



**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

**PROGRAMME**

**10:00 – 10:25**

**High-level opening**

**Speakers:**

*H.E. Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights*

*H.E. Mr. Václav Bálek, President of the Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva*

*H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization*

*H.E. Ms. Mpho Michelle Mogobe, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland (co-sponsor)*

**10:30 – 12:15**

**Session - I: “Challenges and good practices in ensuring the right to participate in public affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic”**

**Moderator:**

*Mr. Simon Walker, Officer-in-Charge, Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch, OHCHR*

**Panellists:**

*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*

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

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

*Ms. Milene Molina Arancibia, 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*

*Mr. Martin Lundstedt, Research Assistant, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

**12:20 – 13:00**      **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”**

**Moderator:**      *Ms. Lynn Gentile, Human Rights Officer, Focal Point on the Right to Health, OHCHR*

**Panellists:**      *Ms. Carmen Ryan, Coordinator, Public Advocacy and Support for the Implementation of Public Policies, Huesped Foundation, Argentina*  
*Ms. Nanoot Mathurapote, Head of Global Collaboration Unit at the National Health Commission Office, Thailand*

**13:00 – 15:00**      **Lunch Break**

**15:00 – 16:00**      **Session - II (continued)**

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

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

*Ms. Jéssica Isacha Jimpikit, Health Leader of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador*

**16:05 – 17:45**      **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”**

**Moderator:**      *Mr. Todd Howland, Chief, Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, OHCHR*

**Panellists:**      *Dr. Maria Chiara Campisi, Health Law Program Coordinator, International Development Law Organization*

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

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

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

*Mr. Charlie Martial Ngounou, President of AfroLeadership*

**17:45 – 18:00**      **Closing**