



RABAT WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS PRE-FORUM

Proceedings
and Outcome Document

RABAT,
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
17-18 FEBRUARY 2023





المجلس الوطني لحقوق الإنسان
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National Human Rights Council

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FOREWORD

The Rabat World Human Rights Pre-Forum (17-18 Feb. 2023) was a major global event in the process of the WHRF, bringing together renowned experts and prominent high-ranking officials and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) from more than 50 countries. The final document and outcome of this Pre-Forum was a culmination of thoughts, critical analysis, expertise, and insightful input; a new advocacy roadmap against some of the main Human Rights challenges we face as a global community.

The Pre-Forum offered an opportunity to examine three intertwined themes under a new light. The participants were invited and highly encouraged to

interact with each other and present their achievements, demands and expectations. This first international WHRF pre-forum was undoubtedly a venue to promote sustainable structuring dynamics among all participants which go beyond regional and continental environments.

As organizers (Morocco's National Human Rights Institution (CNDH) and Argentina's CIPDH-UNESCO), we sought to bring together participants from different horizons to debate and share opinions and launch a collective reflection on contemporary

and future issues. Indeed, participants in Pre-Forum brought exceptional views and perspectives and shared thoughtful observations with the aim of contributing to the WHRF.

Rabat Pre-Forum was a collective voice dedicated to the idea of a dignified and enlightened humanity, a voice for a democratic ideal as the sine qua non foundation of just and egalitarian societies, prosperous in terms of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was therefore a creator of values as it has thoroughly discussed national, regional and international Human rights references and pillars, but above all a new initiative inspiring to define and build others.

We all agreed that solidarity would not be compassion nor would it be reduced to lessons. It encompasses listening, recognition of the initiatives and advances of each other, but above all sharing experiences according to a double entry logic, without distinction of country of origin or nationality.

At the Rabat World Human Rights Pre-Forum, we were able to draw another conclusion from various discussions, debates and interventions: human rights are impacted by the polarization and politicization of debates, which puts us in a downward spiral that threatens to slow down the collective dynamics that characterized the process of establishing the international humanrightssystem.

We are pleased to invite you to read these proceedings, which represent further proof of our ever-renewed dynamics as human rights defenders, and our constant mobilization, individuals and groups from emerging countries, to reduce, or even eliminate, the gap and discrepancies between human rights and their effective realization all over the world.



Amina Bouayach,
Chairperson, National Human Rights Council of Morocco

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The Pre-Forum: Guiding background

Rabat World Human Right Pre-Forum came as a prelude to the 3rd World Human Rights Forum (WHRF), to be held in Argentina in March 2023. Co-organized by the National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH) and the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (CIPDH-UNESCO), the Rabat international Pre-Forum brought together Moroccan, Argentinian and international experts, researchers, officials, university professors and NGOs to tackle human rights challenges and identify opportunities in three main areas:

- **Transitional justice and memory**
- **Migration**
- **Climate change**

CNDH is the outgoing president of the WHRF;

CIPDH-UNESCO oversees the Executive Secretariat of the world Human Rights Forum to be held in Argentina.

GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The challenges of protecting and promoting human rights in the contemporary world are numerous and constantly emerging. In a world that has significantly changed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a cornerstone of the international human rights system, the very philosophy of rights continues, in many countries, to be often defined by endogenous and exogenous factors such as culture and politics, and impacted by development contexts which vary from one nation to another.

Quite a few voices have raised to suggest that the age of human rights has come to an end in light of the rise of different forms of xenophobic nationalism, transnational populism, multidimensional security and sectarian crises as well as narrow and closed identity tensions. In this context marked by uncertainties and inequalities that seem endemic, the world continues to witness attempts to question the universality of human rights, and it has even become iterative and perceptible to hear voices cast a shadow over the future of those rights.

Human rights are impacted by the polarization and politicization of debates. Human rights defenders (HRDs) sometimes find themselves trapped in a downward spiral that threatens to dampen the collective dynamic that characterized the process of establishing the international human rights system. These defenders are also confronted with emerging challenges and problems interacting with elements that sometimes lie beyond the scope of legal texts and the authorities' responsibilities.

Human rights advocacy therefore seems to be "caught" between uncertainties and concerns. In view of what precedes, several persisting issues arise:

Does the world need a profound conceptual evolution questioning the way in which human rights advocacy is designed? What meaning, content and purpose would be needed for the implementation of this reconceptualization process? What relationships and interactions should be expected in this dynamic, in which social, political, legal, cultural and other elements are

THE PRE-FORUM: GUIDING BACKGROUND

intertwined? Is a re-problematization of human rights issues necessary to break them free from confusions, contradictions and ambiguities and put them back at the heart of international discussions?

In the contemporary national and international contexts, it is certainly difficult to deliver an overview of human rights' situation that is complete and true to realities.

In this regard, meetings and forums allow human rights defenders to share their respective experiences, discuss challenges and solutions and launch collective reflections on current and emerging issues, especially in the wake of the humanist momentum that characterizes post-crisis periods, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. It should be noted that this pandemic has become one of the central elements in the recent re-problematization of human rights issues.

As a prelude to the World Forum on Human Rights (WFRH), the National Human Rights Council and the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (CIPDH-UNESCO) which leads the organization of the Third World Forum on Human Rights and coordinates its Executive Secretariat, organized, on 17-18 February 2023 in Rabat, the International Pre-Forum to inform this 3rd edition of the WFHR. Bringing together senior officials and personalities, experts, and representatives of national and international human rights organizations, this pre-Forum examined the challenges and developments in three specific themes: transitional justice and memory, migration, and climate change.

Climate change has come to be one of the most challenging human rights issues over the last few decades. As a transnational and unconventional threat, problems of climate change are increasingly putting at risk the very basic economic and social rights of people around the globe. It can also be directly linked to various forms of violence and instability in fragile contexts. From this perspective, climate change is likely to become a cause of "forced migration", hence deepening the already unequal reality of mobility between the South and the North.

The second thematic session on Migration and mobility sought to re-explore and cover up some of the factors that hinder the efforts to translate international human rights instruments into effective protection of migrants on the ground.

The third thematic session on "Transitional Justice and Memory" aimed at discussing reconciliation-related issues that are relevant in countries having experienced gross human rights violations and in post conflict settings in general. Indeed, transitional experiences in Latin America and Africa have shown that the quality of the post conflict democratic system as well as the guarantees of non-repetition largely depend of the way different stakeholders deal with the open-ended processes of reconciliation, including issues related to memory, history and identity.

The debates revolved around the multiple aspects of these three issues to pave the way for new sequences of analysis and proposals of avenues for action. The Pre-forum recommendations and outcome are scheduled to be presented during the Third WHRF.

The program of the Pre-Forum made it possible to discuss a wide range of themes and sub-themes related to the three aforementioned issues, but also to reflect on global issues with regard to the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on rights, the growing impacts of climate change and the repercussions of the energy and financial crises, which are now evident.

The Pre-Forum was a result of a cooperation launched between the National Human Rights Council and the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights, and represented a logical continuation of the CNDH's commitment to the WHRF process.



Opening session

- Ms. Amina Bouayach, Chairperson, National Human Rights Council of Morocco;
- Ms. Fernanda Gil Lozano, Executive Director of CIPDH-UNESCO;
- Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco;
- Mr. Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina;
- **Moderation:** Mr. Raji Sourani, Director, Palestinian Center for Human Rights.

Speech of

Ms. Amina Bouayach,

Chairperson of the National human
Rights Council of the Kingdom of
Morocco



Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen

Dear friends

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the National Human Rights Council of the Kingdom of Morocco and the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights of the Republic of Argentina, to welcome you to the World Human Rights Pre-forum which is being held for 2 days in Rabat, as a prelude to the World Forum on Human Rights in Buenos Aires next March. I hope that during your visit, you will have the opportunity to visit our beautiful capital, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage and known worldwide as the City of Lights.

Today, we welcome many participants from different countries and different horizons. Our meeting- a gathering of hearts and minds- serves as a retreat for human rights defenders to renew their commitment to our shared values in light of the rapid mutations the world is going through.-

Let me begin by saluting, on behalf of all of you here present, the actions and commitment of human rights defenders from Africa, from Latin America and elsewhere.

A permanent monitoring is necessary to examine the challenges ahead, define priorities and implement strategies, drawing from the universal in order to advance the local.

I would like to thank the organizing teams for their professionalism and diligence, and am delighted with the fluidity of our exchanges. Together, we have opted for three themes of discussion during this pre-forum: namely transitional justice and memory, migration, and climate change, all on which Morocco possesses a solid and unique experience.

Today, I will not comment on the Transitional Justice process of each country, including my own, nor will I delve into the importance of Memory

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for the National Human Rights Council of Morocco, which established, two years ago, a Unit for Memory preservation and History promotion as part of the implementation of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) recommendations. The Unit aims to better understand the consequences and dynamics, still felt today, of the past of grave and serious violations of human rights; be they economic, political, social, or cultural.

The issue of Memory is a heavy one because it is not easily expressed or quantified. It is highly symbolic for entire nations and extremely complex and therefore, delicate to apprehend. I hope that the discussions during this pre-forum will help enlighten us, each one of you drawing on their own experience.

I have no doubt that the debates on migration and climate change will be rich in content and comprehensive, given the interdependence of these two hot issues in Africa and Latin America.

I think it timely to discuss these two major human rights challenges here in Rabat, with all of you here, especially because the so-called “emerging” countries have much to add to this debate, as shown by the contributions during the preparation of the Global Compact on Migration, or its adoption in Marrakech.

It is worrying to note that no “Western” country has ratified the international convention on the protection of rights of migrant workers and members of their families, while our countries voluntarily undergo universal examination and evaluation, as if a certain skin color or a certain religious belief dictated human dignity or predisposed one to some innate injustice.

On behalf of the working group on migration of the African network of NHRIs, currently chaired by the CNDH, allow me to assure you of the sustained rhythm of our shared actions to protect migrants and their families in their right to mobility.

Finally, I would like to say some words on the reasons bringing us all here: despite the distance, the difference in language and culture, we have a

common and shared history. Firstly, we share the status of former colonies, with all the economic, political and social repercussions of this painful period.

Furthermore, our trajectories meet in terms of consolidating the rule of law. Many of the “emerging democracies”, as called by some, share a similar dynamic: a heavy past of serious human rights violations, a unique experience of transitional justice, a remarkable contribution to international case law in terms of reparation and guarantees of non-repetition, and an unmatched dynamic of their civil society.

It is difficult to measure the success of each one of these trajectories or what remains to be done. In Morocco, as in many other countries, we are, in my humble opinion, in the phase of implementing the horizontal accountability Guillermo O'Donnell wrote about so much.

Indeed, after a first phase of building a general framework and implementing base procedures - free and fair elections, a democratic constitution, an independent judiciary - we are in the phase of institutional construction into an efficient network of agencies that can assess, warn and intervene when citizens' fundamental rights are being, or are at risk of being, infringed upon; initiating a new age of reforms aimed at making the State a better defender of the rights, freedoms and interests of its citizens, especially those most vulnerable: the disadvantaged, women, children, migrants and refugees.

