



**GENEVA CENTRE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND
GLOBAL DIALOGUE**

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS AND VIEWS

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<



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ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On 23 October 2024, the Geneva Centre convened a major conference ahead of COP-29 aimed at amplifying and empowering the voices from the ground of youth, Indigenous Peoples and small islands states. Structured around three thematic panels preceded by a high-level segment, the conference featured prominent speakers, including **H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong**, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; **Ms. Elisa Morgera**, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the context of climate change; **Mr. Sec. Robert E.A. Borje**, Minister, and Executive Director of the Philippines' Climate Change Commission; **Ms. Christine Adam**, Director and Principal Legal Advisor of UNFCCC; and **Mr. Todd Howland**, Chief of OHCHR's Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch. Young activists featured prominently at the conference, whose voices were paved the way at the high-level segment by **Mr. Adel Ramdani**, Regional Focal Point, Swiss Youth for Climate.

➤➤➤ AMPLIFYING CLIMATE VOICES FROM THE GROUND

Through dynamic panels focussed on youth energetic leadership, the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples in their symbiotic relation with nature, and the lived experiences of Small Island States, participants highlighted the urgency of amplifying the voices of these groups in decision-making processes. The discussion led to **actionable recommendations** aimed at fostering a greater, impactful and effective participation of these key actors in environmental and climate decision-making fora, be it at the local, national or international level. As a precursor to COP-29, the essential aim of these conference is to outline strategies for advancing environmental rights and climate justice, reinforcing the necessity of including the experiences and voices of marginalized groups in shaping equitable solutions. Discover some key takeaways in the following pages and delve deeper into the thematic discussions by reading the detailed [report of the conference](#).





FOCUS ON EMPOWERING YOUTH IN PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Youth are at the forefront of climate activism, advocating for stronger climate policies and justice. Their engagement is not merely beneficial, but essential for crafting ambitious policies that will have long-term consequences of today's environmental decisions. Youth-driven climate litigation is also growing with cases like *Juliana v. United States*, showcasing the energetic determination of young people to challenge governments in court for climate inaction. Despite their vocal engagement and growing influence, barriers of various nature continue to **hinder their full and effective participation** in climate governance. These barriers range from legal, institutional and financial constraints, through a deplorable lack of access to environmental and climate information, up to the lack of indispensable technical and soft skills necessary for impactful advocacy and negotiations.

With the benefit of his extensive parliamentary experience, Mr. **Martin Chungong**, stressed that the **underrepresentation of youth** in governance is particularly concerning. Although young people under 30 account for 60% of the global population, they make up only 2.6% of parliamentarians worldwide. This disparity in representation reveals the urgent need to encourage greater youth involvement in decision-making, particularly in parliaments and governments, where critical policies on climate action are debated and passed.

In her capacity as Future Generations Rights Advocate and Campaigner at World's Youth for Climate Justice, **Ms. Lolita Couchene**, explains that youth involvement in climate justice is often symbolic rather than substantive, pointing at the fact that young people are invited to contribute with ideas but are rarely given decision-making power.



➤➤➤ MAPPING THE BARRIERS HINDERING YOUTH FULL PARTICIPATION

Ms. Lolita Couchene further points at the existence of **legal barriers** in those countries and institutions that restrict participation in political and environmental decision-making based on age, denying young people a seat at the table. Similarly, **institutional barriers**, such as the lack of youth representation in global fora like the UNFCCC, often prevent youth voices from having a proper seat and voice at the table. In the same vein, **Ms. Shristi Gautam**, Nepal National Coordinator at World's Youth for Climate Justice, evoked the good practice of integrating public participation in Environmental Impact Assessments, thus creating concrete opportunities for youth to influence policies.

To overcome these barriers, **Ms. Veena Balakrishnan**, Co-Founder of the Youth Negotiators Academy, stressed the crucial role played by organizations such as her own in equipping young leaders with the necessary skills and opportunities to influence multilateral processes. In the same vein, **Ms. Nana Kurashvili**, International Consultant on Youth Participation, **skills barriers** are also noteworthy, as young activists may at times lack the **technical skills** necessary to navigate complex climate policy frameworks.

