

‘The Role of Statistical Information in Realizing Human Rights’

A side event organized on the occasion of the launch of the OHCHR publication
Human Rights Indicators - A Guide to Measurement and Implementation

Friday, 15 March 2013

1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Room XXIII, Palais des Nations

Opening Statement by High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay

Mr. Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon

President of the United Nations Habitat Global Network on Safer Cities,
Head of Government of the Federal District of the United Mexican
States from December 2006 to December 2012

Ms. Maria-Virginia B. Gomes

Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
Senior Social Policy Adviser in the Ministry for Solidarity and Social
Security, Portugal

Ms. Loretta Ann P. Rosales

Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Mr. Jan Robert Suesser

Senior Official Statistician, Member of the Board of the Ligue des droits
de l'Homme, Senior Advisor to the International Cooperation Agency of
the Ministry of Finance, France

Mr. Rajeev Malhotra

Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Development and Finance,
Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, India

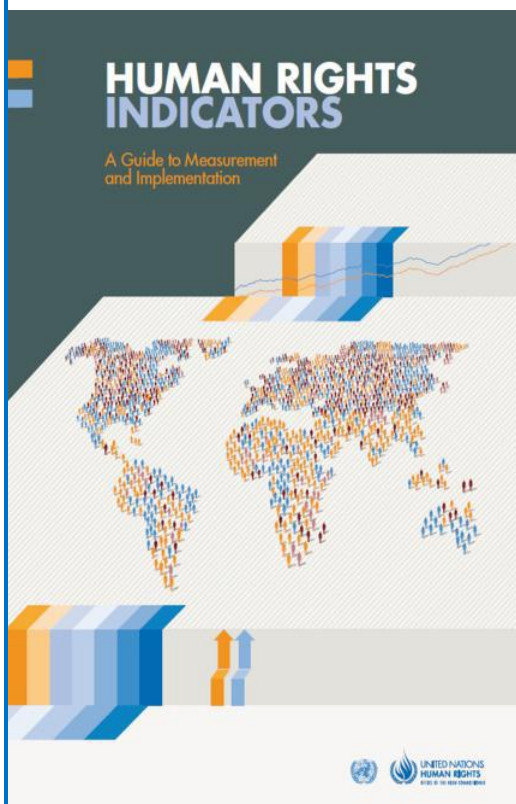
Moderated by Mr. Craig Mokhiber

Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch (OHCHR)

“We should never forget that behind every piece of statistical data are human beings who were born free and equal in dignity and rights. We must strive to make their human rights stories, especially those of the powerless, visible through robust indicators and to use them in constantly improving our human rights policies and implementation systems to bring positive change to people’s lives.”
-- Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights

Further information available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx>,
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(see back for more information)



Human rights challenges in recent years have compelled us to constantly review existing legal, analytical and methodological frameworks. Central to this review is the need for robust measurement frameworks to realize freedom from fear and want, overcome discrimination of all kinds, encourage participation in development and in the fair distribution of its benefits, strengthen accountability, and empower people, especially the most vulnerable and the most marginalized. Statistical information plays a key role in informing public policy and assessing progress in the translation of human rights commitments into reality. This means that dialogue between human rights experts and practitioners, statisticians and policy-makers is critical to the promotion of human well-being.

In response to growing requests from States and human rights mechanisms on using indicators in promoting and assessing the realization of human rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has published '*Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation.*' The development of this publication benefited from the guidance by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and a series of workshops and consultations that OHCHR organized between 2005 and 2012 at country and regional levels. This process involved a wide range of organizations, including government agencies, national human rights institutions, statistical offices, civil society organizations and UN agencies. The Guide outlines a structured and consistent approach to facilitate a dialogue among these stakeholders by translating universal human rights standards into indicators that are contextually relevant at country level. The adopted methodology will assist States and other relevant stakeholders in building national capacities for human rights implementation. It is neither designed nor suitable for ranking the overall human rights performance of States.

The panel discussion on '*The Role of Statistical Information in Realizing Human Rights*' is intended to formally launch the Guide and will permit the exchange of views between human rights actors, including policy-makers, national human rights institutions, civil society, statistical agencies and UN entities regarding the development and use of statistical information to measure the realization of human rights. The panel will also discuss the use of statistical information in the formulation and implementation of human rights-sensitive policies and programs.

A limited number of printed copies of the Guide will be made available at the event.

