

Panellists

The interrelationship between the right to development and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights



Mr. Olivier DE SCHUTTER (Belgium) is a professor of Law at University of Louvain and at SciencesPo Paris and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. He has taught human rights, inter alia, at Columbia University and Yale University. Mr. De Shutter is a former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food and former member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Mr. De Shutter has also worked on the protection of fundamental rights in the European Union, as coordinator of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights. (



Mr. Surya P. SUBEDI (UK/Nepal) is a professor of International Law at the University of Leeds and a member of the Institut de Droit International. He is a visiting faculty member at the University of Oxford, while also teaching multiple other human rights law programmes. He is a former United Nations Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia and has served as an advisor on human rights to the British Foreign Secretary between 2010 and 2015. Mr. Subedi was appointed legal procedural advisor to the World Conversation Congress of the International Union for Conversation of Nature in 2021.



Mr. Mihir KANADE (India) is a professor of International Law at the University of Peace. He is also the Academic Coordinator of UPEACE, the Head of its Department of International Law, and the Director of the UPEACE Human Rights Centre. He serves on the International Advisory Board of the International Bar Association on the topic of Business and Human Rights. He also co-leads an e-learning project in partnership with the OHCHR and UNU-IIGH on operationalizing the Right to Development in Implementation of the SDGs.



Mr. Vicente YU (Philippines) is a Senior Legal Adviser at the Third World Network, a Visiting Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, an Associate Fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy, an Adviser at Rationale Advisers LLC, a Fellow at Parabukas, a Knowledge Expert at Veritas Global, and a Founding Partner of the Clean Energy Innovations Partnership. Previously, he served as the Deputy Executive Director of the South Centre in Geneva and coordinated the Centre's work on inter alia financing for development, South-South cooperation, and sustainable development.

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Ms. Isabelle DURANT (Belgium) is the Chairperson of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development. Until 2022 she was Acting Secretary General of UNCTAD in Geneva and has started her career with the UN as a consultant for the UN Development Programme. Prior to that she was Vice-President of the European Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Senator. Her commitment and network on development issues has been built up and is also reflected in her participation in various organizations, think tanks, international organizations and universities active in this field.



Mr. Surya DEVA is a professor at the Macquarie Law School and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development. He served as a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights between 2016 and 2022. Mr. Deva has taught previously at City University of Hong Kong, University of Delhi and the National Law Institute University Bhopal. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal and the Director of the Centre for Environmental Law at Macquarie University.



Mr. Michael WINDFUHR is the Deputy Director of the German Institute for Human Rights and a member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He has previously acted as Human Rights Director of the Protestant Development Organisation in Germany and co-founded the Organisation FoodFirst Information and Action Network, for which he also served as the United Nations Representative. He has a background in political science and was a lecturer at the University of Heidelberg.



Mr. Xigen WANG (China) is a Professor and Dean of the Law School of Huazhong University of Science and Technology and the Director of the National Human Rights Education and Training Base. He has published and worked on the right to development for over 30 years, also in the context of the United Nations, having contributed to the work of the Human Rights Council, the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development. On the national level, he has presided over the composition of the White Paper on the right to Development in China.

The contribution of the right to development towards combating discrimination including racial discrimination

Ms. Barbara G REYNOLDS (Guyana) is the Vice-President for Administration, Advancement and Planning at the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago and currently the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. She was Head of Education for Save the Children UK, after having spent the previous two decades with UNICEF in programme, management and representational roles at Headquarters and country offices. She has an educational background in Education and Teaching as well as International Human Rights Law.



Mr. Bonny IBAWOH (Nigeria) is an independent expert of the UN Human Rights Council on the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development. He is a Professor and the Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights at McMaster University, Canada. He also serves as the Vice-Provost of International Affairs at McMaster University. He is the founding Director of the McMaster Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice. With over 30 years of experience as a human rights educator, policymaker, and practitioner, he has taught in Universities in Africa, Europe, the United States and Canada.



Mr. Michael BALCERZAK (Poland) is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Security at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, as well as an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Szczecin, Poland. Since 2022, he has been serving as Member and Vice-Chairperson at the s Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Earlier in his career he has served as an ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights and was a member of the UN Working Group on People of African Descent.