

**Expert Workshop on Developing Guiding Principles for Human Rights Impact Assessments
of Economic Reform Policies
9 November 2017**

Offices of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Palais Wilson, Room 1.016

Concept note

In March 2017 the HRC requested the Independent Expert on debt and human rights Mr. Bohoslavsky to propose Guiding Principles on Human Rights Impact Assessments for Economic Reform Programmes (Res. 34/3) through consultations with states, IFIs and other stakeholders, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/IEDebt/Pages/DebtAndImpactAssessments.aspx>. In December 2017 the Independent Expert will submit a thematic report to be presented during the 37th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2018. It will include a mapping of existing human rights and other relevant impact assessment tools, and propose a framework for the further development of the Guiding Principles (GPs).

The expert workshop on 9 November 2017 convenes experts from the human rights and development fields to discuss topics that can inform the drafting process. A background paper drawing on the submissions received in response to the call for contributions will be circulated two weeks in advance of the meeting, alongside a proposal for assessment of human rights impact developed by the Center for Economic and Social Rights.

An agenda sets out main themes for discussion. Participants are also invited to reflect on the following questions - and contribute through discussions at the workshop:

- **Building on Lessons Learned:** what lessons can be learned from past attempts to assess and/or address the social and human rights impacts of adjustment programmes? Are there other tools or examples to consider?
- **Enhancing or complementing HRIA analysis:** an HRIA should be driven by an assessment of impacts in particular on groups at risk - what are complementary analysis or other tools or frameworks to assess vulnerability, poverty and inequality gaps that can act as baselines and inform ad hoc HRIA analysis and can add value to policy responses that promote and protect human rights and social justice. Should specific tools be developed to inform the impact assessment and policy advocacy (finance sector, labour market, social protection, resource mobilisation and fiscal space etc) ?.
- **Adapting to different circumstances:** 'One size does not fit all' ... can and should GP and assessment tools differentiate between countries at different development stages and characteristics.
- **Timing:** how can GP contribute to mitigate adverse HR impacts of financial measures in response to external shocks - how can HRIA be administered in a timely manner, in the wake of shocks, how can meaningful stakeholder consultations take place - can and should the human rights community conduct surveys, convey qualitative information and stories, or rely on existing mapping of disadvantaged groups or groups at risk?
- **Practical and Political Economy Considerations:** Who gets the GPs on the agenda, and who should carry out the analysis? Should the State undertake the HRIA, or how may it commission national human rights bodies, or collaborate with the resident UN system? How to build political support so that the assessment is taken into account by relevant actors?

- **Leveraging broader discussions:** How may the GPs and tools be nested with the scope and reporting for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how they can draw on and contribute to the formulation of relevant human rights indicators?
- **Finding other entry points to build human rights into other frameworks:** Should the human rights community be focusing on strengthening interaction with other development actors and monetary, financial actors to contribute more meaningfully to these debates on economic and budgetary policies?

10 Oct 2017

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Introduction and Stage Setting	
Chair: Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky	
09:30 - 09:45	<p>Welcome <i>Natacha Foucard, Chief Sustainable Development Section, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR</i> <i>Tour de table</i></p>
09:45 - 10:10	<p>The Need to Enhance the Human Rights Compliance of Economic Policy Responses To Financial Crises <i>Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The request of the Human Rights Council • Lessons learned from the mandate to date • Vision and justification for the Guiding Principles <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
10:10 - 10:25	<p>Human rights obligations of States and International Financial Institutions in the context of financial crises: the view from the CESCR <i>Presenter: Olivier De Schutter, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)</i></p>
Morning break	
Lessons Learned from Past Experiences	
10:45- 11:15	<p>Framing the Discussion and Presenting an Overview of the Background Paper <i>Presenters: Margaret Wachenfeld & Eva Jespersen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing the discussion & questions for finalizing the Guiding Principles • Gaps - what tools or approaches are currently missing? • What are the challenges? <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
11:15- 12:15	<p>Lessons Learned on Policy Responses to Financial Crises -- Enhancing a Human Rights Analysis of Economic Reforms Going Forward <i>Presenter: Isabel Ortiz (ILO)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of lessons learned from a human rights/human development perspective on responding to financial crises • How could these be used to enhance a human rights analysis and response on the future? <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
12:15 - 13:15	<p>Lessons Learned on Frameworks & Tools from Other Areas -- Enhancing a Human Rights Analysis of Economic Reforms Going Forward <i>Presenters: Rolph van der Hoeven (International Institute of Social Studies)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of frameworks & tools from used or built on to review economic policies • How could these be used to enhance a human rights analysis and response on the future? <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
Lunch	
What Is Needed to Develop and Implement a Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) Approach to Fiscal Consolidation & Reform Policies?	
14:15-	<p>A Proposal from the Center for Economic and Social Rights</p>

15:15	<p><i>Presenter: Nicholas Lusiani - (Center for Economic and Social Rights)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CESR's proposal for an HRIA <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
15:15-16:15	<p>Developing Important Dimensions of an HRIA Approach</p> <p><i>Presenters/discussants Radhika Balakrishnan (Rutgers University), Eva Jespersen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who to consult? Ensuring meaningful participation, including from the most vulnerable • What additional types of analysis is needed? • What data can be used to inform the analysis? Using disaggregated indicators for SDGs and human rights for HRIA <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
Afternoon break	
Key Issues for the Guiding Principles	
16:30-17:15	<p>Wrap-up: Gaps & Challenges on Turning Principles into Actions</p> <p><i>Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political economy considerations – who should conduct the HRIA? Options for ensuring uptake? <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>

**Expert Workshop on Developing Guiding Principles for Human Rights Impact Assessments of
Economic Reform Policies - 9 November 2017
List of Participants**

Name	Institution
Alexander E. Kentikelenis	Trinity College, University of Oxford
Alison Graham	OHCHR, Development and Economic Social Issues Branch
Aiofe Nolan (tbc)	University of Nottingham - participation via teleconferencing
Christopher Lane	International Monetary Fund, Special Representative of the IMF to the United Nations
Daniel Bertossa	Public Services International
Emma Burgiesser	Bretton Woods Project
Eva Jespersen	Expert
Evelyn Astor	International Trade Union Confederation
Frédérique Bourque	OHCHR, Sustainable Human Development Section, SPB
Grazielle David	Institute for Socio-economic Studies (INESC), Brazil
Gunnar Theissen	OHCHR, Sustainable Human Development Section, SPB
Isabel Ortiz	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky	Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights
Katja Hujo	UNRISD
Margaret Wachenfeld	Consultant for the IE mandate
Margot Salomon	London School of Economics
Mark Perera	EURODAD – European Network on Debt and Development
Matthias Goldman	Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public and International Law, Heidelberg and Goethe University Frankfurt a. M.
Natacha Foucard	OHCHR, Chief, Sustainable Human Development Section, Special Procedures Branch
Nicholas Lusiani	Center for Economic and Social Rights
Nela Porobić Isaković	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Olivier De Schutter	Member of the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), University of Leuven
Piergiuseppe Fortunato	UNCTAD
Radhika Balakrishnan	Rutgers University, Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Rio Hada	OHCHR – Coordinator Economic Social Rights Issues, Development and Economic Social Issues Branch
Rolph van der Hoeven	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
Ruth Martin	United Kingdom Equality and Human Rights Commission
Susan Mathews	OHCHR – Right to Development Section