



Human Rights Council

SOCIAL FORUM
2 - 3 November 2023
Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**“THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI) TO
THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-
PANDEMIC RECOVERY”**

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 2 November 2023

10h00-10h30 Opening Remarks

- H.E. Mr. Ali Bahreini, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Social Forum
- H.E. Ms. Maira Mariela Macdonal Alvarez, Vice President of the Human Rights Council
- Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

10h30-10h40 Video Message

- Mr. Neil de Grasse Tyson, Astrophysicist, Author and Science Communicator

10h40-11h30 Keynote Panel

- Mr. Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Republic of Cuba
- Mr. Rouhollah Dehghani Firouzabadi, Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy
- Ms. Lidia Arthur Brito, Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki, Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights
- Ms. Anita Gurusurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change
- Ms. Elizabeth Nyamawnge, Young Inventor of *Etana* Blockchain Technology

11h30-13h00 General Discussion

13h00-15h00 LUNCH BREAK / Side Events

15h00-15h45 Roundtable on the Triple Planetary Crisis: The Contribution of STI and Science-Based Decision-Making to the Rights of Present and Future Generations

Moderator: Mr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Member, Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

- Mr. Marcos Orellana, Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, *The Right to Science, the Triple Planetary Crisis, Justice and Equity, Democracy and Development*
- Ms. Racheal Nestor, Young Environmental Rights Defender, *Transformative Change Through STI in an Era of Climate Change and the Triple Planetary Crisis: Defending the Rights of Present and Future Generations with a Special Focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*
- Ms. Neth Dano, Co-Executive Director, Coordinator and Asia Director, ETC Group, *Biodiversity and the Science Policy Interface, The Importance of Scientific Freedom Including for Social Sciences, Anticipating the Risks of Science as an Element of the Right to Science, and the Right to Science-Based Decisions*
- Ms. Lena Yanina Estrada Añokazi, Indigenous Peoples Representative in Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), and Director, Ecocentro Añokazi, *Citizen Science, Indigenous Science and Knowledge Systems*
- Mr. Peter Bille Larsen, Senior Lecturer, Université de Genève, *The Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and Its Applications: Recommendations from the 2022 Geneva Dialogue on the Right to Science*

15h45-16h30 Interactive Dialogue

16h30-17h15 The Contribution of STI to the Promotion of Human Rights in the Context of the Post-Pandemic Recovery

Moderator: Mr. Mihir Kanade, Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

- Mr. Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO), *Post-Pandemic Recovery, The Future of Global Public Health, STI and Human Rights*
- Mr. Xigen Wang, Dean, Law School, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China, *Challenges and Limitations in the Transfer of STI, International Cooperation, Global Partnerships and Capacity-Building for Sustainable Development and Resilience with a Focus on Vulnerable Countries and Peoples*
- Ms. Nicoletta Dentico - Geneva Global Health Hub and Head, Global Health Programme of the Society for International Development, *Building a Pandemics Instrument for Transformative Change*
- Mr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, *Health Systems and Economies, Intellectual Property Regimes and Other Challenges to Manufacturing and Distribution of Vaccines and Other Medical Products, and South-South Cooperation in Fighting COVID-19 and Sharing the Benefits of STI*
- Mr. Marumo Nkomo, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the World Trade Organization (WTO), *The Case for a TRIPS (Trade*

Related Intellectual Property Rights) Waiver in the Response to COVID-19 and Post-Pandemic Recovery

17h15-18h00 Interactive Dialogue

18h00-19h00 Reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva – *Outside Room XX, Balcony of the Third Floor, Palais des Nations*

Friday, 3 November:

10h00-10h10 Video Message (Continued)

- Mr. Neil de Grasse Tyson, Astrophysicist, Author and Science Communicator

10h10-10h50 Opportunities from Science, Knowledge, Education and Culture: Contribution of STI to Advance All Human Rights for All through Participation in Science

Moderator: Mr. Konstantinos Tararas, Programme Specialist, Inclusion, Rights and Intercultural Dialogue Section, UNESCO

- Ms. Farida Shaheed, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, *Academic and Scientific Freedom*
- Ms. Elsie Effah Kaufman, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Dean, School of Engineering Sciences, University of Ghana, *Harnessing the Power of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education for Transformative Change in Particular for Women and Girls and with a Focus on Africa and Other Developing Regions*
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Magidi, President, Strategic Research Institute, Tehran, and Secretary-General, Asian Parliamentary Assembly, *The Use of New Technologies in Continuous Education*
- Ms. Sofie Maddens, Acting Head of the Digital Knowledge Hub Department, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), *Information and Communication Technology and Access to Information*
- Mr. Paul Olivier de Haye, Co-founder of PersonalData.IO, *Citizen Science, Open Science and Open Innovation; the Right to Participate in Science; the Right to Seek, Receive and Impart Information*

