. **Read more [here](#). OHCHR's Frequently Asked Questions on the Right to Development is available [here](#).**

**20 September 2016: [UN Official Unveils Draft Principles on Protecting Human Rights of Refugees and Migrants](#):** Following the adoption of a landmark declaration on protecting the rights of refugees and migrants, a senior United Nations official unveiled a draft set of principles that urge the international community to include the critical issue of human rights in all discussions focusing on large-scale, perilous and irregular migration movements. "Human rights are an integral part of that consideration – not a discussion of whether or not human rights apply – but a consideration of how human rights are to be upheld. The aspirational words of yesterday's General Assembly



*On 13 September 2016 in the western part of Aleppo city, Syrian Arab Republic, Shahed, 5, and her friend set up a tent on the roadside. Photo: UNICEF/Ourfali*

sessions must become today's concrete actions," said Kate Gilmore, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the opening of a side event at UN Headquarters in New York on protecting human rights in the context of large movements of migrants and refugees. Specifically, the 20 draft principles focus on human rights; non-discrimination; rescue and assistance; access to justice; border governance; returns; violence; detention; family unity; child migrants; women migrants; right to health; adequate standard of living; decent work; right to education; right to information; monitoring and accountability; migrants' human rights defenders; data; and international cooperation. **Read more [here](#).**

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**20 September 2016 / [Global Goals 'Simple Answer' to Delivering Results World so Desperately Needs – UN Assembly President](#):** While the 2030 Agenda is being increasingly used as the framework for improved national development plans around the world, "we are far from where we need to be," the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Peter Thomson, said, opening the 193-member body's annual general debate with a strong call to do more to end conflict, erase poverty and bolster human rights for all. Even as he hailed the progress made in implementing the year-old Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which he called a "transformative masterplan," and the adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change, Peter Thomson noted that millions of people around the globe are suffering the brutal effects of war. He also stated that "at a time when collaboration and partnership are needed more than ever, we are witnessing rising xenophobia, divisive rhetoric, and attacks on our human rights and fundamental freedoms." **Read more [here](#). The statement of the President of the UN General Assembly can be read [here](#).**

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

**13-30 September 2016 / [Human Rights Council Concludes 33<sup>rd</sup> Session - Adopts 18 Texts, Creates Mandate on the Right to Development](#):** The Human Rights Council started taking action on draft texts, adopting 17 resolutions and a Presidential Statement, including creating the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on the right to development. The Council appointed for a period of three years a Special Rapporteur on the right to development to, inter alia, contribute to the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development, to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right to development in the context of the coherent and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to engage and support efforts to mainstream the right to development among various United Nations bodies. The Council extended the mandates on human rights in Somalia, contemporary forms of slavery, safe drinking water and sanitation, the right to the highest attainable levels of physical and mental health, the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights, the human rights of older persons, and on the rights of indigenous peoples. Other texts related to the safety of journalists; technical assistance to Yemen; unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents; preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age; local government and human rights; national human rights institutions and the promotion and protection of human rights; equitable international order; human rights and indigenous peoples; the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; and the reports of the Advisory Committee. **Read more [here](#). Access the agenda, panel discussions and other documents from the 33<sup>rd</sup> session [here](#). Read the High Commissioner for Human Rights update on global human rights presented**

at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session [here](#).

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**30 September 2016 / [Committee on the Rights of the Child Concludes 73<sup>rd</sup> Session](#):** The Committee on the Rights of the Child concluded its seventy-third session after adopting its concluding observations and recommendations on the reports of Nauru, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Suriname under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. During the 2016 Day of General Discussion on “Children’s Rights and the Environment, following introductory remarks, work continued in two Working Groups – one on children’s exposure to environmental toxicants, and another on children and the effects of environmental degradation, and children and climate change. The two Working Groups’ conclusions were presented to the closing plenary session of the Day of General Discussion. It was stated that environmental toxicants exposure directly affected the enjoyment of children’s rights, most importantly their survival, development, and their ability to attain the highest available standard of health. Threats to natural resources affected health, life, survival and development, play, leisure and the adequate standard of living of children. The Working Groups also concluded that children’s rights were overlooked in national and international climate policies, and climate change was frequently omitted from child-related policies. **Read more [here](#).** **The concluding observations and recommendations on the reports will be made available on Thursday, 6 October 2016 [here](#).**