This is why the CNDH is extremely attentive to the issue of the effectiveness of rights to health, education and accessibility. The CNDH also pays particular attention to issues relating to the rights of women and children. His Majesty the King's decision to reform the Family Code, for the second time in less than 20 years, constitutes for the CNDH a substantial step forward. Indeed, the CNDH is tirelessly working on these extremely complex issues rooted in society's traditions.

Let me insist upon the fact that the CNDH will spare no pain in order to accompany the reform, already begun, of the Judiciary, in its efforts toward

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MS. AMINA BOUAYACH

the full protection, redress and recourse for all citizens on an equal footing, in particular for children and women, no matter the exogenous pressures exerted on Morocco. The projects on reforming the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code must be part of that same logic.

Dear friends, I would like to close by saying that belonging to the countries of the South is a source of pride for all of us defenders of human rights, because when faced with the toughest challenges, with the hardest obstacles, we overcame them and succeeded in going forward.

We have made this path and must therefore protect the memory of these victories all the while remaining aware of the challenges awaiting us. Our contribution to the design and development of universal norms and values is not a passing incident; it is undeniably an action of building new paths, our path, towards the rule of law. At a time when some of so-called traditional democracies are using human rights as weapons in obtuse political games, betraying their very essence, we have chosen to have a dialogue, during this conclave endowed with high moral symbolism.

The work of a human rights defender is never finished. It is not a mere job or office. It is a calling, a life ethos and a destiny. We are not here only out of conviction or belief in the universality of human rights, but out of duty towards our brothers and sisters around the world, and out of faith in our fellowcitizens.

Let us unite our voices, from Rabat to Buenos-Aires and beyond, into a single voice. That of dignity and justice and no discrimination.

KEY MESSAGES

"At the Pre-forum, we welcome many participants from different countries and different horizons. Our meeting-a gathering of hearts and minds-serves as a retreat for human rights defenders to renew their commitment to our shared values in light of the rapid mutations the world is going through"

"A permanent human rights monitoring is necessary to examine the challenges ahead, define priorities and implement strategies".

"It is worrying to note that no «Western» country has ratified the international convention on the protection of rights of migrant workers and members of their families, while South countries voluntarily undergo universal examination and evaluation, as if a certain skin color or a certain religious belief dictated human dignity or predisposed one to some innate injustice"

"belonging to the countries of the South is a source of pride for all of us defenders of human rights, because when faced with the toughest challenges, with the hardest obstacles, we overcame them and succeeded in going forward"

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"Our (countries of the South) contribution to the design and development of universal norms and values is not a passing incident; it is undeniably an action of building new paths, our path, towards the rule of law. At a time when some of so-called traditional democracies are using human rights as weapons in obtuse political games, betraying their very essence, we have chosen to have a dialogue, during this conclave endowed with high moral symbolism"

Amina Bouayach,
Chairperson, National Human Rights Council,
Kingdom of Morocco

Speech of

Ms. Fernanda Gil lozano,

Executive Director of CIPDH-UNESCO,
Argentina



Señora Amina Bouayach, Presidenta de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Marruecos

Señor Nasser Bourita, Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, Cooperación Africana y Expatriados Marroquíes

Señor Alto Representante de Argentina

Señoras y Señores especialistas-Señoras y Señores

Es para mí un honor reunirnos en la apertura del primer Pre Foro Internacional de Derechos Humanos en Marruecos, camino al III Foro Mundial de Derechos Humanos que próximamente realizaremos en la ciudad de Buenos Aires, República Argentina.

Que este Pre Foro cuente con la presencia de personalidades de tan alta jerarquía en el mundo relacionadas con la materia demuestra que la concreción del Foro Mundial es la meta que debemos alcanzar con el fin de ampliar nuestro horizonte en lo que refiere a la promoción de los derechos humanos. También observo, con gran satisfacción, que en el mundo actual la mayoría de los países se esfuerzan cada vez más por defender los derechos humanos al reconocerlos en su ordenamiento jurídico y que aquellos que aún no han podido hacerlo están introduciendo cambios para proporcionar garantías a fin de que la ciudadanía ejerza sus derechos.

Sabemos que los derechos humanos son universales y que las personas precisan ser formadas en ellos y comprender que por ser humanos esos derechos deben convertirse en parte integral de su vida en comunidad.

En efecto, los esfuerzos por abolir la esclavitud, la lucha por la libertad en todas sus formas, el acceso universal a la salud y a la educación, por poner ejemplos, están dando por resultado una reducción de las desigualdades a la hora de reconocer los derechos de los individuos.

No obstante, hoy, luego de tantos acontecimientos sufridos en los últimos tiempos, la garantía de la defensa de los derechos humanos tiende a

Speech of

MS. FERNANDA GIL LOZANO

convertirse en motivo de preocupación mundial. Así, los decisores se orientan cada vez más hacia la toma de conciencia de la necesidad de respetar las particularidades de cada comunidad. Necesidad que tiene un doble propósito: comprender los derechos humanos como fundamento para el desarrollo de las personas y de las naciones y reconocerlos para abordar y suplir las carencias de la ciudadanía con una mirada tolerante para garantizar su bienestar.

De esta manera, los problemas planteados respecto de la defensa de los derechos humanos deben explicarse en un lenguaje universal que apunten a respetar las divergencias y a moderar el sufrimiento para que las comunidades vivan en plenitud.

Nuestra responsabilidad siempre será defender estos derechos, garantizar su respeto y protección sin dejar de reconocer su interdependencia e interconexión. En esta línea, me parece apropiado relacionar el cambio climático con las migraciones y memoria con justicia transicional.

Pensar el cambio climático nos permite observar un aspecto de costo-beneficio y de unos pocos poderosos que impiden que el sistema actúe para proteger a una mayoría indefensa. Pero lo que quizá sea más importante es tratar el cambio climático como una cuestión de derechos humanos y lo imbuye de una gravedad y urgencia que exige nuestra máxima atención porque estamos llevando a cabo un gran experimento en el único planeta que nos toca vivir y que, si no se controla, probablemente lo altere, de forma alarmante e irreversible, modificando los ecosistemas a los que los humanos y todas las demás especies de la Tierra nos hemos adaptado durante milenios. Será un legado trágico para las futuras generaciones y para todas las demás especies de la Tierra. En este sentido, el calentamiento global resulta ser el tema ético más profundo que jamás hayamos enfrentado. Como mínimo, podríamos decir que es probable que sea la cuestión moral que defina nuestro siglo, al igual que el holocausto, el apartheid y otras muchas luchas que hicieron de la presión hacia grupos estigmatizados la cuestión que definió el siglo XX.

Sin dudas, estas cuestiones exigen una respuesta profunda por parte del Derecho y la condena más enérgica a la explotación de los más débiles. Como tal, demanda respuestas urgentes y adecuadas.

No escapan a nuestro conocimiento los grandes desplazamientos de personas causados por fenómenos climáticos que devastan su lugar de residencia y que generan serios efectos demográficos y socioeconómicos planteando la necesaria protección de un gran número de personas que requieren planificaciones viables. En este contexto, debemos revisar e investigar la eficacia de los actuales marcos de gobernanza que demandan la elaboración de políticas novedosas para abordar, con una atención eficaz, los derechos humanos de migrantes a causa del clima.

Este problema aún tiene un corpus reducido sobre migrantes medioambientales quienes en la actualidad no gozan de protección, lo que dificulta la satisfacción del disfrute de los derechos humanos dado que las consecuencias aciagas producidas por el cambio climático van en aumento. Los Estados tienen la obligación de proporcionar la defensa de los derechos humanos de cualquier persona que se encuentre bajo su jurisdicción, independientemente de su estatus migratorio.

Quiero hacer una pausa respecto de este tema para destacar el ascenso de Marruecos, país anfitrión del Pre Foro que recientemente subió un puesto y se sitúa 7º, entre los 10 países con mejores resultados en el Índice de Cambio Climático en el mundo y subrayar las declaraciones de Su Alteza Real, la princesa Lalla Hasnaa quien destacó, en el marco de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático de 2022 reunida recientemente en Egipto, que "... los impactos energéticos, financieros y alimentarios de la actual crisis mundial no deben, bajo ninguna circunstancia, desviar la acción de los Estados y de las instituciones internacionales de la imperiosa necesidad de hacer frente al cambio climático, ni de los compromisos internacionales contraídos al respecto, especialmente en materia de financiación" y que "... la crisis climática se está agravando y sus manifestaciones son cada vez más devastadoras y mortíferas», insistiendo en que «ya es hora, por tanto, de tomar medidas concretas y eficaces".

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MS. FERNANDA GIL LOZANO

En otro orden diferente de los temas de discusión, los campos de investigación interdisciplinarios de la memoria y la justicia transicional se han desarrollado en gran medida en paralelo y ambos se centran en los esfuerzos de las sociedades por aceptar y (re) apropiarse de su pasado. Es preciso tender un puente que promueva estudios para combinar una comprensión profunda de los contextos que han permitido que se produzcan injusticias con un análisis de cómo sus legados influyen en la memoria política e histórica respecto de los proyectos contemporáneos de reparación, reconocimiento e, incluso, de nuevos ciclos de negación.

Las políticas que reúnen memoria y justicia transicional deben promover un diálogo crítico entre diferentes encuadres teóricos y metodológicos y entre especialistas que acepten contribuciones de diversas disciplinas incluidas la ciencia política, la historia, la sociología, la antropología y los estudios culturales, para ser abordados desde una perspectiva nacional, comparada y global con enfoque en derechos humanos.

En efecto, los países que salen de largos períodos de regímenes dictatoriales deben enfrentarse a un legado de graves violaciones a los derechos humanos cuestión que, durante las últimas décadas, han generado aspectos complejos. Es el caso de la permanencia de lagunas de protección que indican la importancia de la cooperación en diferentes niveles.

El análisis de la justicia transicional podría beneficiarse de las ideas de los estudios sobre la memorización, constituirse en un paso en los ciclos de memoria y que las políticas surgidas de estos estudios sean cualitativamente diferentes de los producidos en tiempos de paz. E insisto: es mandatorio reflexionar sobre el tema desde múltiples perspectivas. Básicamente, debe responder a las preguntas de cuándo y cómo conseguir un futuro pacífico y justo donde los crímenes del pasado sean reconocidos y reparados y donde la ciudadanía y los líderes acuerden en que la violencia y los abusos contra los derechos humanos no deben repetirse. Debemos centrarnos en el concepto de "dignidad" para señalar el camino de re acondicionar el contrato social con el objeto de proteger los derechos de todas las personas damnificadas, realizar reformas a los sistemas e instituciones legales y acondicionar las políticas que rigen las sociedades.

En definitiva, la justicia transicional requiere de memoria histórica y nutrirse de diversos campos de análisis especializados como los derechos humanos y los estudios sobre y para la paz. Tenemos, entonces, en estos dos días una gran oportunidad para reflexionar y dar luz sobre temas que definirán nuevas perspectivas con enfoque en derechos humanos en el ámbito regional e internacional.

Para finalizar, agradezco la concreción de este Pre Foro teniendo por seguro que solo mediante el esfuerzo colectivo de los gobiernos, de la sociedad civil y de las personas lograremos un mundo en el que se respeten los derechos humanos manteniendo firme nuestro compromiso con esta causa sin abandonar la lucha por la dignidad y la libertad.

