



Join us for a side event at the
**Regional Forum on Sustainable
Development for the UNECE region**

Sustainable Recovery: Delivering on both Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE Region

ONLINE EVENT

10 March 2021

12.15-13.45 CET

Information and registration [here](#)

Sustainable Recovery: Delivering on both Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE Region

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating effect on vulnerable groups and societies and on a range of fundamental rights in the UNECE region. Older people, people with disabilities, Roma and Travellers, homeless people, and migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are just some of those who bear the brunt of the epidemic in the region. The reasons for existing and newly formed vulnerabilities are not all new. Many of the root causes are entrenched in systems, policies, structures and attitudes that allow inequalities and discrimination to persist.

The pandemic has exposed these systemic patterns of neglect, revealing gaps in states' fulfilment of their existing human rights obligations and deep-rooted challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Depending on how states address this crisis, inequalities could become even more pronounced, undermining the transformational promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "to leave no-one behind".

This side event aims to concretise how sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic can deliver on both human rights and the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE Region.

The following key questions will be explored:

- How can we conceptualise a human rights-based sustainable recovery which builds on both states human rights obligations and SDG commitments in recovery programmes and measures?
- How do we ensure that the principle of leaving no-one behind is entrenched in Covid-19 recovery strategies and plans, drawing on human rights recommendations and disaggregated data? How can we produce this disaggregated data for generating evidence-based policies and measures?
- How can local authorities be involved to ensure their vulnerable residents benefit from the recovery and development plans?
- How can national human rights institutions (NHRIs), United Nations agencies, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and other stakeholders assist or complement, including in helping to make the planning and delivery more inclusive and human-rights based?

'This is not a time to neglect human rights; it is a time when, more than ever, human rights are needed to navigate this crisis in a way that will allow us, as soon as possible, to focus again on achieving equitable sustainable development and sustaining peace.'

UN Secretary-General from the report "Human Rights and COVID-19: we are all in this together", April 2020.

Speakers will include:

- Ambassador Morten Jespersen, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in Geneva
- Ambassador Rui Macieira, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva
- Birgit Van Hout, Regional Representative, United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe
- Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
- Massimo Toschi, International Relations Officer, SDGs Coordinator, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Dragan Gračanin, Executive Director of the Association of Roma Coordinators, Serbia
- Erinda Ballanca, People's Advocate of Albania
- Olesia Kompaniiets, GBV Programme Manager, United Nations Population Fund Country Office Ukraine
- Carol Rask, Strategic Advisor, Danish Institute for Human Rights.