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**16 September 2016: [The UN Human Rights Mechanisms Release Joint Statement on the Occasion of the UN High Level Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants](#):** UN human rights experts called on Member States to develop a human rights-based framework for migration when developing the global compacts on refugees and migration. The experts included the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Chair of the Committee on the protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and Special Rapporteurs on Trafficking, Racism, Migrants and IDPs. They welcomed the reassertion by Member States in the draft New York Declaration of their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law and their call for States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. These obligations which incorporate the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination, the State’s duty to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including access to justice and remedies, must underpin the global compacts on refugees and migrants. States must acknowledge that human rights are for all and that migrants should be treated as equal rights holders, regardless of their migratory status in relation to the sovereign territory they find themselves in. When migrants are viewed as equal rights holders, a duty to protect them at all stages of the migration process naturally follows. If violations of their rights occur at any point, migrants need access to remedies to redress such violations. The experts stated that States, the national and international humanitarian and development community must adopt new, human-rights-based approaches that provide stability, protection, assistance and development in order for IDPs to take steps towards self-reliance and resilience. **Read more [here](#).**

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**7 September 2016 / [Committee on Migrant Workers concludes 25<sup>th</sup> session](#):** The Committee on

the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families concluded its twenty-fifth session after adopting its concluding observations and recommendations on the reports of Honduras, Nicaragua, Niger and Sri Lanka. In closing remarks, Committee Chairperson Jose Brillantes said that during the session, the Committee had held interactive dialogues and adopted concluding observations and recommendations on Honduras, Nicaragua, Niger and Sri Lanka. During the session, the Committee held a meeting with States, international and non-governmental organizations, during which a number of issues were discussed, including what could be done differently to promote and speed up the ratification of the Convention; the process of drafting a general comment on child migrants; and the participation of the Committee in the 19 September High Level Meeting in New York. Under the simplified reporting procedure, the Committee adopted lists of issues prior to reporting with respect to Ecuador and Mexico. **Read more [here](#). The concluding observations and recommendations on the reports are available [here](#).**

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**2 September 2016 / [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concludes 16<sup>th</sup> session](#)**: The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concluded its sixteenth session after adopting concluding observations and recommendations on the reports of Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Italy, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay on how they implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee also adopted the report of the session, during which it adopted its General Comment N° 3 on women and girls with disabilities and General Comment N°4 on the right to inclusive education. Summarizing the session, Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Committee Chairperson, said that the Committee was progressing in the implementation of the decision on strengthening of human rights treaty bodies and had made a very intense effort to achieve the results to date. The Committee had made great progress in mainstreaming disability issues in the United Nations processes, for example by participating in the World Humanitarian Summit and ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities were reflected in the outcome document. **The concluding observations and recommendations for the reports that were considered are available [here](#). General Comment N°3 on article 6 of the Convention, on women and girls with disabilities can be read [here](#). General Comment N°4 on article 24 of the Convention on the right to inclusive education can be read [here](#).**

## UN WORK IN FOCUS

**26 September 2016 / [Human Rights - Critical to Ending the AIDS Epidemic](#)**: At a meeting to discuss human rights and the 2016 Political declaration on Ending AIDS, cosponsored by UNAIDS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, panelists underscored the urgent need to protect services for women, girls, people with disabilities, migrants and displaced people. They commended the Political Declaration's calls to integrate and promote key human rights programmes but also noted gaps and concerns, such as limited attention to the protection of key populations, including gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers and people who inject drugs. The Political Declaration provides a clear road map for ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 and panel members urged United Nations Member States to implement their commitments to human rights in the context of ending AIDS. They also underlined that not only should human rights be central to new global

efforts on AIDS, but that the Human Rights Council and other United Nations bodies must keep HIV consistently high on the human rights agenda. **Read more [here](#).**