Muchas gracias

KEY MESSAGES

"Only through collective efforts, we will be able to realize a world in which human rights are respected (...) we have to maintain our commitment to this cause without abandoning the fight for dignity/freedom"

"global warming turns out to be the deepest ethical issue we have ever faced"

"problems raised in defending human rights must be explained in a universal language. Our responsibility will always be to defend Human Rights, guarantee their respect and protection while recognizing their interdependence and interconnectedness"

Fernanda Gil Lozano,
Executive Director, CIPDH-UNESCO:

Speech of

Mr. Nasser Bourita,

Minister of Foreign Affairs,
African Cooperation, and
Moroccan Expatriates, Kingdom
of Morocco



Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers,

Madam President of the National Human Rights Council

**Madam Executive Director of the International Centre for the Promotion
of Human Rights - UNESCO**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I would have liked to be with you on the occasion of the International Pre-Forum held in Rabat as a prelude to the 3rd World Forum on Human Rights to be held next month in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

2. As I am unable to do so, while I am in Addis Ababa, I would like, through this video message, to express the full support of the Kingdom of Morocco for this important meeting, which will focus on discussions on specific issues such as transitional justice, memory and climate change.

3. This meeting is unprecedented, it must be emphasized, and it is the expression of our renewed ambition to make the voice of our continent heard in the fight for the consolidation and deepening of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

4. By hosting this meeting, Morocco, a land of dialogue and exchange, intends, in particular, to ensure and give, once again, an African depth to this international platform for discussions on human rights issues, a unique and special international meeting at the global level.

5. Allow me to warmly welcome the strong cooperation dynamics and the resolutely inclusive approach that have always marked the interactions between the Republic of Argentina, the Republic of Brazil, which hosted the first edition of the World Forum on Human Rights in 2013 and the Kingdom of Morocco, which hosted the second edition of this event in 2014.

6. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the National Council for Human Rights and the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights of UNESCO for having joined their efforts to carry out this initiative, thus providing an opportunity for national, regional and international actors to examine the challenges and developments recorded on the human rights issues on the agenda.

7. The Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that the work of the Rabat Pre-Forum will bring undeniable added value to enrich the debates during the next Forum in Buenos Aires and will spare no effort to ensure that its work is crowned with success.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

8. The year 2023 promises to be rich in celebrations. Indeed, this year we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programs of Action, two landmark events that should be the driving force behind our motivation to meet the challenges we are faced with.

9. If it's true that considerable work has been done to overcome the challenges we face, there are still many paths to be explored, strengthened, initiated and even combined for more effective results in favor of human rights.

10. In this context, holding this Pre-Forum in the Kingdom of Morocco will pave the way for an in-depth and constructive discussion on issues that affect each of our countries with the conviction that common and sustainable solutions can be achieved.

11. This year is therefore an ideal opportunity to continue to raise our voice loud and clear for a prosperous, stable and peaceful Africa serving the interests of the continent's populations.

12. In the Royal Letter that His Majesty King Mohammed VI had addressed to the participants of the Second World Forum on Human Rights held in Marrakech in November 2014, the Sovereign had noted and I quote: *"Countries in the developing world - particularly in Africa - want to play a part in determining human rights standards. They no longer want to remain a subject for debate and assessment, or to be a field of experimentation" ... "Universal values are common to us all, but the pathways we take are not. This is the motto of a responsible Africa which is fully committed to human rights."* [End of quote]

13. These two human rights issues highlighted by the Sovereign are more relevant than ever on our continent.

14. Indeed, some who have set themselves up as self-proclaimed evaluators of human rights on our continent stubbornly cling to positions that set aside dialogue and cooperation as the foundations of protecting and realizing human rights, and instead adopt, unfortunately, positions of double standards and politicization that, far from serving the cause of human rights, weaken its foundations.

15. We will not cease to say it: there is no guardianship over human rights issues, there is no legitimacy of office to external evaluations dictates and there is no serious alternative to the progressive, individual and collective appropriation of the universality of human rights!

16. Our trajectory of asserting ourselves on the world scene cannot be taken hostage by confrontation logics that feed fractured processes weakening further international solidarity in the defense of human rights.

17. In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco calls for a renewal of human rights diplomacy because the coming years will be crucial. The best tool available to the international community remains, without doubt, an ambitious, patient and thoughtful diplomacy that builds, through dialogue and cooperation, a more balanced international human rights system that also finds the way to generate a more active discussion on economic and social rights while global social inequalities and economic insecurity deepen, before our eyes, day by day.

18. Furthermore, in a world that is increasingly pluralistic compared to a few decades ago, our continent is called upon to organize and consolidate its positions in the international debate on human rights that will take place in the coming years.

19. The opportunity, even the necessity, of a new Vienna Convention on Human Rights to evolve, modernize and deepen the international human rights system could quickly emerge on the international agenda. It is up to us to reflect on the responses to the challenges that arise in order to bring an African touch to this new stage and to advance the universal principles of human rights.

Speech of

MR. NASSER BOURITA

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

20. Under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Kingdom of Morocco continues, resolutely, to promote its national dynamics in the field of human rights in their comprehensiveness and universality as a vector of development.

21. This irreversible choice is confirmed by the numerous advances that have been made on all civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

22. Human rights and the establishment of the rule of law being, first and foremost, permanent projects, our countries must pursue their efforts and actions in order to fortify their achievements and create new opportunities, both at the national, regional and international levels.

23. It is high time to adopt a cross-sectoral approach by joining a dynamic of deepened cooperation and expanded dialogue among our countries, as we are doing today at this pre-forum and as we will soon do in Buenos Aires.

24. Finally, I would like to emphasize that the greatest lessons, on human rights or on any other subject, are not drawn from those who think they can give them, but are the fruit of the actions of those who act.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

25. In welcoming you once again to Morocco, a land of plural encounter and dialogue, I remain firmly convinced that your contributions to this Pre-forum will undoubtedly advance and deeply inspire present and future actions in promoting and protecting human rights.

Thank you for your attention.

KEY MESSAGES

«There is no guardianship over human rights issues, there is no legitimacy of office to external evaluations dictates and there is no serious alternative to the progressive, individual and collective appropriation of the universality of human rights»

“Our trajectory of asserting ourselves on the world scene cannot be taken hostage by confrontation logics that feed fractured processes weakening further international solidarity in the defense of human rights”

“The opportunity, even the necessity, of a new Vienna Convention on Human Rights to evolve, modernize and deepen the international human rights system could quickly emerge on the international agenda”

“the greatest lessons, on human rights or on any other subject, are not drawn from those who think they can give them, but are the fruit of the actions of those who act.»

Nasser Bourita,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation,
and Moroccan Expatriates

Speech of

Mr. Santiago Cafiero,

Minister of Foreign Affairs,
International Trade and
Worship, Argentina



En primer lugar, extendiendo un afectuoso saludo a la presidenta del Consejo Nacional Marroquí de Derechos Humanos, Sra. Amina Bouayach y a todos y todas las presentes en esta sesión inaugural del pre Foro Mundial de Derechos Humanos.

Desde la recuperación de la democracia en 1983, la Argentina incorporó la promoción y protección de los derechos humanos como un eje fundamental y transversal de su política exterior. A nivel nacional, un eje fundamental ha sido la erradicación de la impunidad de los crímenes contra la humanidad perpetrados durante la última dictadura cívico militar que padeció nuestro país.

Por eso celebro, que en este Foro uno de los temas en los que compartiremos valiosas experiencias sea el de justicia transicional y memoria. Quisiera aprovechar la oportunidad para agradecer el apoyo y voto de confianza que muchos de Ustedes depositaron en la Argentina para presidir el Consejo de Derechos Humanos durante el 2022. A lo largo de nuestra presidencia nos fijamos el objetivo de trabajar para fortalecer la agenda multilateral de una manera constructiva y equilibrada. Nuestra meta fue y continúa siendo facilitar un diálogo franco y transparente con todos los Estados con la activa participación de la sociedad civil, fortaleciendo la capacidad del Consejo para actuar de forma efectiva frente a situaciones urgentes de violaciones de derechos humanos.

En esa misma línea deseo destacar la convocatoria y el trabajo de articulación realizado por Marruecos en la organización de este Pre-foro Mundial de Derechos Humanos. Estoy convencido que las sesiones que mantendrán hoy y mañana enriquecerán enormemente los debates

Speech of

MR. SANTIAGO CAFIERO

que tendrán lugar en Buenos Aires el próximo mes de marzo. Deseo, en este sentido, reiterarles la invitación para participar a la tercera edición del Foro Mundial de Derechos Humanos que está siendo organizada por mi país, bajo guía del Centro Internacional para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos de Unesco; las y los esperamos para poder fortalecer nuestras agendas y continuar trabajando juntos.

Muchas gracias.

KEY MESSAGES

"I am convinced that the sessions of the Pre-forum will greatly enrich the debates that will take place in Buenos Aires next March. In this sense, I wish to reiterate the invitation to participate in the third edition of the World Forum on Human"

"Throughout our presidency (of the WHRF), we will work to strengthen the multilateral agenda in a constructive and balanced way. Our goal was and continues to be to facilitate a frank and transparent dialogue with all States with the active participation of civil society"

"I am pleased that the Pre-Forum Forum tackles the topic of transitional justice and memory, a topic on which we will share valuable experiences".

Santiago Cafiero,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina

Speech of

Mr. Raji Sourani,

Director, Palestinian Center
for Human Rights



I am delighted to be in this hospitable and friendly country among friends. I have been visiting this country for 25 years, and during this period, there was no personal reason to visit. Each time, the visit was to meet Moroccan, Arab, and international human rights activists. Human rights and human dignity were always the basis and essence of our discussions. Throughout this period, I have come to know activists in this beautiful country who are, by all standards and measures, leaders in humanistic and ethical thought, and all of whom are a source of inspiration. Today, we are at a special and significant stage, which is the Rabat Pre-Forum.

Morocco organized the 2nd edition of the World Human Rights Forum in 2014, and we are preparing for the next one to be held in March in Buenos Aires, Argentina, just a month away from now.

Since the second WHRF and until now, issues related to climate change, migration, and other topics have unfortunately been characterized by four elements: politicization, selectivity, failure to address the real roots of these problems, and stagnation.

We will be discussing these problems in our meeting to prepare for the summit that will be held in Argentina, and we believe that unless the root causes of these problems are addressed, there will be no progress. Therefore, it is up to the States, specifically in Europe and America, to seriously reflect on the reasons that led to this situation.

Being in Morocco, I wish to mention Palestine, as the Al-Quds Committee, Chaired by His Majesty the King, plays a significant role in supporting the Palestinian people.

When we talk about migration, we talk about the Nakba of 1948, and we see how the world deals with it. We look at how it is being dealt with in Ukraine and the Ukrainian refugees. They deserve all the humane treatment as refugees and all the possible assistance, but migrants are the same everywhere, human beings, have to enjoy their human rights

Speech of

MR. RAJI SOURANI

without any compromise, and their right to return cannot be negotiated by anyone, whatever the circumstances may be.

We cannot talk about settlements and forced displacement without discussing the International Criminal Court and the selectivity and politicization that exist within it. What is happening in the International Criminal Court, by all standards and measures, is selective, unreasonable, and unacceptable.

