



**UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law
Second Session, 22-23 November 2018**

Side Event:

***Changing role of parliaments in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law
in a challenging political landscape***

23 November 2018, 13:00-15:00
Room 27, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Description:

Parliaments of EU Member States, as well as the European Parliament, have been playing a crucial role in promoting and defending human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Countries such as Poland, Italy, Switzerland were leading the way, with parliamentary missions to Ukraine, Kazakhstan or Moldova. MPs and MEPs have been able to facilitate the release of political prisoners or prevent their arrests in the first place. They have managed to impose effective preventive mechanisms for nondemocratic regimes violating human rights and civil liberties. Have these possibilities changed? How is the rise of populism in Europe affecting the work of parliamentarians?

Panelists:

- **Marcin Świącicki MP** (Poland, PO)
- **Roberto Rampi MP** (Italy, PD)
- **Claude Béglé MP** (Switzerland, PDC)
- **Gaini Yerimbetova**, mother of politically prosecuted Iskander Yerimbetov and Bota Jardemalie
- **Antonio Stango**, President of the Italian Federation for Human Rights
- **Ana Ursachi**, Moldovan lawyer and human rights defender, victim of political persecution for her professional activity
- **Domnica Manole**, Moldovan judge of the Appellate Chamber of Chisinau, prosecuted for political reasons due to her independent stances and decisions as a judge

Moderator: **Lyudmyla Kozlovska**, President of the Open Dialogue Foundation