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**22 September 2016 / [UNDG Human Rights Working Group Releases Joint Statement Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Right to Development](#):** On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Right to Development the UNDG Human Rights Working Group (UNDG-HRWG) released a statement affirming their commitment to “making the right to development a reality for all and to supporting Members States in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals”. The statement emphasizes the need for a coherent and integrated UN system-wide approach based on the principles of the Declaration and the commitment of the UNDG-HRWG to promote and encourage respect for “human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all – women, men, girls and boys – without discrimination.” The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, referenced the statement of the UNDG Human Rights Working Group at the 71st session of the General Assembly during the opening of the high

level segment to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development. **The Statement by the UNDG Human Rights Working Group on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Right to Development is available [here](#). Read more [here](#).**



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## **AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Course (14 – 18 November 2016) / [Indigenous and Tribal Peoples: Rights and Development](#) / International Labor Organization – Turin, Italy:** The course aims to strengthen international, national and local capacity to promote and apply indigenous peoples’ rights and to integrate indigenous peoples’ rights and perspectives into development frameworks. The course is designed for all those who are involved in the promotion, design or development of policies, strategies and projects that directly concern or affect indigenous peoples. The course is also open to (self-paying) staff of UN agencies that would like to deepen their knowledge on these issues. **Deadline for applications is 9 October 2016. Further information is available [here](#).**

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**Training Course / [Land, Property and Housing Rights in the Muslim World \(Arabic Edition\)](#) / UN Habitat and Global Land Tool Network (Contributed by, with thanks, Sarah Rattray):** This training course - developed by the GLTN Partners University of East London and UN-Habitat and

translated with the support of the Urban Training and Studies Institute - is part of GLTN's approach to increase access to land, housing and tenure security in the Muslim world. About 20 per cent of the world's population is influenced to varying degrees by Islamic principles and practices, either through official laws and systems or customary practices. This course illustrates how Islamic land law and Islamic principles provide useful entry points and opportunities for enhancing land and property rights, with special focus on the most vulnerable and women. **The training course is available for download [here](#). The English version is also available [here](#).**

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**Online Course (17 October – 20 November 2016) / [Working at the Nexus Between Human Rights and Conflict Transformation](#) / UNSSC:** The relationship between human rights and conflict has been characterized as twofold: conflict can lead to human rights violations, and the sustained denial of human rights can lead to violent conflict. It therefore follows that any effective and sustainable effort seeking to transform the current situation in many contexts in which the UN and its agencies work has to take both of these aspects into account. **Registration deadline is 18 October 2016. Further information is available [here](#).**

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**Online Course (2 November – 13 December 2016) / [International Human Rights Law \(Foundation Course\)](#) / Human Rights Education Associates:** This certificate course introduces participants to the basics of international human rights law. The course is intended to not only build the foundations of the participants in international human rights law, but also as a foundation course for other HREA e-learning courses and to serve as a stepping stone for developing expertise in specialised areas of human rights law and practice. **Further information is available [here](#).**

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**Online Course (14 November – 12 December 2016) / [Human Rights and Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development](#) / UNITAR, UNDP, UNEP:** In partnership with UNDP, UNEP and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, this course aims to empower policy makers, experts and advocates with the tools needed to develop and implement innovative public policies and laws for the protection of the environment and human rights, specifically targeting the relevant SDGs, thus contributing to their achievement. **Further information is available [here](#).**

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**Webinar (*various dates, beginning 13 October 2016*) / [RWSN Webinar Series](#) / Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN):** RWSN has announced another series of webinars (on-line seminars) in the weeks to come presented in English and Spanish. The topics include the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, Self-Supply, Sustainability of Services and the Technology Applicability Framework. The format includes 1-2 presentation from a presenter, comments from one or several discussants, and a Question & Answer session where all participants are invited to ask

questions or make comments. Register for the webinars in English [here](#) and Spanish [here](#).

