##

Human Rights Council

**Social Forum**

**11 – 12 October 2021**

**Room XVII, *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland**

**“GOOD PRACTICES, SUCCESS STORIES, LESSONS LEARNED AND
CHALLENGES IN** **THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC,
WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY, AND FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE”**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Monday, 11 October 2021**

**10h00-10h30 Opening remarks**

* H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Social Forum
* H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, President of the Human Rights Council
* Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**10h30-11h30 Keynote panel:**

* Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Senior Adviser, Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia, Visiting Fellow, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University
*The Sustainable Development Goals and the fight against COVID-19*
* Dr. Maria Guevara, International Medical Secretary, *Médecins Sans Frontières*
*Challenges from the frontlines in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic*
* Dr. Ala Alwan,Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness for and Response to Health Emergencies
*Challenges and lessons learned in pandemic preparedness and response*
* Mr. Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity *Human Rights and International Solidarity in fighting COVID-19*
* Ms. Nafesha Richardson, Climate Activist and Founder of SPARK SVG
*COVID-19, climate justice and the rights of future generations*

**11h30-13h00** **General discussion**

**13h00-15h00 LUNCH BREAK / Side events**

**15h00-15h05 Live performance on the theme of “International cooperation and solidarity”**,playedby the UN Music Club in Geneva (Mr. Damianos Serefidis, violin, and
Mr. Michael Wiener, piano/composition, OHCHR staff members)

**15h05-15h50 COVID-19 and Civil and Political Rights**

Moderator: Mr. Hérnan Vales, Human Rights and Democracy Advisor, OHCHR

* Ms. Faith Kasina, Coordinator for Kayole Social Justice Center
*The right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression*
* Ms. Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans*,* Executive Director, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law *COVID-19, civic space and fundamental freedoms*
* Ms. Barbara Bernath, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture *The rights of persons deprived of liberty and COVID-19*
* Ms. Kasari Govender, Human Rights Commissioner of British Columbia
*Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination and Vaccine Passports*

**15h50-16h30 Interactive dialogue**

**16h30-17h20 COVID-19 and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Moderator: Mr. Melik Özden, Director, Centre Europe-Tiers Monde (CETIM)

* Ms. Angela Frigo, Secretary General of the European Food Banks Federation
*The right to food in times of COVID-19*
* Ms. Soledad García Muñoz, Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
*Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights*
* Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Chief Executive Officer, UN hosted Sanitation and Water for All Partnership
*Imagine COVID-19 in a world with water and sanitation for all*
* Mr. Obi Aginam, Adjunct Research Professor of Law, Carleton University, Canada
*Intellectual Property Rights and Access to COVID-19 Vaccines*

**17h20-18h00 Interactive dialogue**

**18h00-20h00 Side Events**

**Tuesday, 12 October:**

**10h00-10h45 COVID-19 and Groups in Focus**

Moderator: Ms. Fadzi Whande, Senior Diversity and Inclusion Adviser, OHCHR

* Ms. Bimala Rai Paudyal, Member, National Assembly, Federal Parliament of Nepal
*Gender equality, women’s rights and empowerment – The Experience of Nepal*
* Ms. Mikiko Otani,Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
*Rights of the Child*
* **Ms. Silvia Perel-Levin, Main representative to the UN Geneva of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and Chair of the Geneva NGO Committee on Ageing
*The rights of older persons***
* **Mr. Jarrod Clyne, Human Rights Advisor at International Disability Alliance
*Persons with disabilities and COVID-19***
* Ms. Dominique Day, Chairperson, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
*Disrupting systemic racism, discrimination and xenophobia*

**10h50-11h30 Interactive dialogue**

**11h30-11h35 Music video on the rights of persons belonging to minorities**, performed by former OHCHR Minority Fellows

**11h35-12h20 COVID-19, the Right to Development and Solidarity Rights**

Moderator: Dr. Maria Mercedes Rossi, Representative to the United Nations, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII

* Dr. Saif Albadr, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Iraq
*Health awareness on COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region: Iraq as an example*
* Dr. Armando De Negri, Member, Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
*The Right to Development in the fight against COVID-19*
* Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, Ambassador of the UN University for Peace
*The Right to Peace*
* Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad
*COVID -19, Climate Change and the Right to a Healthy Environment*

**12h20-13h00 Interactive dialogue**

**13h00-15h00 LUNCH BREAK/Side events**

**15h00-15h45 Overcoming global challenges towards recovering better**

Moderator: Ms. Srruthi Lekha Raaja Elango, Co-Director, Polity Link and Representative to the UN, Women’s Federation for World Peace International

* Ms. Attiya Waris, UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights
*Foreign debt as an obstacle to recovering better*
* Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa, Managing Director for The Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries
*Transfer of technologies and building capacities in the most vulnerable countries*
* Ms. Susanna Moorehead, Chair of OECD Development Assistance Committee
*Good practices in stepping up Official Development Assistance*
* Mr. Adel Abdellatif, Director a.i., United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

*South-South cooperation in fighting COVID-19*

**15h45-16h30 Interactive dialogue**

**16h30-17h45 Lessons learned from the fight against COVID-19: Sustainable and resilient recovery, preparedness and prevention of future pandemics [Round-table]**

Moderator: Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

* Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
* Mr. Achal Prabhala, Coordinator, Access IBSA project
* Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance, civil society representative to the COVAX Facility Advance Market Commitment Engagement Group
* Ms. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace

**17h45-18h00 Closing remarks**

* H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Social Forum

**17h45-18h00 Side Events**