Furthermore, information barriers are also a major obstacle according to **Ms. Kurashvili**, as many governments do not provide public access to essential environmental and climate information, thus preventing youth organizations from holding leaders accountable. Several young people, especially from marginalized communities, **lack access to scientific data**, policy discussions, and resources necessary to engage meaningfully in climate discourse. This lack of access exacerbates the already significant gap between those who are actively involved in climate policy and those who are not. In addition, youth often struggle with **financial and resource constraints**. Organizing large-scale climate strikes, protests, or legal actions requires resources that many young activists do not have. Institutional support for youth initiatives remains limited, and international funding mechanisms have yet to prioritize youth-led climate action.





YOUTH RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF OVERLAPPING VULNERABILITIES

Despite the abovementioned barriers, along with the gendered nature of climate change and its overlapping vulnerabilities for young peoples, **Ms. Anja Tresse**, Programme Manager, Youth and Peace at the Kofi Annan Foundation, explains that young generations do not have to be seen as mere victims of climate change.

On the contrary, young peoples are often the first responders to these complex issues. They actively seek innovative solutions and have demonstrated **resilience in the face of adversity**. For example, in Burkina Faso, youth-led initiatives have successfully integrated sustainable agricultural practices with peacebuilding efforts, thereby enhancing food security while reducing conflicts over scarce resources. These examples underscore the capacity of young people to break down silos between climate action and peacebuilding, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.



THE WAY FORWARD

To overcome these barriers, **Ms. Nana Kurashvili** proposed several concrete actions:

- **Establish grant schemes for youth:** allocate targeted climate funding for youth organizations, utilizing existing financing mechanisms to achieve these targets.
- **Provide capacity-building in form of technical and soft skills:** equip young activists with skills in negotiation, advocacy, and technical aspects of climate policy.
- **Foster an enabling environment for political participation:** provide active support for effective youth participation in climate discussions and decision-making platforms.
- **Trust and empower youth:** recognize the unique ability of young people to lead change, as they often embody sustainable behaviours and attitudes essential for climate action.



SHEDDING LIGHT INTO DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND GENDER IMPACTS OF THE GAZA WAR

On 20 September 2024, in a significant effort to shed light on the **human rights repercussions** of the ongoing armed conflict between Israel and Gaza, the Geneva Centre, in collaboration with the Geneva Press Club, presented its latest research paper titled '**Vortex of Pain: Human Rights Implications of the Israel-Gaza Armed Conflict**'.

Hosted at the Geneva Press Club, the event featured a panel of distinguished experts, including Prof. Surya Deva, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development; Prof. Claire Somerville, Director of the Gender Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute; and Prof. Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer at the University of Geneva and Deputy Director of the Platform for International Water Law at the Geneva Water Hub.

»»» THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF THE GAZA WAR ON DEVELOPMENT

Building on the Geneva Centre's research paper, **UN Special Rapporteur Surya Deva** expanded the analysis of the human rights implications of the Gaza conflict on the right to development. As preliminary remarks, it is noteworthy to stress that conflict and human rights may entertain a two-way relationship that may feed a vicious circle, for conflict undermines human rights and, in turn, decades of systemic violations of human rights may fuel conflict.

Prof. Deva further explained that the right to development in both its **individual and collective dimensions** is being violated in Gaza. Each single Palestinian as well as the peoples of Gaza collectively are suffering as a community, and most notably their right to freely and meaningfully participate in and contribute to decision-making processes on the right to development, as enshrined in the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development (DRTD).



The **Declaration on the Right to Development** embodies four dimensions of development - economic, social, cultural and political - which are all undermined by the military occupation in Gaza. In the same vein, the four overarching principles of the right to development are also considerably impacted by the conflict:

- **Intersectionality**, whereby the effects of the armed conflict are disproportionately high on children, women, and persons with disabilities.
- **Intergenerational equity**, meaning that this conflict dramatically impacts not only current generations, but also future generations, and even those who are not born yet, and the impact goes also beyond human beings to extend to the ecosystem, the environment, water resources, fauna and flora.
- **Self-determination**, as an independent human right of the Palestinian people.
- **Fair distribution**.