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**Online Course (*course is available at any time*) / [Rights of the Child](#) / Human Rights Education Associates (HREA):** This rapid e-course gives an overview of the institutions and mechanisms that serve to fulfil the rights of children. You will explore particular themes that address how children's rights are being compromised, the efforts being made to stop the violations of children's rights, and how to do your part to help. **Learn more [here](#).**

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**Course ( 26 – 30 June 2017) / [Justice Sector Reform: Applying Human Rights-Based Approaches](#) / International Human Rights Network – National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland:** This annual IHRN training programme aims at enhancing the skills of justice sector personnel, consultants, managers etc., 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) as well as justice sector personnel wishing to adapt their expertise for international consultancy work. The course seeks to build capacity in, inter alia, the legal principles, policies & practice underpinning human rights based approaches to justice sector reform and human rights based needs assessment, programme design, implementation, monitoring & evaluation. **Further information is available [here](#).**

## RESOURCES

### WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

**[Jurisprudence Database](#) / OHCHR:** The jurisprudence database is intended to be a single source of the human rights recommendations and findings issued by many of the treaty bodies 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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**[Updates to UPR Info's Website – Now Available in Arabic](#) / UPR Info:** The UPR Info website is now accessible in Arabic, adding to their previous languages of English, French and Spanish. In addition, the statistics feature has been updated so it is compatible with smart phones. **Access UPR Info [here](#).**

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**[Online Launch of Graphic and Table on Disability-Inclusive Development](#) / Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):** ESCAP announced the online launch of a graphic and table which describes the linkages between the Incheon Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The two frameworks promote national leadership in meeting specific development goals, taking into account local capabilities and realities. Both the Incheon Strategy

and the 2030 Agenda are based on the respect for human rights, and take a people-centred and gender-sensitive approach to development. **Access the graphic and table [here](#).**

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**[DatNav: How to Navigate Digital Data for Human Rights Research](#) / Amnesty International, Benetech, and the Engine Room:** The guide looks at the use of data for researching a broad range of human rights issues, including economic, social and cultural rights. It also zooms in on the use of government statistics and budgetary data. In particular, it aims to: Boost traditional human rights documentation by explaining how to incorporate digital data; Explain the opportunities, limits, and risks of digital data; And, eliminate the fear of digital data and technology. This guide also addresses verification steps, privacy risks, ethical concerns, legally admissible evidence, fraudulent data, and responsible data considerations. With better tools, human rights defenders can be much more efficient and effective. **Learn more [here](#). DatNav downloaded directly [here](#).**

### **REPORTS, ARTICLES, BOOKS AND MORE**

**Publication / [National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up: A Practical Guide to Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms](#) / OHCHR:** This Practical Guide and the accompanying Study of State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms seek to identify key ingredients for a well-functioning and efficient national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, drawing on different State practices, while not proposing a one-size-fits-all solution. **The publication can be downloaded [here](#).**

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**Issue Brief / [The Human Rights-Based Approach to Social Protection](#) / UN Research Institute for Social Development:** This Issue Brief introduces readers to the human rights-based approach to social protection. It highlights the fundamental principles of this approach and directs readers to the key human rights instruments and other tools that are available to help policy makers and practitioners advocate for and operationalize a rights-based approach to social protection. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Video / [The Right to Development for everyone, everywhere](#) / OHCHR:** The United Nations is marking the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, this year, 2016. The Declaration stipulates that all human rights are universal, indivisible and that the human person is the central subject to development. **Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).**

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**Video / [Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights](#) / OHCHR:** The Regional Representative for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Pacific Dr Chitra Massey spoke with UNIC Canberra about human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. **Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).**

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**Article / [The Human Right to Sanitation](#) / University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law (Inga Winkler):** The article discusses the complexity of realizing the right to sanitation and related human rights combining the aspects of individual dignity and public health. It acknowledges that sanitation is largely a matter of individual responsibility, but argues that states have a significant role to play in creating an environment that enables individuals to practice



adequate sanitation as well as in ensuring public health. **The article is available [here](#).**

