

## **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Sixty-fourth session

24 September – 12 October 2018

Item (3) of the agenda

### **DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION**

9 October 2018, Palais des Nations, room XVI

#### **Bios of discussants**

##### **Panel 1**

**Konstantinos Tararas** is Programme Specialist in the Sector for Social and Human Sciences at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He has contributed to a diverse range of activities, including human rights mainstreaming in UNESCO programming, cities and human rights, human mobility and the rights of migrants, etc.. He has also coordinated and contributed to a number of UNESCO publications and participated on behalf of UNESCO in relevant UN inter-agency platforms.

**Jessica Wyndham** is Director of the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She also serves as coordinator of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, a network of scientific, engineering, and health associations that recognize the role of science and technology in human rights. She has managed projects throughout Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Americas, including as Legal Adviser for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Ecuador, and as a consultant to the Asia Pacific Forum in Australia. For the past ten years she has worked with the Coalition and sociologist Margaret Weigers Vitullo to bring the perspectives of scientists and engineers to the process of defining the right to science, including the publication of two leading reports on the topic. Her work has been published in various journals including the European Journal of Human Rights, Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics, Mechanical Engineering, and Science. A human rights lawyer by training, Jessica holds a BA (Hons.)/LLB (Hons.) (J.D. equivalent) from the Australian National University and an LLM from the University of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia).

**Lissa Bettzieche**, LL.M., is a lawyer, specialized in international human rights law, and works as a researcher and policy adviser with the German Institute for Human Rights. Since 2013 she has been working for the Institute in the fields of children's rights and development cooperation, business and human rights and the development of Germany's National Action Plan, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Currently, she works in a project on the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), supporting the deputy director of the Institute, Michael Windfuhr, in his capacity as a member of the CESCR. Before working with the Institute, Lissa has worked for the World Bank, the pro bono law firm Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and spent parts of her legal clerkship with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in a project at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Right in Tanzania."

**Brian Gran** is a sociologist and lawyer whose research, teaching, and service revolve around law, human rights, and social policy. Under contract with Polity Press is *Sociology of Children's Rights*. Gran has recently enjoyed invitations to publish with *The Annual Review of Law and Social Science* and the *American Behavioral Scientist*, as well as to give lectures to Seoul National University, Sungkyunkwan University, and COST Action IS1409. With Mark Frezzo, he is writing *The Human Right to Science*. Gran co-directs the International Survey of Human Rights. He is a reviewer for the Boren Scholarship Program, the Fulbright Commission, and the U.S. National Science Foundation. Gran is a member of the 2019 Program Committee of the American Sociological Association (ASA). He edits *Societies Without Borders*. Gran is Chair of the ASA Human Rights Section. Gran has been invited to serve on the inaugural advisory board of the Sociology Action Network. He was a British Academy Visiting Fellow and a Fulbright Scholar to Iceland. Gran is one of fourteen members of the U.S. National Conference of Lawyers and Scientists.

## Panel 2

**Mylène Bidault**, PhD, is Vice-President of the Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights, a non-governmental organization based in Switzerland, which binds observation, research, analysis and advocacy. She contributed to the writing and dissemination of the Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights (2007), a civil society document that clarifies, brings together and unfolds the cultural rights expressed in international instruments and places them as an integral part of universal, indivisible and interdependent human rights. As Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, she assisted the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and from 2009 to 2016, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. She published the book “The international protection of cultural rights” (Bruylant, 2009, in French) and a number of articles on the issue of cultural rights.

**Helle Porsdam** is Professor of Law and Humanities and UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Law, University of Copenhagen. She did her PhD in American Studies at Yale University and has held fellowships at, among other institutions, the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, the Harvard Law School, and the University of Cambridge. Together with Lucky Belder she edited *Negotiating Cultural Rights: Issues at Stake, Challenges and Recommendations* for Edward Elgar in 2015. Her monograph, *The Transforming Power of Cultural Rights: A Promising Law and Humanities Approach*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2019.

**Prachi Bhawe** completed her Bachelor of Technology and Master of Technology in Metallurgical Engineering and Material Science from India. Post education, she worked for a multinational technical company, Vodafone for 3 years where she worked in functions such as Technology Planning, Technology Security and Networks. Her expertise lies in Data Analytics and Visualization, Macros & Pivots and Dashboarding. She is fluent in English, Hindi and has a good command of French. She has been part of various mentorship programs while in University as well as her previous company. Currently, Ms. Bhawe is based in Geneva and working with RightsTech Women as Research Officer. She is responsible for performing desk research to understand current demographics, statistics on women education and labor force participation.