»»» THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AS A FRAMEWORK FOR RESOLVING THE ONGOING CONFLICT

Prof. Surya Deva provides a masterly illustration of how the right to development can provide a useful framework for resolving this conflict:

- The **duty to cooperate** (art. 3.3 and 6 DRTD) to prevent and to put an end to the conflict, but also to rebuild the destruction stemming from the conflict.
- The **duty to protect peoples and individuals from massive and flagrant human rights violations** (art. 5 DRTD) stemming from situations such as apartheid, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, and the denial of the right to self-determination.
- The **duty to enforce and maintain peace and security** (art. 7 DRTD) extending up to disarmament needs. Actors such as the arms industry benefit financially from conflict, as demonstrated by the fact that the global military expenditure reached 2.4 trillion US dollars in 2023. If only countries spent 25% of that amount for taking care of human rights globally, the world would be in a much better shape. Furthermore, we need to reform the UN Security Council, as vetoes on international crimes are unacceptable.



➤➤➤ 'A WAR ON WOMEN'S HEALTH'

A poignant metaphor put forward by **Professor Claire Somerville**, Director of the Gender Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute, which faithfully depicts the disproportionate effects and impacts of the armed conflict on women and girls in Gaza. The **collapse of health services** and the lack of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare have a severe impact on women and girls, newborns and unborn. UN Women warns about an increase in life-threatening infections of the reproductive systems and beyond due to the lack of clean water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene supplies. With half a million women and girls in reproductive age in Gaza, UNFPA explains that 50.000 pregnant women have little or no access to maternal health services.



➤➤➤ ESCALATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Beyond its appalling impact on health, the armed conflict also dramatically escalates gender-based violence which can range from the use of **sexual violence as a tactic or weapon of war**; risks of sexual harassment and psychological abuse at checkpoints, during evacuations and military operations; and a heightened risk of **early and forced child marriage** for girls as a sort of survival strategy, as during armed conflict famine looms. Violent humanitarian contexts render girls vulnerable to sexual exploitation, unsafe and high-risk early pregnancy, and life-threatening preterm childbirth.

➤➤➤ WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD COLLECTIVELY

Prof. Somerville calls for a **halt to military operations and a full humanitarian relief response**. We need to implement the already existing gender responsive instruments such as UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and leveraging a human rights approach towards a feminist peace and post-conflict reconstruction, where women sit at the negotiation table. Lasting peace will not be achieved without women's full and equal participation in peace processes as key to leading post-conflict reconstruction and a shift from militarized security to human security.

Prof. Somerville stresses the importance of **engaging with civil society** such as women's rights defenders, women's rights organizations and women's peace networks which are critical to amplify the voices of women and girls from the ground; to advocate for rights, accountability and justice; and reimagining the peace table.

Last but not least, governments around the world should be encouraged to **prioritize gender equality** as set out in the SDGs by adopting the three core pillars of Margot Wallström's feminist foreign policy - commonly referred to as the three Rs - women's Representation, Rights, and Resources. The international community has a **duty to restore the health and rights** of women and girls in Gaza and in many other armed conflicts.

Professor Mara Tignino focussed her intervention on three main violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) with reference to the obligations incumbent on the Occupying Power. As recognized in the advisory opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in July 2024, Israel as the Occupying Power of Gaza is legally bound to ensure the welfare of civilians and must prioritize their access to essential means of survival, such as safe drinking water.

➤➤➤ DEPRIVATION OF FRESHWATER AND STARVATION

From the onset of the armed conflict in Gaza, the Israeli Minister of Defence announced publicly the **complete siege of Gaza** implying the cutting off of water, electricity and food supplies. The cutting off of water and essential means of survival can entail Israel's responsibility under international humanitarian law (IHL). Scholars developed the interpretation also reflected in customary IHL according to which starvation is a war crime even without a direct purpose. The **prohibition of starvation** derives from the prohibition to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. Customary IHL rules 54 and 45 are clear in this sense - starvation, no matter the motives, constitutes a violation of IHL.

➤➤➤ PROTECTING WATER SYSTEMS AMIDST ARMED HOSTILITIES



IHL strictly prohibits attacks on civilian objects, including water infrastructure. Parties engaged in conflict must adhere to the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions. The **intentional targeting of civilian infrastructure**, including water systems, or damages that lead to extensive civilian casualties and damage to objects violate fundamental principles of IHL. Deliberate and disproportionate attacks qualify as war crimes. It is essential to recognize that extensive destruction and harm to civilians can exacerbate animosity and perpetuate a cycle of violence and violations, hindering the prospects for peace.