10h50-11h30 Interactive Dialogue

11h30-12h15 Roundtable: Challenges and Risks from New and Emerging Technologies - STI and Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Democracy and Development

Moderator: Mr. Scott Campbell, Senior Human Rights Officer, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures, and Right to Development Division, OHCHR

- Mr. Fabien Lefrancois, Policy and Partnership Specialist, Global Fund Partnership and Health Systems Team, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *The*

Role of Multilaterals in Digital Transformation, Digital Public Goods, and the Future of Democracy and Development

- Mr. Augustine Marrah, Co-Executive Director Freedom Hub, Sierra Leone, *Civic Space and the Protection and Promotion of Rights and Freedoms Online and Offline (Including Against Gender-Based Violence / Online Public Sphere)*
- Ms. Manuela D'Avila, Journalist, *Privacy, Hate Speech and the Role of Media Including Social Media, Misinformation/Disinformation, Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, Elections and Electoral Democracy*
- Ms. Milica Momčilović, President, World Federation of Science Journalists, *Science, Journalism and the Media*
- Mr. Roberto Bissio, Executive Director, Third World Institute and Coordinator, International Secretariat, Social Watch, *Digital Technologies and Data Protection, Corporate Capture of the Scientific Agenda, Regulatory Governance Frameworks for Scientific Research and Emerging Technologies*
- Ms. Klentiana Mahmutaj, Member, Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, *Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights with a Focus on the Right to Development*

12h15-13h00 Interactive Dialogue

13h00-15h00 LUNCH BREAK/Side Events

15h00-15h45 The Contribution of STI in Promoting Equality and Non-Discrimination

Moderator: Dr. Maria Mercedes Rossi, Main Representative, *Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII* / Association Community Pope John 23 (APG23)

- Ms. Elham Mansoori, Activist for Human Rights and Education, *Robotics, Gender Equality, Empowerment and All Human Rights for All Women and Girls*
- Ms. Elena Pont, Researcher on gender and disability, Université de Genève, and Handi-Feminist Studies Network, and Ms. Minerva Rivas, Centre Médical Universitaire, Genève, *Persons with Disabilities and Assistive Technologies*
- Ms. Jane Nalunga, Executive Director, Southern and Eastern Africa Trade and Information Negotiations (SEATINI), Uganda, *STI, Trade, Investment and Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries, especially in Africa*
- Ms. Uma Rani, Senior Development Economist, ILO, *The 4th Industrial Revolution, The Right to Work, Gender and the Gig Economy*
- Ms. Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures and the Enjoyment of all Human Rights, *Sanctions and Unilateral Coercive Measures: Obstacles to Access to STI*

15h45-16h30 Interactive Dialogue

16h30-17h45 'Dreaming and Enabling' for Present and Future Generations - International Solidarity and Cooperation, Partnership and Capacity-Building: Youth Empowerment Initiative for Sustainable Development Guided by Youth-Led Start-Ups

Interactive Partnership-Building Session - Facilitated by Mr. Shivam Pandya,

Environmental Technologist and Product Manager at Evercomm Singapore Pte Ltd.
and Ms. Maya Kumar, Co-founder of HerMind.org, an organization that educates,

mentors and empowers disadvantaged young female students, with the participation of youth worldwide.

Speakers will include Mr. Ted Chiu Hao Chen, CEO, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Innovation Centre and Evercomm Singapore Pte Ltd; Ms. Ivy Wu, Co-founder and CMO, Formfty Singapore; Mr. Tze Hean, Co-founder of Budding Minds, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting youth development in academic areas with free 1-to-1 tutoring for students of less fortunate backgrounds; Ms. Elizabeth Nyamawnge, Young IT Developer, researcher, and gender-equality activist, and inventor of *Etana* blockchain technology; Ms. Racheal Nestor, Young Environmental Rights Defender; and Mr. Sricharan Balasubramanian, Co-founder of Comm.UnitySG, a ground-up youth initiative to serve the homeless and displaced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

17h45-18h00 Closing Remarks

- Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
- H.E. Mr. Ali Bahreini, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Social Forum