

**Expert Seminar  
ESCR and Sustainable Development –  
Strengthening the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize  
ESCR**

**9 June 2018 – 10.00 to 13.00  
Villa Moynier, 120B Rue de Lausanne, Geneva**

*“Realization of any development goals should be seen as an important step on the longer, and continuous, road towards the full and effective realization of all human rights for all” (Chairpersons of the UN treaty bodies)<sup>1</sup>*

Unlike the MDGs, many of the SDGs can be reframed in terms of ESCR, and the 2030 Agenda makes very clear links to international human rights law, envisaging “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination”. In terms of follow-up and review processes, it states that these will be “participatory and rights-based”, and will “benefit from the active support of the UN system”.

This expert seminar builds on previous workshops organized by FES Geneva and the Geneva Academy, such as a joint expert seminar on ‘Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals and Economic and Fiscal Policies’ put together in 2016. The seminar invites UN special procedures mandate holders, treaty body members and OHCHR staff to discuss the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR. The expert seminar will also provide an opportunity to discuss the contributions of UN human rights mechanisms to the 2018 and 2019 meetings of the High-level Political Forum, and links that can be made with the March 2017 initiative on human rights and the 2030 Agenda at the Human Rights Council.

The seminar will further discuss recommendations made by the Geneva Academy in its Academy Briefing No.11 [No One Will Be Left Behind. The Role of United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals that Seek to Realize Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), and in its short [Research Brief on ESCR and the SDGs](#). The publications present the links between human rights and development, lessons learned from the MDG period, and commitments made in relation to the SDGs and ESCR in the 2030 Agenda. They further put emphasis on the collaboration of UN human rights mechanisms with follow-up and review mechanisms created by the 2030 Agenda, and on the inclusion of the monitoring of the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR in their own work. The publications draw attention to the need to fully integrate human rights into the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, while also providing a set of concrete recommendations for states, UN human rights mechanisms, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the HLPF as to how this might be done.

The aim of this expert seminar is to contribute to the realization of ESCR and the implementation of the SDGs, by strengthening the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR. It is argued that by including the SDGs more systematically in their work, UN human rights mechanisms can fill part of the accountability gap of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint statement of the Chairpersons of the UN human rights treaty bodies on the Post-2015 development agenda, May 2013.

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10:00 – 10:15	<p><b>Welcome by the organizers</b></p> <p><i>Christophe Golay, Geneva Academy</i> <i>Hubert René Schillinger, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Geneva Office</i></p>
10:15-11.30	<p><b>Session 1 - The Role Played by UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies in Monitoring the SDGs that Seek to Realize ESCR (2015-2017)</b></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Hannah Peters, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Geneva Office</i> <i>Introduction: Christophe Golay, Geneva Academy; Nahla Haidar, CEDAW</i></p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to share experiences and discuss lessons learned from the role played by UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies in monitoring those SDGs that seek to realize ESCR between 2015 and 2017.</p>
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 2 - The Role to be Played by UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies in Monitoring the SDGs that Seek to Realize ESCR</b></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Christophe Golay, Geneva Academy</i> <i>Introduction: Mikiko Otani, CRC; Leilani Farha, SP on the right to adequate housing</i></p> <p>This session will provide the opportunity for mandate holders to share experiences and ideas on their future role in monitoring those SDGs that seek to realize ESCR.</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Closing lunch (served at the venue)

**Contact details of the organizers:**

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