The last thing I want to mention is that international law and international humanitarian law set standards and rules for states to respect and implement. They are not required to do more than that. Human dignity is the same in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and America. Human values must be unified, and our work and struggle for humanity must be one. I wish to the President of the National Human Rights Council, all the success in leading this conference.

I wish you all the best, and thank you.

RABAT WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS PRE-FORUM

February 17-18, 2023
Bouregreg Conferences Center



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Plenary Session: Emerging developments and challenges

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Mr. Malcolm Dalesa, Climate Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations in New York;

Ms. Charafat Aflal, Former Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water, and Environment, in charge of water, Morocco.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND MEMORY:

Mr. Remo Carlotto, Executive Director of the Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights of MERCOSUR (IPPDH).

Mr. Abdelhay Moudden, Political Scientist, University Professor in Morocco and in the United States, Former member of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission;

MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY:

Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad;

Ms. Ugochi Florence Daniels, IOM's Deputy Director General.

Moderation:

Ms. Soyata Maiga, Lawyer, Former President of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Rapporteurs:

Ms. Michaela Ujházyová, Head of Research, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

Mr. Saadi Mohamed, University Professor, Morocco

Mr. Sadikh Niass, Secretary General, African Meeting for the Defense of Human Rights

SUMMARY OF THE SESSION:

Ms. Maiga Soyata:

Addressing the emerging vulnerabilities and challenges faced by human rights defenders, NGOs, and NHRIs has become an urgent necessity. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on already marginalized groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, and rural communities. In this regard, it is highly important to integrate solutions that support basic social services and economic recovery into national policies and programs that have been disrupted due to the pandemic.

Migration causes are often linked to poverty, insecurity, political and social governance issues, and human rights violations in countries of origin. Until these underlying issues are addressed, irregular and perilous migration will continue to occur. The Pre-forum, and the world Human rights Forum provide an opportunity to examine significant challenges, including restrictive policies and inadequate legislations.

It is important to revisit initiatives, strategies, and processes that have been developed at the African level and within the framework of cooperation with the EU, and identify gaps and deficiencies in terms of political will, coordination, and financial support for local development programs."

It is also important to work on restoring trust between governments and populations through virtuous and inclusive political, economic, and social governance. African culture and traditions could contribute to reconstructing collective memory, promoting / empowering women and youth, and rebuilding tolerance and peace.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Malcolm Dalesa:

Humanity faces a fierce battle against the mounting threat of climate change. On an increasingly systematic basis, people of Vanuatu encounter many adverse impacts of sea-level rise, droughts, increased frequency of cyclones and other extreme climatic events.

Vanuatu, with a Core Group of countries, is putting forward a UN General Assembly Resolution calling on the International Court of Justice to provide an Advisory Opinion on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change. Morocco is an instrumental member of this Core Group of Countries.

An advisory opinion of the ICJ will draw a clear line between what is an acceptable outcome of climate negotiations and what is a non-negotiable legal responsibility. A rights' focused advisory opinion from the ICJ would transform ambition to address climate change impacts and ultimately enhance the efficiency of the Paris Agreement.

Ms. Charaft Afilal:

There is a close link between human rights and climate change. Despite numerous reports and resolutions since 2008, there is still a lack of strong political support for the human rights dimension in climate change negotiations. Indicators or commitments relating to respecting human rights in the NDCs, the adaptation and mitigation programs, and even in mobilizing funds, are still limited.

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is alarming, as extreme weather conditions are frequently recurring and posing existential threats to Humanity. One of the principles of the Paris Agreement is the shared responsibility to address climate change; however, industrialized countries are failing to fulfill their obligations and financial commitments towards Africa, which is the main victim of climate change.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Mr. Abdelhay Mouden:

With few exceptions, the experiences of Transitional Justice took place in the South, while systematic contributions in the theorization and assessments of these experiences are conceived in the North.

In assessing the impact of transitional processes on memory and history, attention must be paid to the wide variety of forms of remembering, historicizing and storytelling, and how these tales of the past are expressed in popular culture.

Reconciliation means the continuity of politics in the environments of changes that countries discover in the aftermath of post-conflict, post-authoritarianism, and post cruelty, and within the ever-changing contexts of politics at the global level. What countries do with their heritage and with their new realities is open ended.

The past does warn against the dangers to Human Rights that erupted unexpectedly, but it also tells about the limits of determinism, be it historicist, technological, socio-economic or cultural. It informs in addition about the unlimited possibilities of human creativity in dealing with the challenges it faces, and the effectiveness of the imaginative forms of resistance to domination and repression.

Mr. Remo Carlotto:

During the 1960s and 1970s, many military dictatorships were established throughout Latin America. Under these regimes, economic policies led to widespread social and economic crises, while repression was used against political dissidents. Thousands were imprisoned without cause or trial and others were forced to flee the region due to persecution. thousands were forced to move into internal exile. Furthermore, approximately 500 children were forcibly taken during this period.

Argentina prioritized truth, justice, and reparations after the establishment of democracy. The country established a commission to investigate the crimes committed under the dictatorship, and compiled reports documenting the victims of the regime's abuses. Furthermore, Argentina's justice system prosecuted those responsible for the atrocities.

The strategy implemented in Argentina included intergenerational dissemination of information about the past gross violations, and reparations that extended beyond financial compensation. Memory initiatives were also developed to guarantee non-repetition.

Memory preservation should not be limited to the interpretation of what happened to the victims but should also consider the impact on the whole community. Constructing memory is a crucial part of building more equitable societies that prioritize inclusion, tolerance, human rights respect and consolidation of democratic principles.

MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Ms. Ugochi Florence Daniels:

IOM is grateful to Morocco's leadership as Champion Country of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). International migration is already contributing significantly to annual gross domestic product which could likely be doubled by 2050. Globally, migrants face too often a multitude of protection challenges, discrimination, abuse and rights violations, especially during transit and at borders. Many migrants encounter exploitation and poor living conditions. Migrant women and girls particularly, in addition, have been subjected to sexual abuse and gender-based violence, during their journeys and at destination.

Detention of migrants remains an issue. There are many migrants detained around the globe only in relation to their migration status, including children, who are detained in violation of international law, often in conditions amounting to inhumane treatment. In that context, the values of the Universal Declaration and other Human Rights instruments are more relevant and needed to define policies and laws on migration.

In the spirit of the GCM and the Global Compact for Refugees. It is crucial to strengthen access to safer, regular and alternative pathways for migrants.

Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye:

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Marrakech Pact) represents an important step towards protecting migrants' rights. The Pact, with its 23 objectives covering all dimensions of migration, builds upon major international legal instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others.

The Pact fills the gaps left by the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which has been ratified only by countries in the South. Civil society organizations must continue advocating for the Convention's adoption by Northern states, as security cannot justify human rights violations.

International mechanisms, charters and programs related to migration must be respected in order to ensure respect of migrants' rights. Advocacy for humane treatment and medical assistance for migrants and refugees throughout the immigration process must be strengthened.

The human dimension of migration must be placed at the center of serious and intensive international cooperation. Safe and regular migration would guarantee preservation of migrant's rights. There is also a need to go beyond the security approach to migration and integrate social and economic inclusion of this category in host countries.



Thematic session:

Climate Change and Human Rights



Guiding background:

In an international context marked by persisting and open-ended conflicts and humanitarian crises, environmental advocacy has known a qualitative and quantitative evolution. The Paris Agreement, as an important milestone, had established the groundwork of an approach aimed at fighting against climate change by mentioning the obligations incumbent on States in terms of human rights.

The United Nations Human Rights Council recognized, in its resolution 48/13, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. This recognition imposes the adoption of new paradigms considering the citizen both as an actor and a goal of the development, within the framework of a global economic, political, social, cultural and environmental process, which aims to preserve the dignity of citizens and to improve their well-being and quality of life.

Recently, the mixed results of the latest edition of the COP27 have raised many questions regarding the challenges that remain to be addressed in order to overcome the multidimensional climate change threats. Indeed, it is important to highlight the paradoxical nature of having succeeded in adopting a resolution on a climate loss and damage fund for nations suffering the impact of climate change, while failing to reach an agreement allowing to tackle the profound causes of the phenomenon.

All in all, the creation of the aforementioned fund would probably require designing, adopting and implementing new climate measures at the national and international levels; a development that would raise major questions. In order to guarantee the sustainability and effectiveness of any envisioned measure, it would be essential to work in favor of the rehumanization of climate change, by placing human rights protection at the center of the adopted strategies, and the present and generations at the heart of this global issue.

Human rights must therefore be repositioned at the center of climate policies so as to break with a large part of current approaches which tend

Thematic session:

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

to focus on scientific, technical or even economic aspects. This process of humanization will make it possible to build a new paradigm that looks at the Man and the environment as intertwined and interdependent elements.

Human rights must therefore be placed at the center of climate policies in such a way that builds on current approaches which tend to focus on scientific, technical and economic aspects, in order to give new momentum to environmental advocacy.

This thematic session, held as part of the pre-world human rights forum which will take place in Rabat on 17-18 February 2023, will attempt to reassess environmental advocacy and reflect on the means to rehumanize it. It also aims to discuss avenues that are likely to strengthen the arguments put forward by climate defenders and help them advance in their endeavor to build a common understanding of the complexity of changes underway and their multidimensional implications for humans.

Specific issues

- What happened – or not – at COP27 in Egypt, what progress was made and what opportunities were missed? Has the outcome confirmed the “illusion” of global action with binding measures?
- The latest edition of the COP27 Conference of Parties adopted, following difficult negotiations, a resolution on a compensation fund for the poorest countries suffering the impacts of climate change. This raises a major question: Between the implementation of this fund and the search for a coordinated global action, what is the message that the associative actors must carry today to reframe the reflections around this problem beyond the implementation of the international climate agenda?
- Has the climate-centric vision placed reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the foreground before the challenges of development, health, employment and poverty, whereas these issues cannot be separated from each other?

- What measures to guarantee the rehumanization of climate change, by placing human rights protection at the center of the adopted strategies, and by putting the individual and current or future generations back at the heart of this global problem? How to reposition human rights at the center of climate policies so as to break with some of the current approaches which tend to focus on the scientific, technical or even economic aspects?

Specific objectives:

- Identify the progress made during the various Conferences of Parties, highlight the new opportunities and the possible gaps in implementing climate policies.
- Review progress and assess the implementation of the Paris Agreement since its adoption;
- Identify the possible evolutions that NGOs should take into consideration to rethink climate change advocacy.
- Share experiences, good practices, challenges and lessons learned and discuss possible solutions and approaches;
- Identify innovative ways of cooperation between all relevant stakeholders.

Thematic session:

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Proceedings of the Session:

Moderation: **Mr. Michel Forst**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Protection of Environmental Defenders

Speakers:

Mr. David R. Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (online);

M. Damilola Olawuyi, Vice Chair, Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises;

Mr. Muhammad Lawal Sulaiman, Chairperson, Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

Ms. Houria Tazi Sadeq, President of the Regional Human Rights Commission of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Governor at the World Water Council;

Mr. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés, Director General of Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico;

Mr. Peter Splinter, Senior Consultant on Human Rights and climate change, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

Mr. Chongsi Ayeah Joseph, Deputy Presiding Officer, ECOSOC General Assembly, AU;

Mr. Ahmed Adham Abdulla, Vice President, Human Rights Commission of the Maldives;

Ms. Hannah Forster, Executive Director, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies.