➤➤➤ HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND ASSISTANCE

Parties involved in the conflict are obligated to facilitate and allow the safe passage of humanitarian relief and related services to alleviate the suffering of civilians. Therefore, Israel has the primary responsibility of ensuring, by all the means at its disposal, the basic needs of the population in the occupied territory. If it were unable to do so, a mandatory relief scheme to allow humanitarian assistance must be introduced. Responding to the South African submission, the ICJ requested Israel to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The State of Israel must grant rapid and unimpeded passage and access to water-related personnel and consignments used for humanitarian relief operations, including the operation, repairs or rehabilitation of water systems and related facilities. To delve deeper into Professor Mara Tignino's expertise in this matter and the appalling human rights implications of the ongoing armed conflict, have a look at our [research paper and its annex](#).

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK 2024 - EMPOWERING AWARENESS AND CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

A *premiere* in Abu Dhabi and Dubai – The 2024 edition of the Human Rights Awareness Week will bring the vibrant human rights heart of UN Geneva directly to the core of the Arabian Peninsula. Empowering Awareness is the common thread to a five-day journey marked by a wealth of engaging and interactive activities to discover human rights in all their facets. Joint panels will allow participants to delve into human rights education, the role of governments in upholding human rights, and the role of diplomacy in fostering human rights education, followed by a closing panel dedicated to celebrating cultural diversity in the perspective of the host country.



For this special occasion, the Geneva Centre set in place innovative pilot training activities on human rights, cybersecurity, and digital awareness to the benefit of the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government, the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy and the UAE's Permanent Committee for Human Rights. As the crown jewel of the Awareness Week, the 2024 Human Rights Recognition Awards unveil a transformative shift towards greater representation and recognition so as to include not only individuals, but also those institutions, organizations and NGOs which stand out for their furtherance of human rights across the globe.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 57 - HIGHLIGHTS

All along the 57th Session of the UNHRC, the Geneva Centre's Reporting Initiative covered 14 interactive discussions on country situations ranging from the Americas (Nicaragua and Venezuela), through Europe (Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine), to Africa (Sudan) and the Asia-Pacific region (Afghanistan, the Marshall Islands, Myanmar, and Syria).

The Geneva Centre produced 8 thematic reports covering interactive dialogues dedicated advancing social justice and equality in law enforcement; Indigenous Peoples; people of African descent; the right to development; and the SG's analytical study on climate change. Reports on the adoption of 14 UPR reports and three general debates on agenda items 2, 3 and 4 have also been published.

Furthermore, the Centre reported extensively on six panel discussions promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities; quality education for peace and tolerance for every child; the right to development; the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members; the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and of its mechanisms.

During the 57th Session, the Geneva Centre for the first time closely monitored and extensively reported on a high-level informal presidential discussion ahead of the Session which focussed on artificial intelligence, new technologies and the digital divide. While welcoming this forward-looking initiative by H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber, President of the UN Human Rights Council, it is noteworthy to mention that new technologies are, along with climate change, the most pressing human rights threat looming upon humanity as a whole. Discover more insights in the next pages.

The full range of reports is available at the dedicated [section of the Centre's website](#).



