

## **EXPERT MEETING ON THE IMPACT OF THE ESC RIGHTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION**

**4 JULY 2009, 9am-4pm**

**Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies,  
Salle Aubert, 20 Rue Rothschild, Geneva**

The purpose of this meeting is to reflect on the impact of the ESC rights Special Procedures on the development of international law and the implementation of ESC rights. We are inviting current and former mandate holders, and those who have worked closely with them, to discuss and analyse the impact that ESC rights mandate holders have had, and can have, on the law and practice of ESC rights. Together, we will analyse how the working methods and specific activities of the mandate holders contribute to the broader goal of improving implementation of ESC rights.

Mention is made below of particular case studies or examples which we wish to highlight as starting points for the discussions. Those with particular expertise in the issues mentioned may wish to reflect in advance on the contributions they could make to the discussions on these points. However, the aim of this meeting is for informal discussions to involve all participants and the broad range of case studies they bring to the discussion and on that basis each person will be welcome to share their experiences. The discussion points highlighted below are by no means intended to be exhaustive.

### **AGENDA**

**9:00 am – 9.15 am**      **Arrival, welcome coffee**

**9.15 am - 9:30 am**      **Introduction to the Programme: Felix Kirchmeier (FES)  
Chairing of the Discussions: Claire Mahon (ADH)**

**9:30 am -11:00 am**      **Session 1: The impact of the SPs in the *promotion* of ESC rights**

*Discussion about how the Special Procedures impact the promotion of ESC rights through their annual thematic reports and contributions to drafting new human rights instruments.*

*Introduction by Christophe Golay (ADH) – the example of the Right to Food Guidelines*

*Discussion points could include:*

Right to Housing – Studies on women and the right to adequate housing, Basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement;

Right to Food – The voluntary guidelines on the right to food, Large-scale and acquisitions and leases: A set of core principles and measures to address the human rights challenge;

Right to Health – Human rights guidelines for pharmaceutical companies in relation to access to medicines;

Right to Water and Sanitation – The challenge of identifying best practices related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

Right to Education – Defining the right to education of girls, persons with disabilities, prisoners and in situations of emergency;

Human Rights and Extreme Poverty – Draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights;

Foreign Debt and Human Rights – Draft general guidelines on foreign debt and human rights.

**11:00 am -11:30 am    Coffee**

**11:30 am - 1:00 pm    Session 2: The impact of the SPs at *national level implementation***

*Discussion about how the Special Procedures impact the protection of ESC rights through country missions.*

*Introduction by Miloon Kothari (former SR on the right to housing)*

*Discussion points could include:*

Shaping national legislation and policies during country missions – including the missions on the right to food in Guatemala, Brazil, Bolivia and India;

Particularly significant missions in developing countries – missions of other mandate-holders;

Missions in developed countries – including missions on the right to education in Germany, the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom, on the right to housing in Canada, Spain and Australia, and on human rights and extreme poverty in Portugal and the USA;

Addressing extra-territorial obligations through country missions – including the mission on the right to health in Sweden and Uganda;

Joint country missions – including the mission of the Special Rapporteur on the right to housing and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health in Lebanon;

How to identify the right partners in the country and ensure a follow-up?

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm    Lunch**

**2:00 pm - 3:30 pm    Session 3: The impact of the SPs in the *protection* of ESC rights**

*Discussion about how the Special Procedures impact the protection of ESC rights through urgent appeals or letters of concern, media work and engagement with international organizations.*

*Introduction by Mara Bustelo (OHCHR) – Overview of current practice*

*Discussion points could include:*

The value of individual communications to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur (including joint communications);

Experiences in using the media to increase protection;

Communications to transnational corporations;

Missions to International Organizations (WTO, IMF and World Bank) – including missions on the right to health and the right to food.

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm    Concluding Session: Lessons Learned**

**Chaired by Claire Mahon (ADH) and Felix Kirchmeier (FES)**

Lunch and coffee will be provided free of charge.