Rapporteurs:

Mr. Ayman Okeil, President, Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights;

Ms. Fatin Tawfig, Associate Programme Officer, UNFCCC

Summary of discussions:

In addition to the guiding questions, participants in the session raised further issues:

- How to return to and embrace the traditional and indigenous knowledge that helped ancestors live in harmony with nature?
- In the context of climate change-induced migration, what happens to the people and places left behind?
- How do we communicate better in service of human rights-based climate action?
- How to ensure robust accountability processes are in place?

While it is difficult to answer all these questions, one thing that became clear is the need to be concrete when considering and discussing the nexus between human rights and climate change. This involves talking about specific rights under threat like the right to water, and threats to specific ecosystems that underpin these rights like oases in Morocco.

The nexus between climate change and human rights must be looked at holistically. Close attention must be paid to the connections between different facets of climate issues. This includes taking an intersectional approach to understanding and promoting human rights-based climate action. This means considering, for example, how rights are affected differently for an impoverished woman facing drought in rural Africa? How a disabled senior facing river floods in Europe? How an indigenous child faces sea level rise in the Pacific? How nomads in mountain regions face desertification?

Taking a holistic approach also means understanding how risks compound with one another and with existing failures to fully realize human rights. The pandemic demonstrated how existing failures to ensure the right to water and sanitation is enjoyed by all – a situation being exacerbated by the impacts of climate change – can worsen existing vulnerabilities.

Thematic session:

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

One other message was loud and clear: achieving climate action that protects and promotes the full realization of human rights is an all-hands-on-deck endeavor. There are important roles that all actors at all levels need to play. These include businesses; religious leaders and institutions; civil society organizations; national human rights institutions; national and subnational governments; international and regional organizations; educators; local communities; individuals; and more.

All stakeholders need to be equipped with tailored and accessible tools that empower them to fulfill these roles. Examples include translating human rights principles into concrete guidance for action by national governments and human rights institutions, or delivering climate change education that is multisectoral, interdisciplinary, and tailored to local communities. At the same time, effective accountability mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that all actors are fulfilling their obligations and commitments at the intersection of climate change and human rights.

Some participants emphasized that the full spectrum of solutions for tackling climate change and promoting low-carbon, climate-resilient development should remain on the table. This includes new and innovative technologies, traditional and indigenous practices, and even some solutions that may be seen as controversial. But there is a caveat: it is critical to ensure that implementing a solution to one problem does not create another problem. For example, the installation of low-carbon technologies should not rely on laborers toiling in poor working conditions; the deployment of adaptation technologies should not trigger biodiversity loss or rely on carbon-intensive energy use.

There are also opportunities in the area of international negotiations on climate change, and also on biodiversity, which should not be neglected in the discussions. Specifically, countries can apply a human rights lens to these discussions to ensure human rights are mainstreamed into climate and biodiversity action. This can be facilitated by, for example, including national human rights experts as part of national delegations. The months leading up to these conferences are also key windows of opportunity for

national human rights institutions and other stakeholders to inform the negotiating positions that countries bring to these conferences, helping to ensure that human rights considerations are well reflected.

At COP27, a significant agreement was reached regarding “loss and damage.” However, COP28 must take further action. A long-term response fund in the form of a program is required. To finance loss and damage, a potential option is to impose a global carbon tax on high-polluting companies and utilize the revenue generated. International collaboration is critical in COP28 to combat climate change.

Considerable uncertainty surrounds the outcome of the Global Stocktake, which is required by the Paris Agreement to occur every five years to assess the progress made in implementing the agreement’s objectives. The initial technical phase of the first Global Stocktake began in 2022 and is set to conclude at COP28.

Climate change impacts are causing food and water insecurity for millions of people, with inadequate adaptation efforts and insufficient funding for resilience. Only about 10% of necessary funding is reaching those most affected. Despite daily losses, COP 27 did not formally include adaptation finance on the agenda.

National human rights institutions are well-placed to bridge national and international attention to human rights in connection with climate change. They are able to act individually and collectively through the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional counterparts. Based on their work at the national level, national human rights institutions can bring national experience to international processes. They can also support the implementation of international standards and outcomes at the national level.

Thematic session:

Migration, Mobility and Human Rights protection challenges



Guiding background

Nowadays, everything is on the move. Goods and capital are circulating with unprecedented ease, people are moving and crossing borders more than ever before.

Migration occurs for several reasons, including inequalities in development between the North and the South. Other causes are linked to profound technological, social, economic and cultural changes often described by the generic term “globalization”. These migration factors have been further exacerbated by the persistence of hotbeds of tension and armed conflicts in the world and the resulting violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

Starting from the fact that the globalization of migratory flows concerns all regions of the world and that a large number of countries have become at the same time countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants, the fact of leaving a country to another has become, like many other human activities, an issue of concern for international law. The phenomenon of cross-border movements of people no longer escapes the grip of legal regulation, thus creating obligations and duties for States.

Without going back to the distant origins of the right to migrate or invoking the successive texts that have recognized and enshrined it, the “right to leave any country, including one’s own” was enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 13 §2), it has been taken up again in numerous international treaties and especially in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 12 §2): “Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own”.

However, the right to leave one’s country presupposes, in order to be fully realized, the right to enter another country. Although the international law recognizes the freedom to leave and return to one’s own country, it does not guarantee the right to enter another country. This raises the problematic issue of entry into a country other than one’s own.

Thematic session:

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION CHALLENGES

Moreover, does the silence of human rights treaties on the issue of the entry of migrants into the territory of a State allow to conclude that this matter belongs exclusively to the reserved domain of the State? Can we assume that emigration belongs to the field of international law, while immigration is strictly a matter of the sovereign competence and prerogatives of States? Of course, the answer to these questions is less clear-cut than it might appear. On the one hand, the original aporia that characterized the emergence of the "right to migrate" in international human rights law prevents the majority of the world's population from fully enjoying it without discrimination. The reality of "mobility" between citizens of the rich countries of the North and those of the South and the ever-increasing securitization of borders attest to the fact that the majority of people who are forced to migrate do not have the right to do so freely.

On the other hand, migration, by its motivations, characteristics and human dimension, is a complex phenomenon that poses major and unavoidable challenges for all countries. If the security dimension is inherent to any population movement, and if it is legitimate for States to integrate this dimension in their migration policies, security alone cannot be the absolute justification for serious violations of the fundamental rights and cannot be seen as a valid reason States can invoke to circumvent their obligations under general international law and international human rights law.

Obviously, States have the power to determine their migration policies. Nevertheless, these policies must be based on a normative system that guarantees the respect and implementation of the numerous forms of protection granted to foreigners by the international and regional human rights systems.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) continues to raise new complications. Migration continues to be largely handled according to a security-based approach which often neglects the requirements of protection and integration as well as the principles of shared responsibility and the necessity of multidimensional and multi-stakeholder consultations.

Specific objectives

- Contribute to the debate on the protection of the rights of migrating persons with regard to States' obligations.
- Identify the major challenges to the rights of persons in mobility and put forward proposals to promote the effectiveness of their rights; share experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in terms of migration governance in order to support safe, orderly and regular migration.
- Assess the implementation of the GCM since its adoption in 2018, with a focus on:
 1. Evaluating the implementation of the GCM objectives and identifying the factors that threaten its implementation;
 2. Evaluating national mechanisms to translate the GCM objectives into concrete action at the national level (construction and governance modalities and impact on the implementation of objectives).
 3. Evaluating the international conventions on migration.
 4. Making recommendations to support the implementation of the GCM objectives.
- Support reflection on migration governance through:
 1. Ensuring that the fundamental rights of migrants are protected.
 2. Drawing on the contribution of all the relevant stakeholders.
- Support reflection on the mobilization of the stakeholders concerned with mobility issues (States, persons in mobility, academics, associations, NHRIs...) and modalities of cooperation/partnership between stakeholders themselves toward human rights-based migration dimension.

Thematic session:

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION CHALLENGES

Specific issues

- What are the protection gaps that exist between specific international human rights instruments and their effective implementation in national legislation, policy, institutional frameworks as well as practices?
- Which correlation between the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Compact for Migration? What are the issues raised by migration under the prism of the States' human rights protection obligations?
- What progress was achieved in the GCM implementation since its adoption? What are the main challenges and good practices in the management of mobility? what solutions, approaches and remedies for a safe, orderly and regular migration?
- How to advocate for a human rights-based approach in migration policies? How to strengthen cooperation between all relevant stakeholders?

Proceedings of the Session:

Key speakers:

Moderation: Mr. Rodrigo Gómez Tortosa, Director of Research and Studies, CIPDH-UNESCO, Deputy Executive Secretary of the III World Forum on Human Rights ;

Mr. Edgar Corzo Sosa, President of the Committee on Migrant Workers;

Mr. Mohamed Amarti, University Professor, member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

Mr. Iván Martín, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona (Spain), Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco);

Mr. François Reybet-Degat, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Morocco;

Mr. Franck Iyanga, Secretary General of Democratic Labor Organization (ODT) - Migrants;

Ms. Priscilla Mbang, NHRI Zimbabwe, Member of the NANHRI working group on migration;

Mr. Mounir El Fassi, Director of Human Rights, League of Arab States

Rapporteurs:

Mr. Mohammed Charef, University Professor, Member of the Committee on Migrant Workers;

Ms. Mélanie Sonhaye Kombate, Regional Secretariat of the West African Network of Human Rights Defenders.

Thematic session:

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION CHALLENGES

Summary of discussions:

The session highlighted three key areas of concern: the legal framework of migrants' protection, its effectiveness, and other pertinent governance mechanisms; the intersection between the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; safeguarding the right to family life; and the issue of fund transfers.

The session culminated in a consensus that the commitment of States to adopt the two Global Compacts could signal the advent of global migration governance. However, several challenges were identified, including the lack of effective and structured international cooperation on migration despite the adoption of the pacts, states' failure to implement them, and difficulties in harmonizing the provisions of the Global Compact on Migration and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers.

Challenges in ensuring the effectiveness of migrant' rights have also been highlighted. In terms of asylum, States do not meet their obligations in international protection. Insufficient international solidarity could also be pointed out, despite the adoption of the Global Compact. Other issues relate to the systemic discrimination in the right to mobility (linked in particular to visa policies), the Confusion between the right of residence and the duty to assist migrants in vulnerable situations; and the deficiencies in protecting vulnerable migrants, both legally and effectively, particularly against humantrafficking.

The exceptional crisis presented by the pandemic raised many questions about the effectiveness of protecting migrants, especially with the restrictions imposed on nationals returning to their own countries. Internal migrations/displacements remain a major issue, particularly on the African continent.

In the context of the integration of migrants in host countries, cross-cutting

issues were identified in terms of the effectiveness of rights, and concerns were raised regarding the preservation of identity and culture.

The need to strengthen experience-sharing and knowledge transfer among countries and regional and international organizations in the domain of combating human trafficking is widely recognized. In this regard, guidance manuals outlining best practices are deemed essential. Moreover, adopting proactive crisis management measures and early identification procedures for both potential and actual victims is critical to prevent their exploitation. It is also crucial to ensure that national legislation provides a clear and precise definition of human trafficking crimes and its victims.

