**Call for inputs from the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**

The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Voule, wishes to seek your inputs to inform his first thematic report to the UN General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

Having recently reported 38th session of the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/38/34](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session38/Pages/ListReports.aspx)), the Special Rapporteur identified the following global trends with regard to the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association: (a) the use of legislation to suppress the legitimate exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; (b) the criminalization of, and indiscriminate and excessive use of force to counter or repress, peaceful protest; (c) the repression of social movements; (d) the stigmatization of, and attacks against, civil society actors; (e) restrictions targeting particular groups; (f) limitations on rights during electoral periods; (g) the negative impact of rising populism and extremism; and (h) obstructions encountered in the digital space.

As mentioned in the mentioned report, the Special Rapporteur will seek to develop the interrelationship between the exercise of the rights of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and the enjoyment of all human rights including the role the exercise of these rights have in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is unequivocally anchored in human rights and has at its heart the commitment to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first.

In the 2030 Agenda, all Member States reaffirmed “the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.”(2030 Agenda, para 19)

Moving beyond the MDGs, Member States included goals that are related to issues of civil and political rights, including fundamental freedoms (Goal 16), as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Target 16.10 focuses in particular on fundamental freedoms, which include the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. These rights are also important for the full realization of all the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG.

Member States have also committed to leave no one behind and reduce inequalities as a pathway towards sustainable development. It aims to address the multidimensional causes of poverty, inequality and discrimination, and reduce the vulnerabilities of the most marginalized people, including women, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, minorities, indigenous peoples, stateless persons and populations affected by conflict and natural disasters.

The **seventh UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019)** will address the theme, **'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'** and will focus on: SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which is reviewed each year.

In this regard, the [UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/AssemblyAssociation/Pages/SRFreedomAssemblyAssociationIndex.aspx), Clément Voule, has decided to focus his next thematic report to the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly **(UNGA 73)** on **how the realization of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

In the elaboration of such report the Special Rapporteur welcomes inputs from Member States, civil society actors, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholders.

Considering that the appointment of the Special Rapporteur took effect on 4 April 2018, the Special Rapporteur is compelled to operate within tight time frames for the first reports this year. In this regard the Special Rapporteur appreciate receiving responses to the questionnaire below as well as other inputs related to the theme of the report to freesasembly@ohchr.org by **13 July 2018**. Kindly indicate in the subject of your email “Submission to GA73 report”.

* How would the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
* How might restrictions to the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association affect the implementation of Agenda 2030? Which particular goals?
* How is the respect, protection and promotion of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association taken into account the implementation of Goal 16?
* How do the SDGs indicators contribute to measure the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association? Indicate the goal and target as well as the indicator.
* How are governments empowering people and promoting civil society participation in the process of the implementation of Agenda 2030? What has been role of the UN system in promoting civil society engagement in the implementation process at the national, regional and global level?
* SDG Target 17.7 encourages the establishment of public, public-private and civil society partnerships as part of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. What is the effect that these partnerships have had on the exercise of the rights of freedom of peaceful assembly and of association?

Please substantiate your responses with concrete examples that the Special Rapporteur can showcase in his report.