



“Local governments for human rights”

Tuesday 22 July 2025

10:00 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 18:00 CEST

Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Programme of work (draft 14 July)

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome and opening remarks

- **Mr. Volker Türk**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Mr. Jan Van Zanen**, Mayor of The Hague and President of United Cities and Local Governments
- **H.E. Mr. Seong Deok Yun**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Master of ceremony: **Ms. Emilia Sáiz**, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

10:30 – 13:00 Thematic dialogue

Format: For each segment, local governments and experts will deliver brief introductory remarks relating to the topic of the dialogue. The floor will then be open for an interactive discussion.

10:30 – 11:30 Dialogue 1: Human Rights Cities: applying the Guidance Framework

The OHCHR-UCLG Guidance Framework for Creating a Human Rights City will be presented in this session. This dialogue will explore how cities can embed a human rights-based approach into local governance by applying the OHCHR-UCLG Guidance Framework. Participants will also discuss the development of human rights city indicators and evaluation. Local governments will share their good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the realization of human rights locally.

- **Mr. Jan Van Zanen**, Mayor of the Hague and President of UCLG
- **Ms. Rohey Malick Lowe**, Mayor of Banjul

- **Ms. Maria Eugenia Gay i Rosell**, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona City Council, Sixth Vice President and Delegate Councillor for International Relations and the 2030 Agenda of the Barcelona Provincial Council

Moderator: **Ms. Emilia Sáiz**, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00 Dialogue 1: Human Rights Cities: applying the Guidance Framework (continued)

- **Mr. Raúl Emilio Jatón**, Human Rights Secretary of Santa Fe
- **Ms. Pascale Labbé**, Vice President of the Departmental Council of Seine-Saint-Denis
- **Mr. Yongsu Park**, Director, Office of Democracy, Human Rights and Peace

Moderator: **Ms. Emilia Sáiz**, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch break**

15:00 – 16:30 **Thematic dialogue**

Dialogue 2: Realization of economic, social and cultural rights through local public services

This session will focus on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights at the local level, such as the rights to adequate housing, health, education, water and sanitation, taking into consideration the essential role of local governments in delivering these public services. Participants will discuss the creation of human rights-based, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and age-sensitive support and care systems. Cities will present their solutions, shortcomings, and discuss strategies to advance the implementation of these rights locally.

- **Mr. Olivier De Schutter**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
- **Ms. Mélanie Lepoultier**, Deputy Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe, and Mayor of Sommervieu
- **Mr. Philippe Rio**, Mayor of Grigny

Moderator: **Mr. Dimiter Chalev**, Chief, Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

16:30 – 17:45 Thematic dialogue

Dialogue 3: Human rights budgeting and procurement

This session will focus on how local governments can fulfill their human rights obligations by integrating human rights norms and principles into local budgeting and procurement processes. Cities will discuss how public procurement can safeguard and enhance human rights by promoting just and favorable conditions of work, environmental sustainability, and inclusive economic development. The discussion will also explore how to ensure that local budgets reflect human rights obligations and principles in relation to revenues, allocations and expenditures, as well as how to ensure access to information and meaningful participation in budgetary and procurement processes at the local level.

- **Ms. Sherri Rollins**, City Councillor and Chair of the Human Rights Committee, City of Winnipeg
- **Mr. Hans Sakkers**, Head of International Strategy Programme, City of Utrecht
- **Ms. Shams Asadi**, Human Rights Commissioner, City of Vienna
- **Mr. David Llistar**, Director of Global Justice and International Cooperation Services, Barcelona City

Moderator: **Mr. Chafik Ben Rouin**, Economist / Human Rights Officer, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

17:45 – 18:00 **Closing remarks**

- **Ms. Emilia Sáiz**, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments
- **Mr. Pradeep Wagle**, Chief, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights