**Human Rights Council, 28th session**

**High-level panel discussion of the Human Rights Council**

**on human rights mainstreaming**

**“Enhancement of international cooperation
in the field of human rights”**

*Tuesday, 3 March 2015, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva*

(Concept note as of 2 March 2015)

**Background:**

The multiple and complex challenges faced by today’s world call for global solutions through including the enhancement of international cooperation and by setting up different but inclusive and practical mechanisms. The enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, on its part, can lead to the normative development necessary to address emerging challenges in different social, economic and cultural fields of daily life. Innovative mechanisms have to be strengthened for the promotion and protection of human rights and, in that context, attention should be drawn to the growing potential of South-South cooperation along with North-South cooperation.

To that end, there is a need for a stronger consensus on such issues as access to food, adequate housing, health, sanitation, water, land and all other relevant human rights which can be generally categorized under the heading of the right to development.

International cooperation is also a cornerstone of the Human Rights Council and its founding principles. The establishment of the universal periodic review (UPR) has also ingrained place of international cooperation in the work of the Council. Moreover, respecting cultural diversity, tolerance and mutual understanding are key elements in enhancing international cooperation and provide necessary grounds to address obstacles countries might encounter towards the promotion and protection of human rights, which in turn help good relations among States.

Despite longstanding efforts, progress has been slow and obstacles to realizing the right to development still persist. The challenges are becoming more complex and it is now more than ever necessary to make the right to development a reality for all. The United Nations system organizations, including in the areas of finance and trade, must be involved and all relevant bodies should be engaged in mainstreaming the right to development into their objectives, policies and programmes. The right to development must be given the high profile it deserves.

It is also necessary for greater coherence and synergy to mitigate the negative impacts resulting from international challenges on human rights, in particular those entailing structural adjustments and conditionality. To realize this objective, developing a global partnership for development as the primary goal of MDGs should be strengthened to operationalize the right to development, while the latter needs to be crucially upheld in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations.

Therefore, it is necessary to include a strong development agenda at the national level and an international framework and cooperation that would promote development with adequate policy space. Creating adequate policy space and building a development-friendly global economic environment would require systemic reforms at the international level, for which the post-2015 development agenda discourse would be well suited. And as clearly highlighted in Human Rights Council resolution 27/2, the right to development should be central to the post-2015 development agenda.

In the proposed high-level panel discussion, States and all other relevant actors can participate and share their views, experiences and good practices with a view to strengthening international cooperation in the field of human rights with particular attention to the following subject-matters: post-2015 development agenda and the right to development, developing a global partnership for development in the field of human rights, promotion of dialogue and respect for cultural diversity, protection of the human rights of women in light of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, enhancement of international cooperation in the field of universal periodic review and capacity building.

**Objectives:**

* Preparing a space for further dialogue to clarify and discuss the legal definition of international cooperation in the field of human rights and to share experiences and good practices;
* Reinforcing international cooperation in the field of human rights in such relevant fields as right to development, UPR, capacity building and etc.;
* Identifying the areas and the role of key actors in international cooperation, including the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in the field of human rights.

**Programme:**

**Chair**: **H.E. Mr. Joachim Ruecker**, President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Opening remarks**: **Ms.** **Flavia Pansieri**, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Keynote speaker**: **H.E. Mr. Abbas Bagherpour Ardekani**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**Panellists and the theme for their presentation**:

1. **Mr. Martin Khor** of Malaysia, Executive Director of the South Centre, on “realizing the right to development through enhancement of international cooperation”
2. **H.E. Mr. Juan Somavía** of Chile, Former Director-General of International Labour Organization and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation, on “post-2015 development agenda and the centrality of the right to development”
3. **Ms. Kristin Hetle** of Norway, Director of the Strategic Partnerships Division, UN Women, on “enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, with due attention to the role of women, taking into account Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action”
4. **H.E. Mr. Alexey Borodavkin**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, on “promotion of dialogue, respect for cultural diversity and different civilizations in the field of human rights”
5. **Mr. Juan Carlos Monedero Fernández-Gala** of Spain, Professor of political science in the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, on “enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights in order to fill the developmental gap between developed and developing countries”.

**Outcome:**

The high-level panel discussion is an appropriate platform for participants to have an interactive dialogue with the panellists and it will also provide suggestions on developing an effective, inclusive and comprehensive agenda on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights.

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