

Intersessional workshop on the implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery

Wednesday 31 May 2023, 10:00 – 13:00 CET & 15:00 – 18:00 CET

Palais des Nations, Room XIX, Geneva, and remote participation via Zoom

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELLISTS

Session - I

Challenges and good practices in ensuring the right to participate in public affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic

Ms. Nicole Ameline, Member and Former Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Nicole Ameline is a member and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She is also Chairperson of the CEDAW Working Group on the drafting of a general recommendation on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making. Since 2022, she has been President of the International Institute for Human Rights and Peace. She is a former representative of the French government to the International Labour Organization and a former ambassador for social and gender issues in international relations. She has also held several important national posts, including Minister for Decentralisation in 1995, Secretary of State for Maritime Affairs in 2022 and Minister for Parity and Professional Equality from 2002 to 2004. She was a member of the French Parliament from 1991 to 2017. She was also Vice-President of the Regional Council of Lower Normandy. Nicole Ameline was a member of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (INDH) from 2008 to 2016.

Ms. Milene Molina Arancibia, Lesbian Activist and President of Luanda, a civil society organization

Milene Molina Arancibia is a lesbian activist and president of Luanda, a civil society organization of women of African descent from the Chilean Tribal People of African Descent, based in Arica. Previously, from 2016 to 2021, she was a public officer in charge of the Afro-descendant Office of the Municipality of Arica, where she managed the development of programs for the Chilean tribal people of African descent and migrants of African descent in the Arica region. Until 2022, she was also a registered lobbyist for the Chilean tribal people of African descent and participated in dialogues with senators and ministers to promote the need for a law recognizing tribal people. She is co-author of the book "From Ancestral Women to the Present: Black Women of Arica and their Resistances".

Ms. Lysa John, Secretary-General, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Lysa John is the Secretary-General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and lives in South Africa. She has championed human rights and international mobilization for two decades. She began her career working with grassroots organizations fighting to end urban poverty in India, and subsequently spearheaded trans-national campaigns calling for government accountability. Prior to joining CIVICUS, she worked as Head of Outreach for the UN High-Level Panel that drafted the blueprint for the Sustainable Development Goals, and as Global Campaigns Director for Save the Children. These roles have shaped a deep interest in and understanding of grassroots-to-global activism that continues to drive and inform her work.

Mr. Martin Lundstedt, Researcher in Political Science at V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Martin Lundstedt is a researcher in political science at the V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg. His research focuses on the causes of democratization and autocratization, as well as the social effects of democracies and autocracies. He is one of the authors of V-Dem's last two Democracy Reports and has published research in journals such as Electoral Studies and Democratization.

Ms. Vasilka Sancin, Professor of International Law at the University of Ljubljana, member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and former member and Vice-Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee

Vasilka Sancin (PhD) is a full (tenured) Professor of International Law, Head of the Department of International Law and Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (Slovenia). She is a member of the Advisory Committee to the UN Human Rights Council (2022-2025) and previously served as a member (2019-2022) and Vice-Chairperson of the UN Human Rights Committee. She is, inter alia, an *ad hoc* judge at the European Court of Human Rights; a Bureau member of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); an expert of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism on Human Rights; and the President of the Slovenian Branch of the International Law Association.

Session - II

The role of participation in securing public health, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery: experiences and good practices

Dr. Rachel Mary Hammonds, Human Rights Lead, Department of Gender Equality, Human Rights and Health Equity, World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr. Rachel Hammonds is the Human Rights Lead at the Department of Gender Equality, Human Rights and Health Equity at World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. She is an internationally recognised global health specialist and human rights advocate whose research focuses on the intersection of development policy, health and

human rights. A widely published academic and licensed attorney, Dr Hammonds has consulting and research experience spanning five continents, most recently with rural communities in Kenya. In recognition of her research and professional contributions, Dr Hammonds has been named among 300 Women Leaders in Global Health by the Graduate Institute in Geneva. She was also included in the Canadian Woman in Global Health List by the Canadian Society for International Health.

Ms. Jessica Irene Isacha Jimpikit, Health Leader of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador

Jessica Irene Isacha Jimpikit, is the national health leader of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), the largest indigenous rights organization in Ecuador. She belongs to the Shuar nationality. She is a defender of the land and the jungle and a leader of the nationality.

Ms Nanoot Mathurapote, Head of Global Collaboration Unit at the National Health Commission Office, Thailand

Nanoot Mathurapote has been working at the National Health Commission Office (NHCO) of Thailand since 2008. As the Head of Global Collaboration Unit, she is responsible for establishing and expanding collaboration with international partners to promote public participation in the policy process and the Health in All Policies approach from Thailand's experience through the process of health assembly, health impact assessment and health charter to the global community. She is also an executive board member of the Global Network for Health in All Policies. She co-authored a book chapter on Thailand's National Health Assembly – a means to Health in All Policies in Progressing the Sustainable Development Goals through Health in All Policies: Case studies from around the world (2017) and co-authored the publication Triangle that Moves the Mountain: Nine Years of Thailand's National Health Assembly (2017).