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

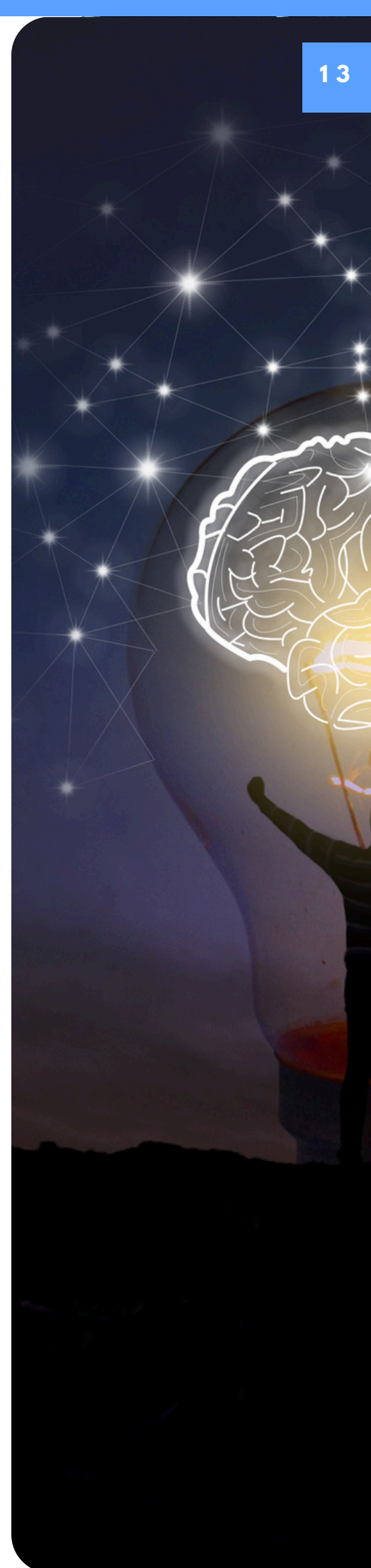
On 3 September 2024, H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber, in his capacity as President of the UN Human Rights Council, convened an impressive line-up of experienced panellists for very constructive exchanges on one of the most pressing challenges of our time, namely how to harness the transformative power of artificial intelligence while upholding human rights and sustainable development. Featuring high-profile panellists, private sector and other key stakeholders, this innovative presidential initiative was warmly appreciated by country delegations and many other stakeholders who joined the discussion table.

»»» HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Prominent panellists took the floor during the High-Level Segment, thereby bringing into the picturesque Human Rights Room of UN Geneva their invaluable hands-on experience and forward-looking visions from WIPO, ITU, ILO, UNESCO, the World Bank, and OHCHR, among others.

From their very unique and diverse vantage point, Directors and Deputy-Directors of UN agencies, think-tanks and concerned companies such as Amazon explained how intellectual property should be leveraged for the good of humanity, while addressing vital concerns and considerable risks in relation to workers' rights; cyber insecurity, bias and discrimination; deepfakes, misinformation and unfaithful re-writing of history; widening divides both in terms of digital technologies and opportunities; and substantial shortcomings in standard-setting environments which do not include a seat at the table for civil society and academic voices.

In the next pages, we gave prominence to the key takeaways and commonly shared views. Delve deeper into the interplay of new technologies and human rights by reading the [extensive compilation of contributions](#) edited by the Geneva Centre.



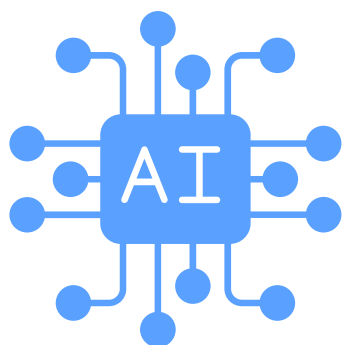


MR. DAREN TANG, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

We need to make sure that the human being remains at the centre of innovation and creativity. Although Gen AI is highly efficient and effective replicator, it is not genuinely creative or innovative. We need to make sure that AI is used as a tool to empower, enable and enhance human creators and innovators.



MS. CELESTE DRAKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



Worldwide, 75 million jobs are at risk of disappearing if Gen AI is fully implemented. However, at least six times that many jobs have the potential to be augmented or transformed. But these projections fundamentally depend upon access to technology.

Investing in skills development and lifelong learning is vital for equipping workers with the skills and knowledge required, including those impacted by job losses and job transformation. We must ensure that the development and deployment of AI does not infringe upon labour rights.



MS DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN, SECRETARY-GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

With 2.6 billion people still offline around the world and only 17% of the SDGs targets on track to be achieved, we urgently need to focus our efforts on three fronts:

- Harnessing digital and emerging technologies to rescue the SDGs.
- Balancing innovation with safeguards that respect and protect human rights.
- Fostering international cooperation by bringing all stakeholders, including those from the developing world, at the table.

Let us make dignity and equality for all a cornerstone of a truly inclusive and empowering global digital space.

**'Let's ensure that human rights
are at the bedrock of our
collective digital future.'**



ITU SG Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Photo Credits: ITU

➤➤➤ CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS

The interactive dialogue brought to light several common reflections shared among the overwhelming majority of delegations which have been wrapped up into thematic clusters.