**Rebekah Thomas** is Technical Officer for Human Rights in the Gender, Equity and Human Rights Team at the World Health Organization. She has a Degree in Law and French and Masters in International Human Rights Law. She has been working in the fields of international migration, HIV and health policy and programming for over a decade to promote the practical application of human rights and gender responsive programming. She has held positions at the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS at both Headquarters and regional level, where she was Human Rights and Gender Advisor for the regional office in Panamá, before taking up a position at WHO to support human rights mainstreaming in 2014. Rebekah is a member of the WHO *Guideline Review Committee*, the *WHO Ethics Consultation Service*, and the *WHO Bulletin Editorial Board*. She is also Associate Editor at the *BMC International Health and Human Rights journal*.

### Panel 3

**Yvonne Donders** is Professor of International Human Rights and Head of the Department of International and European Law at the University of Amsterdam. She holds a PhD from the Law Faculty of Maastricht University on cultural human rights and the right to cultural identity. Her research and teaching focus on public international law; international human rights law, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and human rights and cultural diversity. Prior to this post, Yvonne Donders worked as a Programme Specialist on human rights at the Secretariat of UNESCO in Paris. Yvonne Donders is a regular consultant for UNESCO and for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is currently Chair of the Steering Committee of the Netherlands Network of Human Rights Research (NNHRR), Member of the Advisory Board of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Member of the Human Rights Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AIV), Member of the Editorial Board and Executive Editor of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights (NQHR), Member of the Board of the Royal Netherlands Society of International Law (KNVIR) and Chair of the Advisory Board of the “Shelter City” project for human rights defenders. Her publications can be found at: <http://www.uva.nl/profiel/d/o/y.m.donders/y.m.donders.html>

**Andrea Boggio** is a Professor of Legal Studies at Bryant University (USA) and a Board Member of the Associazione Luca Coscioni. His latest book is *Human Germline Genome Modification and the Right to Science: A Comparative Study of National Laws and Policies*, which he has co-edited with Jessica Almqvist, and Cesare P.R. Romano. His writings on human rights appear in *The International Journal of Human Rights, Health and Human Rights*, and *The American Journal of Bioethics*. He earned a doctoral degree from Stanford University and completed his post-doc training at the University of Geneva. He has consulted with governments (Canada, Italy), international organizations (OECD, WHO) and many nongovernmental entities. He is a member of the New York bar.

**Dr. Viviana Muñoz Tellez** is the Coordinator of the Development, Innovation and Intellectual Property Programme (DIIP) of the South Centre. Previously to joining the South Centre in 2006, she conducted research at the Queen Mary Research Institute, University of London on non-governmental public action on intellectual property governance. She has also worked in the private sector at Siemens S.A. and as consultant for various international agencies. Her research areas include economics of biomedical innovation, intellectual property, public health and development policy. She holds a Doctorate degree on management of technology from the École Polytechnique of Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, and a Master's degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics (LSE).

#### **Panel 4**

An internationally recognized expert on the intersection of intellectual property and human rights law, **Professor Lea Shaver's** scholarship informs the concept of “the right to science and culture” recently embraced at the United Nations. Her scholarly work has also explored the problem of patent warfare and social justice perspectives on copyright law. She is currently writing a book exploring solutions to the profound shortage of mother-tongue reading material affecting more than one billion children worldwide. *How Social Publishing Can End BOOK HUNGER* will be published by Yale University Press in 2019. Professor Shaver holds a J.D. From Yale Law School and an M.A. from the University of Chicago. She was a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa, and a post-doctoral fellow at Yale Law School before joining the Indiana University McKinney School of Law faculty in 2012.

**Gonzalo Remiro** is Science Advisor of the Spanish Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities. Before we worked during eleven years as Project Manager at Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) in science dissemination and public policy initiatives. Between other projects, he has been in charge of scientific culture projects like Science Week, Famelab and studies like Public Understanding of Science National Survey. He earned his MSc in Agricultural Engineering at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and a Master in Science Communication at Universidad Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona.

**Icheong YI** is Senior Research Coordinator of Social Policy and Development Programme / Social Dimensions of Sustainable Development Programme at UNRISD. He joined UNRISD in October, 2008. Born in the Republic of Korea, he was trained as both political scientist (B.A. and M.A. from the Dept. of Political Science, Seoul National University, Korea) and social policy analyst (D.Phil from Oxford University, UK). He specialized in the issues of poverty, social policy, labour policy and historical analysis of the economic and social development process. His recent research is about New Technology and Human Rights and the Contribution of Social and Solidarity Economy to achieving the SDGs. Prior to this, he was Associate Professor of Kyushu University, Japan (2004-2008), Korean Foundation Visiting Professor, Dept. of East Asian Studies of Malaya University, Malaysia (2003-2004) and Visiting Research Fellow of the Stein Rokkan Centre, Bergen University, Norway (2002-2003). He also acted as external collaborator and consultant for various field research and project development of international and national organizations such as UNRISD, ILO, JBIC and KOICA.