

The right to development and economic, social and cultural rights: Reinforcing the Nexus

13 May 2024, 1:15-2:15pm

Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Bios of Panellist

Ms. Wan-Hea LEE (Moderator) currently serves, since January 2022, as Chief of the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section of the Human Rights Treaties Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). She has supported the human rights treaty monitoring bodies of experts in various capacities over the past 25 years, on and off, including as Secretary of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Her experience includes serving as Coordinator of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, as well as Coordinator of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar. She served in various OHCHR field presences, including as the OHCHR Representative in Cambodia, Deputy Director of the Human Rights Section of the Integrated UN Office in Burundi, Acting Regional Representative of OHCHR in Asia-Pacific, and Human Rights Adviser in Mongolia. Ms. Lee holds a Bachelors in development economics from Georgetown University (Washington, DC) and a Masters in international economics from Yonsei University (Seoul), complimented by coursework on public international law, politics, history and international relations in Geneva and Bogotá.

Mr Todd HOWLAND is the Chief of the Development, Economic, Social Issues Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Prior to that he served as the OHCHR representative in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola and worked in the first OHCHR field office in Rwanda after the genocide. Mr Howland has published extensively in the area of human rights and held the position of director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights in Washington, D.C. He also has previous experience with El Rescate, the European Commission and the Carter Center.

H.E. Mrs. Priyanka CHAUHAN is an Indian career diplomat, who joined the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office in Geneva as the Deputy Permanent Representative in July 2022. She has earlier served as India's Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau SARs, as deputy Chief of Staff to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in London, and in the Embassy of India in Madrid. In headquarters, she has served in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, including as Head of Finance, and in Divisions handling India's bilateral relations with US, Canada, Nepal and Bhutan. She has a graduate degree in architecture from CEPT Ahmedabad, and a postgraduate degree in defence and strategic studies from DSSC Wellington. Before joining Government service, she briefly wrote for India's leading national daily, The Times of India.

H.E. Ms. Lubna Qassim Mohamed Yousuf ALBASTAKI was appointed as the UAE's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN and International Organisations in Geneva on 29 August 2019. Ms. Qassim was appointed by a Presidential Decree on October 2018 as Minister Plenipotentiary of First Degree. Pursuant to this appointment, she joined the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation and served as Senior Legal Counsel to the UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation after a span of 20 years of successful career in law, Trade, Economy, Finance, cross-border acquisitions and International Dispute Resolutions across Europe, US, Asia and

the Middle East. She speaks six languages fluently and is recognized by a number of International Organisations for her leadership, diplomacy and legal intellect. She is a recipient of a number of international and regional awards, including IFRC who chose her, in 2018, as the best General Counsel of the Middle East in 2018. She was also recognized in the same year as one of the top 50 female leaders in the Arab World.

Ms Ana María SUÁREZ FRANCO is the permanent representative of FIAN International at the UN in Geneva. She holds a PhD in international law from the University of Mannheim and is a founding member of the Ibero-American Colloquium of the Max Plank Institute for Comparative Constitutional Law and Public International Law. Ms Suárez Franco has been part of advisory and review committees of legal publications related to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Women's Rights by the FAO and the OHCHR and regularly teaches at Universities in Germany, Switzerland and Latin American Universities.

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 as an associate professor and at the 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.