- **Human Rights-Guided AI** - Human rights principles must be a compass for the whole AI lifecycle. Human rights should act as guardrails to align AI with human rights principles, values and cultural sensitivities. Regulatory frameworks should be fully aligned with international human rights obligations.
- **AI for Sustainable Development** - Fostering AI as a vehicle for promoting sustainable development and the full realization of the SDGs. Leveraging the full potential of AI for Good to enhance access to education and healthcare and developing new technologies with a positive impact on the rights on persons with disabilities.
- **AI for All** - Bridging the digital divide by addressing digital inequalities and inequalities of opportunity. Enhancing digital infrastructure and literacy to ensure that digital technologies benefit all, fully in line with the principle of leaving no one behind in the digital era.
- **Inclusive AI Governance** - Implementing a genuine multi-stakeholder approach in particular in closed technical standard-setting environments with little opportunity for civil society and public participation to effectively participate in those discussions.
- **AI Risk Management** - Addressing specific AI risks of reproducing biases and inequalities already existing in societies, in particular with regard to vulnerable groups, as well as the spread of misinformation, notably in electoral contexts, which could undermine democracy and good governance.
- **Special Rapporteur on AI** - Creating a mandate holder on AI and the digital divide as proposed by the co-facilitators.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Climate change is one of the most severe human rights crisis threatening humanity as a whole. A number of factors contribute to the severity of the effects of climate change on some segments of society, including geographic location, degree of association with climate-sensitive environments, and unique cultural, economic, or political features. In this context, Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately affected by climate change, as adverse weather conditions profoundly impact food security, traditional livelihoods and natural environment, among many others.

»»» NEW RESEARCH PAPER BY THE GENEVA CENTRE

By embracing an holistic approach, this research paper provides substantive grounds illustrating the importance of integrating Indigenous Peoples in the decision-making process of environmental justice. Most notably, this paper explores how the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment would allow Indigenous Peoples to preserve their unique cultural and political status as native inhabitants of their ancestral lands.

As literature affirms, Indigenous Peoples affected by climate change bring their valuable contributions to policies, plans, and programmes designed for adapting to and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This paper describes the key frameworks for Indigenous understanding of climate change impacts and pathways towards adaptation and mitigation.

It further help elucidate the meaning and content of technical concepts such as climate change, environmental destruction, and climate justice. Subsequent chapters analyse the impact of climate change and environmental crises on Indigenous Peoples, their adaptation responses, and the crucial importance of their full and effective participation in decision-making. Discover our [research paper](#)!



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN THE MENA REGION

»»» APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT (ARP) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA

With a growing body of evidence showing the indispensable character of women's active participation in economic activity to the achievement of sustainable socio-economic growth and development, the Geneva Centre decided to undertake an ambitious research project aimed at shedding light on women's economic empowerment as well as on the realization of their fundamental social and economic rights.

Initially focussed on three MENA countries, this research project aims at shedding light on existing social, policy and legal obstacles in place in Iraq, Morocco and Saudi Arabia with a view to dismantling women's discrimination and barriers in the economic spheres as well as identifying existing measures aimed at unlocking women's economic potential and fostering their economic empowerment.

The overall, long-term goal of the research project is to depict a comprehensive picture of women's social and economic rights in the MENA region; to assess the effectiveness of existing legislation and policy measures; and to issue recommendations aimed at repealing legislation and policy with direct and indirect discriminatory effects as well as to better implement, amplify and enhance the positive effects of laws and policies in place.



➤➤➤ ABOUT THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE'S INNOVATIVE APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Applied Research Projects (ARPs) involve small student groups coming together to conduct policy-relevant research with partner organisations on issues relating to international relations and development. Through ARPs, students learn and apply analytical and practical skills to policy-relevant issues. Students work under the supervision of a faculty lead and are expected to:

- elaborate project Terms of Reference and frame appropriate research questions;
- conduct in-depth literature reviews and design relevant methodologies;
- undertake original research; analyse primary data;
- write analytic preliminary and final reports; and
- present final research findings.

Teamwork, collaboration, professionalism, effective communication, and problem solving are crucial skills that the ARP process aims to teach students.

ARP partner organisations are expected to provide guidance and support to students to generate research that is of policy and practical relevance. Applying to serve as an ARP partner organisation is a competitive process; successful applicants demonstrate a commitment to supporting students across the project period, including through the provision of technical expertise, supporting students' professional learning, and helping students connect with other leading experts in the relevant field of practice.