Participants noted that the politicization of migration in national policies results in negative perceptions of migrants. These policies restrict access to regular migration pathways, therefore forcing migrants to take more dangerous routes, which increases their vulnerability and puts their lives at risk.

Participants concluded that human trafficking issues should be discussed during the World Human Rights Forum, with a view to strengthening the protection of victims, particularly women and children, and supporting initiatives aimed at establishing enhanced protection mechanisms.

Thematic session:

Transitional justice and memory



Guiding background:

The concept of “transitional justice” is relatively recent and its definition sometimes varies according to human rights, international humanitarian law and international law jurisprudence. However, a significant part of interpretations seems to agree on the definition that transitional justice comprises “the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempt to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past violations and abuses to serve justice and achieve reconciliation.

Historically, past transitional justice experiences have mainly focused on inquiry, investigation, arbitration, individual or collective reparations for victims, constitutional and institutional reforms, strengthening human rights, mainstreaming justice reforms, developing security governance strategies, fighting impunity and preserving memory to guarantee non-repetition.

The issue of transitional justice poses a myriad of challenges not only with regard to its extremely complex process, but also because its results and repercussions cannot be predicted in advance. The experiences of transitional justice, which should be understood in their explanatory historical contexts, continue to raise major questions, such as:

When a transitional justice process is launched, is it enough to adopt simple procedures and regulations, constitutional and institutional reforms with a view to materializing the political will in a country which has experienced difficult situations, tensions and serious violations of human rights? or is it a serene holistic process that would analyze collective psychology and multiple identities, and suggest appropriate approaches and solutions to melt any complex, closed or introverted elements into the larger national identity?

Some studies argue that in order to answer the aforementioned questions, transitional justice would have to be a constructive and structural process and not a circumstantial reaction. A process that restores justice and

Thematic session:

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND MEMORY

avoids any element that would be disruptive or confusing. A process that encourages the emergence of bridges allowing subnational identities, having suffered from exclusion and isolation, to integrate into a multiple collective/national identity.

Collective memory is at the center of transitional justice and therefore raises several questions and issues. It is essential to underline that building collective memory within the processes of reconciliation is not only a requirement for national social cohesion but also a pillar of peacebuilding and national harmony, particularly in countries emerging from violent internal conflicts.

Today, under the increasing pressure of transformation dynamics linked, among other things, to the digital revolution, artificial intelligence and climate change, the international community is gradually being oriented towards identities that are closed, egocentric and rejecting the other. Hence the importance of transitional justice processes to be fortified with means to shape the narrative in order to build a collective memory in a way that suppresses the impacts of dehumanization and exclusion of the other.

Specific issues

In light of all these contexts and developments, the panel on “transitional justice and memory” will showcase certain experiences and good practices and seek to discuss and provide recommendations and answers to the following elements:

- Contexts and concepts of transitional justice experiences.
- What means and approaches in managing the balance of power and tensions are needed to succeed in a transitional justice process? What bridges and what roles for the international community in supporting and promoting experiences of transitional justice?

- How to define collective memory from human rights point of view? What is the relationship between individual and collective memory? what approaches are likely to favor transforming the process of building a collective memory into solid guarantees of non-repetition?
- Does collective memory contribute to the consolidation of peace and social cohesion and the guarantee of human rights protection? How can collective memory help promote cross-border peacebuilding, especially in the African environment?
- How can the process of building collective memory be used as a way to promote women empowerment?
- How can transitional justice and climate change fields be better integrated to cope with both justice and environmental human rights challenges? And to what extent?

Thematic session:

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND MEMORY

Proceedings of the session:

key speakers:

Moderation: Mr. Hanny Megally, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow of New York University's Center on International Cooperation

Introductions:

Ms. Aua Baldé, President of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;

Mr. Fabián Salvioli, Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;

Mr. Habib Belkouch, President of the Center for Studies in Human Rights and Democracy;

Mr. Diego Blázquez Martín, Director General of Memoria Democrática, Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Parliament and Democratic Memory, Spain;

Ms. María Florencia Segura, Plenipotentiary Minister, Directorate of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina;

Ms. María Fernanda García Iribarren, Director of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, Chile;

Ms. Fatima Chohan, Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission;

Mr. Joseph Whittal, Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana;

Mr. Ephraïm Isaac, Director, Institute of Semitic Studies, Princeton University.

Rapporteurs:

Mr. Abderrazzak Rouwane, Member of the UN Committee against Torture;

Ms. Marie Louise Mukashema, Senior Counsel, Rwanda Bar Association.

Summary of discussions:

Nine transitional experiences were presented during this session. The contributors included specialized United Nations mechanisms, government institutions, national human rights institutions, universities, civil society organizations, and memory preservation institutions.

The United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance presented its origin, mandate in terms of transitional justice, as well as its contribution to the development and implementation of various international standards on the subject. The Group's primary directive is to assist families and relatives of victims by investigating and clarifying cases related to enforced disappearance. In addition, the working group has made significant contributions towards the development of international standards on transitional justice through its comprehensive thematic studies, detailed reports, and field visits. Consequently, the Group has emerged as a driving force behind the advancement of transitional justice on a global scale.

The group's approach towards addressing cases of enforced disappearance is rooted in the fundamental pillars of transitional justice, including truth-seeking, reparations in all its dimensions including reparation, health or social rehabilitation, memory preservation, and guarantees of non-repetition. Moreover, the Group adopted an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach, with a special emphasis on women and children who are victims of enforced disappearance.

Furthermore, the session underscored certain fundamental components that are essential in achieving transitional justice in nations that have known gross past human rights violations. These pivotal components include truth-uncovering, effective reparations to victims, uncompromised establishment of accountability, and prevention of future violations. The critical role of accountability in providing justice to victims, especially in countries that have experienced genocides, was also emphasized. It was reiterated that

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the success of transitional justice is contingent upon the political will of States to respect human rights, and ensure their comprehensive protection.

In terms of good practices, the Moroccan truth commission (IER) succeeded in revealing the truth on most cases of forced disappearance. Victims of forced disappearance and arbitrary detention were compensated, and the recommendations of the Commission were integrated into the 2011 Constitution.

In Spain, efforts have been made to address past gross violations by providing reparations to victims, enabling exiles to return, and granting pensions to those affected. These measures have recently been reinforced through the implementation of a national plan to reveal the truth, determine the fate of victims, and locate their remains. Furthermore, gender and equality issues have been carefully considered and a law for reparations has been passed.

In Argentina, the trials against impunity involved the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. The incorporation of a gender perspective and victims' empowerment were essential components of the trials. Additionally, recognizing the right to truth, whether as an individual right or a collective right for society as a whole, held significance for victims and is essential for comprehending past events.

In Chile, Human rights defenders played a leading role in the transitional justice process, documented human rights abuses, provided support to victims and their families, and advocated for justice and reparations. The Museum of Memory and Human Rights was established to preserve memory, pay tribute to victims and their families, and promote debates on tolerance and non-repetition guarantees. The museum, which includes a collection of oral and written testimonies, legal documents, letters, narratives, literature, articles, films, historical artifacts, and photographs, plays a central role in promoting transitional justice and accountability in the country.

In South Africa, the ethnic crisis during the transition from a minority regime to a democratically elected government was presented. The

session highlighted the constitutional amendments and the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission established to promote national reconciliation through truth-seeking and compensating victims.

In Ghana, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established many years after the country's transition from an authoritarian one-party government to a constitutional democracy. Its sought reparations for victims and engaged legal proceedings against those responsible for the gross human rights violations.

In Ethiopia, a country with a reconciliation culture rooted in history, the principle of peace is enshrined in the Constitution. The atrocities currently taking place in the country and arbitrary arrests need to cease and be addressed. It is of most importance to respect the peace agreement signed in Kenya. Ethiopia's recent publication of its draft Policy Options for Transitional Justice, dated January 2023, represents a positive first step towards a locally-owned transitional justice initiative.

The representative of Democratic republic of Congo' National Human Rights Institution emphasized the importance of establishing a transitional justice process to provide reparations for victims of gross human rights violations in the eastern region of the country. He also requested international solidarity in this regard, based on the universality of human rights.

The session highlighted the importance of memory preservation, especially within the processes of transitional justice. Memory preservation serves as an effective tool to maintain collective and societal vigilance towards past gross human rights violations. Also, attention must be paid to gender approaches and their implementation, whether in national experiences or international mechanisms.



Closing Session

Moderation:

Mr. Idrissa Sow, Chair, Working Group on the Death Penalty, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Speakers:

Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazala, Head of Social Affairs Sector at the League of Arab States;

Ms. Arantxa Ríos Echeverría, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, in charge of the organization of the Chile World Human Rights Pre-Forum;

Mr. Mabassa Fall, Member of the Steering Committee, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Gambia;

Ms. Fátima Cabrera, Representative of Human Rights organizations, CIPDH-UNESCO;

Mr. Mounir Bensalah, Secretary General of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco.

Summary of the session:

The closing session of the Pre-Forum highlighted the need for continued collaboration and cooperation between different regions and organizations in order to address the emerging challenges faced by human rights defenders, NGOs, and NHRIs. The session also emphasized the need for sustained collaboration and cooperation between diverse regions and organizations to address the emerging challenges and vulnerabilities that impede progress in the field of human rights.

The session also provided a platform for participants to share their perspectives and insights. Throughout the discussion, the participants expressed their ambition, determination and optimism to go to Buenos Aires and deepen their work, and to continue amplifying the voices of human rights defenders while demonstrating the capabilities of countries of the global South to produce human rights standards based on universality and indivisibility.

Finally, the session adopted the Pre-Forum final document, signifying the participants' commitment to continued engagement and collaborative action towards promoting human rights.

Main conclusions and
recommendations from
the sessions

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSIONS

Migration and Mobility:

1. Advocate for the ratification by States of the International Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in order to strengthen Migrants' legal protection framework.
2. Consider all relevant instruments as a whole, including the Convention and the Pact, to promote the protection of migrants' rights as part of strengthening international legal protection framework.
3. Promote the right to information of migrant workers by encouraging the establishment of regularization policies and the principle of equal treatment. This will help ensure that migrant workers are aware of their rights and can access the protection they need.
4. Strengthen the protection of victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children, by supporting initiatives aimed at establishing enhanced protection mechanisms. Human trafficking must be discussed during the World Human Rights Forum with the aim to strengthen the victims' protection.
5. Promote a new narrative on migration that recognizes the positive contributions of migrants to societies. This can be achieved by promoting dialogue between different cultures, recognizing migrants' rights, and advocating for policies that facilitate their integration into host communities.

