

Expert meeting on enhancing capacity-building for local governments to incorporate human rights into all their work

28 August 2023 | 10:00-12:00 and 15:00-17:00 CET | Hybrid session



Concept note

Venue: Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online platform (Zoom)
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)

Objective: As requested by the Human Rights Council resolution **51/12**, this one-day expert meeting will bring together key stakeholders to discuss enhancing capacity-building for local governments to incorporate human rights into all their work. The objective of the meeting is to share promising practices and identify the needs and opportunities for complementarity and collaboration at national, regional and international levels on strengthening the capacities of local governments to comply with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights at the local level and to increase their engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. The meeting provides a platform for experts from States and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the United Nations human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, academics and civil society representatives to reflect on challenges, experiences and achievements in this regard.

Outcome: The expected outcomes of the expert meeting are:

- (1) Local governments and other stakeholders exchange views and share good practices to enhance their abilities in promoting human rights at the local level and engage more effectively with United Nations human rights mechanisms.
- (2) The needs regarding guidance tools and opportunities to enhance capacity-building in this area will be identified.
- (3) A report reflecting the discussions held and priorities for further follow-up action will be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its 56th session.

Format: The meeting will include an opening session, two interactive panel discussions, and a brief closing session. Initial presentations by the panelists will be followed by interventions by the participants and concluding remarks from the panelists. A maximum of one hour will be reserved for interventions from the floor, consisting of interventions from States, representatives of local and regional governments, national human rights institutions, academics, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Speaking time for participants wishing to take the floor will be two minutes.

Background: In October 2022, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 51/12 on local government and human rights. The resolution recognized the important role of local governments in promoting and protecting human rights. It also noted that local governments may face a variety of challenges in fulfilling their role as the duty bearers for realizing human rights at the local level, including lack of awareness, limited resources and inadequate institutional structures within the local or regional administration. The resolution highlighted that the promotion of a human rights culture within public services play a vital role in ensuring the implementation of human rights and stressed the importance of human rights education and training for public servants at the local level.

Background documents: OHCHR's reports on local government and human rights ([A/HRC/51/10](#), [A/HRC/42/22](#), and [A/HRC/38/22](#))
Progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights ([A/HRC/27/59](#))
Final report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights ([A/HRC/30/49](#))
Human Rights Council resolutions on local government and human rights: [24/2](#) of 26 September 2013, [27/4](#) of 25 September 2014, [33/8](#) of 29 September 2016 and [39/7](#) of 27 September 2018; [45/7](#) of 6 October 2020 and [51/12](#) of 6 October 2022.

28 August 2023

10:00 – 10:20 Opening session

10:20 – 12:00 Session 1: Human rights cities – Enhancing capacity-building for local and regional governments

This session seeks to reflect on promising practices and challenges, facilitate peer learning and identify what measures are needed at national, regional and international levels to enhance the capacities of local and regional governments to realize human rights at the local level.

15:00 – 16:45 Session 2: Strengthening the capacity of local and regional governments to engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms

The objective of this session is to share practical experiences and identify challenges and needs of local and regional governments to increase their engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including reporting to and implementation of recommendations from the Treaty Bodies, Universal Periodic Review and Special Procedures.

16:45 – 17:00 Closing session