Students usually select from the list of ARP Partner Projects at the end of September, and work on their projects from early October to mid-May.

Stay tuned for joining the official presentation!

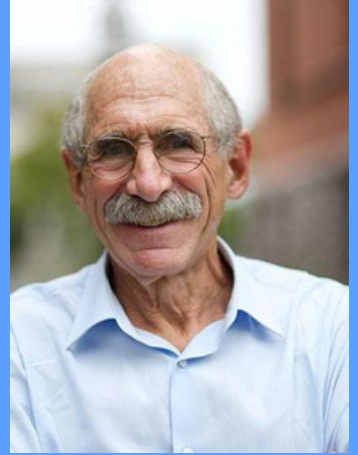


SCIENTIFIC CAFÉ



HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CROSSROADS OF MIGRATION, BUSINESS, AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

In October and November 2024, Geneva Centre was honoured to welcome on its Scientific Café stage two prominent academia. **Dr Michael Oppenheimer** is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), the Department of Geosciences, and the High Meadows Environmental Institute at **Princeton University**. He serves as Director of the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment at SPIA and Faculty Associate of the Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences Program at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. Dr Oppenheimer is a long-time participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.



Ms. Dorothée Baumann-Pauly is Professor at the Geneva University's School of Economics and Management and Director of the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights. Since 2013, she has also served as the Research Director at the **New York University Stern Center for Business and Human Rights**. In these roles, she works hand-in-hand with companies to advance human rights in corporate practice. Her applied research is focused on embedding human rights in organizations and developing business models that enable profit and human rights principles to coexist. Among many remarkable achievements, she co-edited the very first textbook on Business and Human Rights (Routledge 2016).



IT'S IN THE NEWS!

➤➤➤ DISSEMINATING HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES THROUGH THE POWER OF IMAGES

From June to November 2024, the Geneva Centre has been disseminating **video messages** for **international commemorative days** relevant to its mandate. Through the power of images depicting scenes of every day's life, the Geneva Centre intends to raise awareness among the general public about key human rights issues transcending national borders and affecting the daily life of common persons. Discover our videos on our dedicated [webpage](#).

- World Environment Day (5 June)
- World Day Against Child Labour (12 June)
- International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June)
- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (19 June)
- World Refugee Day (20 June)
- International Day of Women in Diplomacy (24 June)
- Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July)
- World Day against Trafficking in Persons (30 July)
- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August)
- International Youth Day (12 August)
- World Humanitarian Day (19 August)
- International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (21 August)
- International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (22 August)
- International Day for People of African Descent (31 August)
- International Day to Protect Education from Attack (10 September)
- International Equal Pay Day (18 September)
- International Day of Peace (21 September)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October)
- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War (6 November)
- World Children's Day (20 November)
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November)



Let us elevate human rights to the most exquisite ingredient for lasting peace

PARTNERSHIPS



VISIT BY THE MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT FROM DUBAI

On 24 October 2024, the Geneva Centre warmly welcomed a delegation from the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) to its headquarters, as part of the ongoing collaboration set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

Comprised of students from the Master of Public Administration (MPA), the Masters of Innovation Management (MIM) and the Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) programmes, the delegation was accompanied by Professor Immanuel Moonesar, the President of Academy of International Business (MENA) and Health Policy and Systems Research and Professor Mona Elsholkamy, Associate Professor Macroeconomic Policy and Global Governance.

During the visit, the Geneva Centre facilitated a thought-provoking discussion on ‘fostering dialogue and understanding’, thereby underscoring the importance of cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue in addressing today’s global challenges. The discussion highlighted the Geneva Centre’s efforts to promote human rights through initiatives aimed at bridging divides.

The students expressed their appreciation for the insightful experience, with many describing the visit as an invaluable complement to their academic learning. Several participants noted that the discussions expanded their understanding of the role of dialogue in international diplomacy and human rights advocacy.

This visit further reinforces the strong collaboration between the Geneva Centre and MBRSG, as both institutions continue to work towards empowering future leaders in governance and human rights. The Geneva Centre remains committed to fostering partnerships that contribute to the advancement of human rights and the promotion of global dialogue.





**GENEVA CENTRE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND
GLOBAL DIALOGUE**

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