Climate change:

1. A clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right. It is crucial to ensure a holistic approach to understanding and promoting human rights-based climate action. This includes adopting an intersectional approach to understanding how different groups are affected differently by climate change, such as impoverished women facing droughts in rural Africa, disabled seniors facing river floods in Europe, children facing sea level rise in the Pacific, and nomads in mountain regions facing desertification.
2. Equip all stakeholders with tailored and accessible tools that empower them to fulfill their roles in climate action, including translating human rights principles into concrete guidance for action and delivering climate change education that is multisectoral, interdisciplinary, and tailored to local communities.
3. Establish effective accountability mechanisms to ensure that all actors are fulfilling their obligations and commitments at the intersection of climate change and human rights.
4. Apply a human rights lens to international negotiations on climate change and biodiversity to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into climate and biodiversity action, by including national human rights experts as part of national delegations and informing negotiating positions to ensure that human rights considerations are well reflected.
5. Establish a long-term response fund in the form of a program to finance loss and damage from climate change, potentially through a global carbon tax on high-polluting companies and utilizing the revenue generated, and prioritize international collaboration in COP28 to combat climate change.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSIONS

Transitional justice and memory:

1. Memory should be considered not only as a way to guarantee non-repetition and to reconcile with the past but also as one of the pillars of consolidating sustainable democratic systems.
2. Incorporate human rights education in school curricula: promoting a human rights culture is of a great importance. One way to achieve this is to integrate human rights education in school curricula at all levels. Human rights education should cover topics such as tolerance, respecting diversity, as well as the historical context of human rights violations and the processes of transitional justice. Educators should be provided with capacity building training to undertake these missions in an engaging and interactive way that promotes critical thinking and empathy.
3. Establish comprehensive documentation of transitional justice experiences: documenting transitional justice experiences is crucial to ensure that the lessons learned are not lost over time. This documentation should go beyond written reports and include audiovisual materials such as testimonies, interviews, and documentaries. The documentation should also cover the experiences of victims, perpetrators, and other stakeholders, as well as the impact of transitional justice processes on society as a whole. These materials should be made publicly available and accessible to researchers, educators, and the general public.
4. Consider gender issues: Gender issues have often been overlooked in transitional justice processes, leading to the marginalization of women's experiences and perspectives. To address this gap, transitional justice processes should explicitly consider gender issues and ensure women's participation at all levels, from victim representation to policymaking. This requires the creation of gender-sensitive mechanisms that account for the specific experiences of women and ensure their meaningful participation. Such mechanisms should also provide redress for gender-based violence and discrimination.

5. Complementarity of international criminal justice and transitional justice: Transitional justice and international criminal justice have often been seen as competing or mutually exclusive approaches. However, they are complementary and can reinforce each other in promoting accountability and justice. Transitional justice processes can provide the basis for international criminal justice investigations, while international criminal justice can provide a deterrent effect and contribute to the legitimacy of transitional justice processes. As such, efforts should be made to recognize and enhance the complementarity between these two approaches.

6. Empower civil society: Civil society plays a crucial role in transitional justice processes, as it can monitor governments, ensure transparency and accountability, and promote the victims' interests. Efforts should be made to empower civil society organizations and promote their independence and sustainability. This can be achieved through capacity-building programs, access to funding and resources, and establishment of legal frameworks that protect the rights of civil society actors. Additionally, transitional justice processes should provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and participation of civil society organizations at all stages, from planning to implementation and monitoring.

Final Document of the Pre-Forum

Rabat World Human Rights Pre-Forum

February 17-18, 2023

Held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on February 17-18, 2023, at the invitation of the National Human Rights Council of the Kingdom of Morocco (CNDH) and the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (CIPDH-UNESCO); Rabat World Human Rights Pre-forum was marked by the participation of officials, human rights defenders, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and intelligentsias from 50 countries around the world;

The participants praised the actions and efforts of human rights defenders, organizations and institutions that contributed to enrich the debates and establish constructive, open and pluralistic dialogue. They reaffirmed in this regard that dialogue and experience sharing have been and remain a fundamental anchor of promoting human rights.

The participants examined, in depth, many factors related to the challenges posed by three intertwined themes: Migration, Climate change, and Transitional justice/ memory. They reiterated the relevance and importance of the World Human Rights Forum as an essential space for dialogue, debate and trust-building, as it provides opportunities for full, equal, and meaningful participation for various stakeholders.

Participants expressed their concern about the increased politicization of debates on human rights, which is likely to curb efforts and impact negatively the actions aimed at protecting and promoting human rights worldwide.

Participants also discussed the situation in Palestine and called for the protection of Palestinians' fundamental rights as well their human dignity. They addressed a recommendation to the World Human Rights Forum in Argentina to include the Palestinian human rights situation to the agenda of the Forum.

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE PRE-FORUM

They recalled the importance of the declarations and outcome of the first edition of the World Human Rights Forum held in Brazil and the second edition held in Morocco. They also recalled the lessons learned, best practices exchanged and progress made since the two forums have taken place.

On climate change:

Participants noted with great concern that climate change has come to be a transnational and unconventional threat, putting at risk the very basic human rights of people around the globe. In this regard, they noted that Africa and Island States remain on the frontlines of climate change. They highlighted, as an example, the existential threats that the Maldives and Vanuatu are facing.

Participants also recalled that climate change can be directly linked to migration and to various forms of violence and instability in fragile contexts. In this regard, they emphasized the need to shed light on climate migration as one of the main forms of forced migration in the Africa and in the South in general.

Highlighting that climate funding should not exacerbate developing countries' debt burdens, the participants expressed their satisfaction regarding the adoption of a resolution on a climate loss and damage fund during COP27. However, they expressed their deep concern regarding the implementation and effectiveness of such an initiative, given the lack of clarity surrounding the funding and the measures needed to implement it.

Participants concluded that the creation of this fund must not divert attention and must not be considered as an alternative to tackle root causes of climate change and to adopt efficient measures to build resilience in regions that are least responsible for the climate crisis and that remain among the most vulnerable to its consequences, including Africa, South America, and the Island States.

On migration and mobility:

The participants stressed the need to rethink mobility beyond the concept of migration in order to guarantee the protection of human rights in various contexts. This was illustrated by the restrictions the COVID19 Pandemic imposed on the right of people to return to their home countries. A specific attention was also given to the legal framework of the protection of migrants' rights, its effectiveness, and its governance-related arrangements, as well as the cultural rights of all categories of people living outside their home countries.

The participants noted the emergence of some premises of a potential global governance of migration with several shortcomings that still need to be addressed. The adoption of the GCM in Marrakech was a milestone in setting a global governance on migration. However, despite the adoption of various conventions and treaties, the implementation is facing serious challenges. Most of migrants receiving countries failed so far to meet their international obligations in terms of providing effective protection to migrants and their families. This makes them more vulnerable and increasingly exposed to systematic discrimination and an easy target to human trafficking.

The Participants stressed the necessity to advocate for the ratification by all States, particularly EU state members and the United States of America, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. They also insisted on the need to take into consideration all relevant legal instruments in order to strengthen the protection of migrants' rights (especially the Convention and the GCM).

Participants recalled that migration occurs for several reasons, including inequalities in development between the North and the South. They further noted that migration factors have been further exacerbated by the persistence of hotbeds of tension and armed conflicts in the world.

They observed that migration continues to be largely handled according

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE PRE-FORUM

to a security-based approach which often neglects the requirements of protection and integration as well as the principles of shared responsibility and the necessity of multidimensional and multi-stakeholder consultations.

Participants expressed concern about the prominence of the securitization of migration in many countries, and about the fact that reports often focus on the negative aspects of migration, while it can generate social and economic benefits for migrants, their families and countries of origin but also for migrant-hosting countries;

On transitional justice and memory:

The participants noted that while most of transitional justice experiences took place in the South, systematic contributions in the theorization and assessments of these experiences are conceived in the North. As a result, it seems that context specific factors need to be taken into consideration both in assessing past transitional justice experiences and initiating future ones.

They praised the experiences in transition justice of the Global South including Morocco, Argentina, Chili, Ghana, and South Africa.

They observed that when assessing the impact of transitional justice processes on memory and history, attention must be paid to a wide variety of forms of remembering, historicizing and storytelling, as the past is expressed in popular culture through music, poetry, dance, painting, popular theater, handicraft, but also through silences. Memory should be considered not only as a way to guarantee non-repetition and to reconcile with the past but also as one of the pillars of consolidating sustainable democratic systems.

While transitional justice processes are meant to deal with victims' suffering regardless of gender, experience shows that women are more vulnerable to human rights violations and or abuses. Specific gender-sensitive tools should be set up in order to account for the fact that women are a vulnerable category in past gross human rights violations, and could also continue to suffer after a transitional process is achieved, as they could be victims of stigmatization.

Participants highlighted that memory is a critical component of transitional justice processes, as it can represent a mechanism to prevent future violations. In this regard memory should be preserved through the establishment of institutions, national policies and educational curriculums.

Finally, participants decided to submit this Pre-Forum Outcome Document to inform the work of the World Human rights Forum, to be held in Argentina in March 2023.

Tribute and Homage

Six distinguished human rights defenders and one institution were honored for their exceptional efforts in advancing human rights in their respective countries, regions, or internationally. These honorees demonstrated unwavering dedication, courage, and commitment to promoting and safeguarding human rights, and inspired many others to follow in their footsteps.

Despite coming from diverse backgrounds and experiences, the honorees shared a common objective of creating a more equitable and just world. Their tireless work to promote human rights was recognized and celebrated during the tribute, which emphasized the significance of acknowledging and supporting human rights defenders who play a critical role in promoting and protecting human rights across the world.

The tribute also served as a reminder of the bravery and unwavering commitment of human rights defenders and of the need to continue empowering and supporting them to ensure that human rights are promoted and protected for all.



Abdelkader Zraih

Advisor to CNDH Chairperson in charge of mediation and relations with parliament, former Chairperson of CNDH's regional human rights commission in Rabat-Kenitra. Former parliamentarian and a renowned union, civil society, and human rights activist. Mr. Zraih passed away in early February this year.



Estela de Carlotto

Honorary president of the WHRF2023 National Organizing Committee. A renowned Argentinian human rights activist. President of the association of Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo. One of her daughters, Laura Estela Carlotto, was abducted while pregnant in Buenos Aires at the end of 1977. The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo association was founded that same year, with the aim of recovering kidnapped children.



Albert Sasson

Member of the former Advisory Council for Human Rights. University professor. Dean of the Faculty of Sciences of Rabat (1954-1963). UN Consultant. Director of UNESCO Central Evaluation Unit (1985-1987), Assistant DG, and Special Advisor to UNESCO DG (1993-1999). He has over 200 publications, including books and reviews on biotech-

TRIBUTE AND HOMAGE



nology in developing countries.

Raji Sourani

A Palestinian lawyer based in the Gaza Strip. He is the founder and director of the Gaza-based Palestinian Center for Human Rights. He works with a number of human rights organizations and

movements and was the recipient of several international human rights related prestigious awards and honors. Mr Sourani has maintained an unwavering commitment to human rights, advocating fundamental human rights standards both at a domestic and international levels.



Soyata Maiga

Hon. Commissioner Soyata Maiga, former Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. She has been serving human rights in several capacities in Mali, Africa and beyond, including as Special

Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, Member of the National Human Rights Commission of Mali, Founding Member of the Association of Malian Jurists, Chair of the Board of Directors of Media Foundation for West Africa, and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Center for Human Rights of Canada (Rights and Democracy).



Latifa Jbabdi

Human and women's rights defender. Member of the former Advisory Council of Human Rights and the Moroccan truth commission (the Equity and Reconciliation Commission). She is a founding member

of several human rights associations and member of different group rights organizations. She is a former civil society ambassador to the UN Commission on Human Rights and coordinator for Morocco and the Arab world of the World March of Women. She was a coordinator of the National Council for the Reform of the Moroccan family code in 1992.