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**Working Paper / [The Universal Periodic Review: A Skewed Agenda?](#) / Center for Economic and Social Rights:** This working paper explores the impact of the UPR in advancing economic, social and cultural rights by reviewing recently completed research by the Center for Economic and Social Rights and the Sciences Po Law School Clinic. **The publication is available [here](#).**

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**Video / [Leave No One Behind](#) / Human GoodPlanet Foundation:** At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals is a commitment to leave no one behind. That's because, although progress has been made towards a better world, too many people have been left behind because of who they are or where they live. Using scenes from Yann Arthus-Bertrand's 'Human', this short film tells an emotional story around the world's most disadvantaged, giving voice to some of the most marginalised people and inspiring action for a better world. **Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).**

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**Article / [Big Data and Human Rights: 5 Frequently Asked Questions](#) / Business for Social Responsibility:** This article explores the impacts of big data which might include serious human rights concerns. Concerns over privacy and discrimination are the two main human rights issues emerging out of big data collection. Within these two issues, the rights of vulnerable groups are an especially important concern. The article also explores what companies can do to prevent unintended human rights consequences from their use of big data. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Publication / [Human Rights and Traditional Justice Systems in Africa](#) / OHCHR:** This publication examines traditional justice systems in sub-Saharan Africa from a human rights perspective and, in particular, with reference to the rights enumerated in international human rights treaties. These traditional justice systems have historically functioned as an alternative or as a complement to the formal State court system. They are typically based on customary practices, traditions and rules of communities that have, over time, been deemed to be customary law. There may be a significant number of traditional justice systems within a given country, as different communities often have their own customary law. Customary law may be oral or written, and decisions may or may not be recorded as jurisprudence. **This publication can be downloaded [here](#).**

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## HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

**HuriTALK Webinar / [Designing the Continental Free Trade Area \(CFTA\) agreement in Africa from a human rights perspective](#):** Africa's Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Agreement promises to enhance trade integration and economic benefits while being committed to equity, justice and fairness. Since 2015 the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), OHCHR and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva office have partnered together to conduct an ex-ante Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) of the CFTA agreement. A scoping study launched in May 2016 identifies three potential risks that may arise from potential CFTA provisions in relation to: agriculture, food security and livelihoods; decent jobs especially in manufacturing; and, insecurities for cross-border traders and temporary migrant workers. This webinar is being co-

organized by OHCHR and the UN Human Rights Policy network (HuriTALK). **You can register for the webinar [here](#)** (please note that after registering you will receive a confirmation email from “DOCO Webinar”). **If you have any questions or comments for the presenters you can send them to: [humanrights@undg.org](mailto:humanrights@undg.org).**

## VACANCIES

### [Human Rights Advisor, Asmara, Eritrea \(P-5\)](#)

UNDP Africa

Closing date: Friday, 7 October 2016

### [Children's Rights and Business Specialist, London, UK](#)

Unicef UK

Closing date, Friday, 7 October 2016

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

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Friday, 7 October 2016

### [Director, Environment and Human Rights Program](#)

Human Rights Watch

Closing date: Saturday, 8 October 2016

### [Human Rights Officer, New York \(P-3\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Monday, 10 October 2016

### [Associate Human Rights Officer, El Fasher, Sudan \(NO-B\)](#)

AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Closing date: Tuesday, 11 October 2016

### [Programme Assistant, Geneva \(G-5\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Wednesday, 19 October 2016

### [International Labour Standards and Labour Law Specialist, Yaounde, Cameroon \(P-4\)](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Closing date: Tuesday, 1 November 2016

### [Labour Law and Labour Standards Specialist, Cairo \(P-4\)](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Closing date: Tuesday, 1 November 2016

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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 October September 2016 ([humanrights-talk@undg.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undg.org)).**

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