



## ***Human Rights 75***

### **Commemorating seventy-five years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

#### **A. Background**

In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognized that governance oriented toward promoting and protecting human rights is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Universal and indivisible, anchored in fundamental values that span every culture, religion and continent, human rights are tools to address the world's biggest challenges, from the triple planetary crisis, skyrocketing inequalities, gender discrimination and backlash, insecurity and conflict, as well as a rise in hate speech, disinformation and polarization.

2023 is when we need urgently to come together to confront humanity's most pressing challenges. Much of the potential of human rights to inspire and to help build a better, more equal, just and prosperous world for all remains untapped.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an opportunity to **rejuvenate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, demonstrate how it can meet the needs of our time and advance its promise of freedom, equality and justice for all.**

#### **B. Human Rights 75: GOALS**

*Human Rights 75* is a yearlong initiative culminating at a **High Level event in December 2023**. Under the leadership of UN Human Rights, together with partners, it has three goals:

##### **1. Promoting universality and indivisibility.**

- Forging renewed consensus on the universality and indivisibility of human rights (All rights, for all)
- Reclaiming human rights as the best tool we have for problem-solving
- Reaching substantive equality and reframing narratives
- Building a strong constituency for human rights, especially among young people
- Celebrating the diversity, strengths and achievements of human rights voices striving to address today's global challenges.

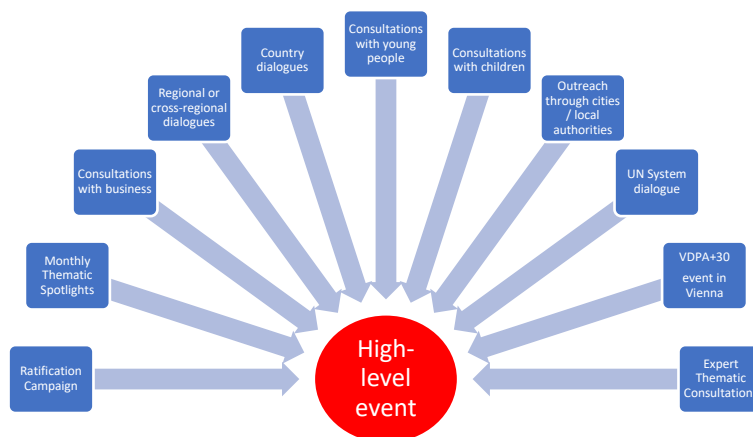
##### **2. Looking to the future.**

- Reflecting on the application and possible breakthroughs for human rights over the next 25 years
- Updating thinking on future human rights challenges, as well as innovating and broadening the tools/methodologies to respect and promote human rights.

### 3. Bolstering the human rights ecosystem.

- Strengthening the UN human rights architecture, including a vision for the future of the Office
- Bolstering Member State and public trust in the human rights architecture.
- Mobilizing significantly more resources for the Office and for the UN human rights pillar, including human rights mechanisms.

### C. MAIN ACTIVITIES



#### PHASE 1: PREPARATORY PHASE: Dialogues and consultations (April – October)

Gathering of input from all actors - taking the pulse, triggering discussions at local, national, regional and cross-regional levels.

Eliciting take-aways, pledges, positive impact stories from each government and each stakeholder group (civil society, youth, business community) which will feed the December high-level event.

#### THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: Monthly thematic spotlights

Each month in 2023 will shine a spotlight on one critical theme spanning a range of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights as a concrete way to implement different aspects of the Declaration. We call for concrete action by States and others. In January, the High Commissioner launched a call for the release of persons arbitrarily detained, and in February he called for the transformation of care and support systems. Actions resulting from these spotlights can inform pledges to feed the high-level December event.

#### PHASE 2: HIGH-LEVEL EVENT - 11-12 December 2023

This event will mark the culmination of the year of impact-driven work around the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Objective: Contribute to change and concrete progress on the ground on the promise of freedom, equality and justice and accountability for those commitments.**

The Human Rights 75 – High Level event will:

- (1) lead to concrete change and progress through a **pledging event**;
- (2) lead to a **vision for Human Rights** for the next 25 years;
- (3) reinvigorate commitment to human rights by highlighting the 75 years of achievements, as well as the work done this year; and
- (4) feed into the 2024 **Summit of the Future**.

**Location and Format:**

Hybrid + event with participation across time-zones and from different localities, to align with the message that human rights are **global** and for all individuals everywhere and to build universal movement of concrete progress on the Declaration's promise of freedom, equality and justice for all.

**D. OUTCOMES OF THE YEAR**

**1. Vision Statement for human rights.**

Brings together outcomes from *Human Rights 75* and feeds into the 2024 Summit of the Future.

**2. Pledging platform with monitoring mechanism.**