Ms. Svetlana Rusu, Head of the Department of Public Policies and Legislation, Office of the People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova

Svetlana Rusu is the Head of the Department of Public Policies and Legislation at the Office of the People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova. She is responsible for coordinating the process of ensuring the compliance of public policies and normative acts in force, as well as for drafting public policies and normative acts that are related to human rights and freedoms. She has more than 20 years of experience in the National Institution for the Protection of Human Rights, where she has worked in various fields, such as monitoring and investigating individual cases of human rights violations and as an adviser of the Ombudsman. She completed the International Advanced Course on Human Rights Protection at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw, Poland. She holds two bachelor's degrees, one from the University of European Studies in Moldova in Constitutional and Administrative Law and the other from the Faculty of Pedagogy of the A. Russo State University in Moldova.

Ms. Carmen Ryan, Coordinator, Public Advocacy Strategies, Huesped Foundation, Argentina

Carmen Ryan is a lawyer who graduated from the University of Buenos Aires (2012), with postgraduate studies in public policy (Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO)). She is currently coordinating the public advocacy strategies at Fundación Huésped. For the last 15 years, she has worked as a lawyer in different human rights projects in civil society organizations, international organizations, and public institutions. She completed her Master studies in Human Rights and Democratization in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2021 with a fellowship in the program of the International Center for Studies Political (CIEP) of the National University of San Martín (UNSAM), funded by the Global Campus Network.

Session – III

The way forward: building trust through institutionalised participatory spaces and an enabling environment for improved response to the pandemic and future health crises

Dr. Maria Chiara Campisi, Health Law Program Coordinator, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Maria Chiara Campisi is the Programme Coordinator of the Health Law Programme at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), where she coordinates, among other things, IDLO's works on public health emergency preparedness. Maria Chiara is an Italian lawyer specialized in public international law and international human rights law. She holds a PhD in Law from the European University Institute (EUI), as well as an LL.M. from the same institution. In IDLO, Maria Chiara works at the intersection of the rule of law, public health, and human rights. Maria Chiara has worked with international and regional institutions, NGOs and academia in Africa and South Asia to strengthen the civic space to enable the participation of civil society and marginalized groups in policy making and to contribute to the realization of the right to health.

Mr. Emmanuel Ganse, Civic and Digital Rights Campaigner & President of Tonafa Institute, Young Leader of the 2022 Cohort of Young Leaders for the SDGs

Emmanuel Ganse is one of the 17 young leaders recognized by the UN for their significant efforts towards sustainable development for the period of 2022 and 2024. He is currently serving as the Communications Manager for the Association of Bloggers in Benin and a digital communications consultant. He is the founder and president of the Tonafa Institute, an organization that aims to train young people in non-violence, dialogue culture, and conflict mediation techniques in Benin. Emmanuel Ganse also develops civic tech projects that address community issues related to participation of youth and women. Emmanuel Ganse is dedicated to promoting the inclusion of young people, especially girls, in the digital world. In 2023, he participated as a panellist in the ECOSOC Youth Forum's Session on "Accelerating the COVID-19 Recovery and Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda with and for Youth", held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Dr. Margaret Lubaale, Executive Director, Health NGOs' Network (HENNET)

Dr. Margaret Lubaale is the Executive Director of the Health NGOs Network (HENNET), a network of over 100 local and international non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and research institutions working in Kenya. Prior to this, she held a number of senior positions in civil society organisations such as Plan International, Pathfinder International, Child Fund International and Winrock International. Dr Lubaale is an experienced practitioner in participatory development, having been trained by WHO and Institute of Development Studies. Over the course of 25 years, she has provided strategic leadership and direction to programmes focusing on child protection, children and adolescents living with HIV, vulnerable girls and young women, HIV, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, education, and household economic empowerment. She has co-authored two publications, "Saving our Soil-A Guide to Fundraising for Environment Programmes" and a Training Guide on HIV Service Provision for Key Populations.

Dr. Dheepa Rajan, Health System Expert, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr. Dheepa Rajan is a health system expert with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, a sub-office of WHO Europe. Previously, she worked for 16 years in the Health Systems Division at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. Her areas of expertise are social participation, governance, health system performance, and primary health care. She is currently leading the development of a WHO global report on primary health care (PHC), with a particular focus on the PHC pillar of community empowerment and engagement. She received her MD from the University of Göttingen Medical School in Germany and did her PhD on traditional medicine in India. She also holds a master's degree in health economics and policy.