CIPDH- UNESCO

The national Human Rights Council of Morocco also paid tribute to the CIPDH-UNESCO to celebrate the successful collaboration between the two institutions, and in recognition of the commitment and effort of the

Argentinian Center to promote and protect human rights. The tribute also serves as a reminder of the importance of sustained collaboration among institutions to advance human rights worldwide.

Biographies of Speakers

Ms. Amina Bouayach

President of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) of the Kingdom of Morocco and Vice-President of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). She is the former Vice-President and Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and was the first Moroccan woman to become President of the Organization for Human Rights in Morocco (OMDH) for two consecutive mandates. Ms. Bouayach was Morocco's Ambassador to Sweden and Latvia and a member of the 2011 Consultative Commission for Constitutional Reforms (CCRC). She is a member of the Academic Committee of the World Congress against the Death Penalty.

Ms. Fernanda Gil Lozano

Professor and historian. She is currently the Executive Director of the CIPDH/UNESCO International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights. Ms. Gil Lozano is a full professor-chair of social history of Latin America at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires. She has a Master in Sociology and Cultural Analysis from the University of San Martín. Ms. Gil Lozano is a former Director of the Special Commission on Crimes related to Human Trafficking of the Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Nasser Bourita

Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates. He served as the Head of Service of the head of United Nations Main Organs Unit in 2002. He was appointed as the Head of the Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the European Union in Brussels until December 2003. In 2003, he held the position of Head of Section of the United Nations, then the Section of the United Nations and International Organizations at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs before becoming the Chief of Staff of the same Ministry in 2009. In 2009, he was appointed First Secretary at the Embassy of Morocco in Vienna. In 2011, he was appointed Secretary General of the Ministry and then a minister delegate with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in 2016.

Mr. Santiago Cafiero

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina. He is a politician and political specialist. Graduated in political science at the University of Buenos Aires and at the Torcuato di Tella University. He was first elected president of the local Justicialist Party in San Isidro in 2008 and was then a councillor in San Isidro's municipal council. He also served in various positions of the governorship of Buenos Aires until 2010. He also undertook the position of Vice-minister of Social Development and Undersecretary of Social Policies from 2011 to 2014. Mr. Cafiero was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship in 2021.

Mr. Raji Sourani

Lawyer and human rights defender. He is the founding president of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. He was awarded several times for his work on Human Rights. He is currently a member of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Vice-President of the Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH); and President of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR).

Mr. Mounir Bensalah

Secretary General of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) of Morocco. He is a graduate of the Mohammedia School of Engineers of Rabat. Mr. Bensalah has a long professional experience in operational management. He has been an active member in many working groups dealing with the advocacy and mobilization related to the issues of human rights and freedoms at national, regional and international levels. He held several senior positions within the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights (OMDH). Mr. Mounir Bensalah was one of the leaders of the February 20 movement and one of the founders of "Democratic Anfass Movement" which he chaired until 2018. Mr. Bensalah was member of the Regional Human Rights Commission (CRDH) of Casablanca-Settat from 2011 to 2018.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Soyata Maïga

Hon. Commissioner Soyata Maiga, former Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. She has been serving human rights in several capacities in Mali, Africa and beyond, including as Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, Member of the National Human Rights Commission of Mali, Founding Member of the Association of Malian Jurists, Chair of the Board of Directors of Media Foundation for West Africa, and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Center for Human Rights of Canada (Rights and Democracy).

Mr. Malcolm Dalesa

An expert in leading development activities; particularly in assessing, proposing, and implementing environmental management and climate change policies. Mr. Dalesa has been substantively involved in the integration of environment, disaster risk reduction and climate change considerations into planning, investments, and project design namely in Vanuatu and also in the Pacific. Mr. Dalesa is currently engaged in supporting Vanuatu's campaign efforts to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with regards to climate change and human rights. He presently serves in his capacity as Climate Attaché with the Permanent Mission of Vanuatu to the United Nations.

Ms. Charafat Aflal

Former Minister delegate in charge of water in the Moroccan government between 2013 and 2018 and is currently an expert on water resources. Ms. Aflal is a former MP at the Moroccan House of Representatives from 2011 to 2013. Since her graduation from the Mohammedia School of Engineers in 1997, Ms. Aflal has gained a rich expertise in the field of: water governance, planning, integrated water resources management, climate change adaptation strategies, gender mainstreaming in water sector, etc. Ms. Aflal is a member of the Advisory Board for the Middle East Water Forum and co-founder of the Regional Initiative on Strengthening the Role of Women in Water Diplomacy in the MENA Region.

Ms. Michaela Ujházyová

Head of the research team at the Slovak National Center for Human Rights. In her work, she focuses on research and monitoring of economic and social rights, impact of climate change on human rights and mainstreaming the human rights-based approach in climate and social policies in the Slovak Republic. She is a human rights education trainer with focus on gender equality and empowerment of children and young people from vulnerable backgrounds.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Abdelhay Moudden

Political scientist with an LLB from Rabat Law School, a Master of Political Science from West Florida University and a PhD in Political Science from Michigan University. He has since worked as a university professor in the United States and Morocco, where he teaches political science and international relations. He is a former member of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) and the Advisory Council of Human Rights (CCDH). Mr. Moudden authored various publications on political thinking, culture and economy.

Mr. Remo Carlotto

Executive Director of the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights. He was an Ambassador-International Special Representative for Human Rights Issues of the Argentine Chancellery. Mr. Carlotto was the President of the Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies for several times between 2006 and 2015. Previously, he served as Secretary for Human Rights of the Province of Buenos Aires and as Research Coordinator of the National Commission on the Right to Identity (CONADI) under the Argentinian Ministry of Human Rights. He was a member of the Commission on the Families of Disappeared Persons and Detained for Political Reasons "La Plata" from 1981 to 1989. He is a professor at the National University of Lanús (UNLA).

Mr. Mohamed Saadi

PhD in public law and a Master in international human rights law. He is professor of human rights and political science at Mohammed I University and a member of the Unit of the Preservation of Memory and Promotion of the Moroccan History with its affluents at the National Human Rights Council (CNDH). He is an expert at the National Center for Scientific and Technical Research in Rabat, the International Association of Sociology, the International Association of Political Science and the Arab Council for Social Sciences. His research works focus mainly on human rights and field social research specific to some social categories (women, youth...). He is the author of several books and studies.

Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal. Graduated from the National School of Administration (ENA) of Senegal. He worked as a university professor and a diplomat. From 1997 to 2003, Mr. Ndiaye worked at the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations in New York. Mr. Ndiaye was Senegal's Ambassador to Mali in 2010, then to France in 2012 before being appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, a position he held from 2012 to 2017. In 2019, he was nominated the Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in The Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Since 2019, he has been Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Central African Republic (CAR).

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Ugochi Florence Daniels

Deputy Director General of Operations at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Graduate of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She served as the Deputy Program Manager of the African Youth Alliance at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UNFPA Deputy Representative in Nepal and representative in the Philippines. She was appointed Humanitarian Coordinator of the country in 2012, as well as the Acting Resident Coordinator. Ms. Florence Daniels was promoted Chief of the Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts Branch in the Programme Division at the UNFPA. She served as UN Resident Coordinator in Iran, before working as Chief of Staff at the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). She took office as Deputy Director General of Operations at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in September 2021.

Mr. Sadikh Niass

Environmental researcher and graduate of the Institute of Environmental Sciences (ISE) of the Faculty of Sciences at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. He was member of the Senegalese Human Rights Commission. He was also head of the Department in charge of the Protection of Refugees and Migrants and Representative of RADDHO to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. He is a member of the National Governance Commission (CNG) of Senegal.

Mr. Michel Forst

Un Rapporteur on Environnemental Defenders. Human rights Activist .He served during ten years as the Executive Director of Amnesty International France. He was the Executive Director of the French League against Cancer before joining UNESCO's Office of Social and Human Sciences. In 2005, he was appointed Secretary General of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. Mr. Forst started his career within the United Nations in 2008, starting from Independent Expert in Haiti, then Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. He became the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in 2014. Since June 2022, he serves as first Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders.

Mr. David R. Boyd

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment. Environmental lawyer, activist, and diplomat. He graduated from University of Alberta and University of Toronto and holds a PhD in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from University of British Columbia, where he teaches law, policy and sustainability. He also published several books on these topics. Mr. Boyd served as the executive director of Ecojustice. He also worked as an advisor on sustainability for Canadian Prime Minister but also for many governments with his expertise on human rights policy. He is a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law, an expert advisor for the UN's Harmony with Nature Initiative, and a member of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Damilola S. Olawuyi

Professor and UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. He is also the director of the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development at the Afe Babalola University, Nigeria. From 2020-2022, he served as an Independent Expert of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa (WGEI) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. A Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Olawuyi has served as Co-Chairman of the Legal Education Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, and member of the governing board of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). Mr. Olawuyi holds a DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford

Mr. Muhammad Lawal Sulaiman

Retired Nigerian diplomat with experience in bilateral and multilateral action. He served as Ambassador to Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, China and at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations in New York from where he was in charge of dealing with different issues including African cooperation and human rights. In 2018, Ambassador Lawal Sulaiman was elected member of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) and re-elected for a second mandate in 2021. Ambassador Lawal Sulaiman is currently the Chairperson of the IPHRC. He graduated from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria in 1981, where he obtained his B A in history and political science.

Mr. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés:

Doctor in Philosophy in Politics from the University of Oxford. In December 2018, he was appointed Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mexico. In that capacity he is in charge of coordinating the foreign policy in human rights and democracy. Dr. Ballinas Valdés has published commentaries in leading newspapers in Europe and Latin America. The National Autonomous University of Mexico also awarded him with the Gabino Barreda Medal in Political Science in 2000.

Ms. Houria Tazi Sadeq

President of the Regional Human Rights Commission (CRDH) of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra. She is lawyer and a university teacher and expert in the issues of water and sustainable development. She is also a governor of the World Water Council.

Mr. Peter Splinter

Independent human rights consultant. He collaborates with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GAHNRI) in the area of human rights and climate change. Previously, Mr. Splinter was the executive secretary of a high-level independent panel that examined the role of the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in connection with alleged human rights abuses in protected areas in six countries in Central Africa and South Asia. Between 2004 and 2016, he represented Amnesty International at the United Nations and led its work in Geneva. From 1985 until 2004, he worked in multilateral human rights diplomacy, international trade law and a variety of other areas with the Canadian foreign and justice ministries.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Chongsi Ayeah Joseph

Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights and peace Advocacy, UN ECOSOC Permanent Representative in UN Offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna. He is also a member of AU ECOSOCC 4th General Assembly where he was elected as Deputy Presiding Officer for Central Africa. Mr. Ayeah Joseph is a holder of a Master of Law in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is an experienced Human Rights Expert working on access to justice, Rule of Law, governance and democracy, public prosecution, juvenile justice, criminal justice chain, accountability mechanisms, justice sector reforms and alternative Justice Resolution.

Mr Ahmed Adham Abdulla

Vice President of the Human Rights Commission of the Republic of the Maldives and a Co-convenor of the GANHRI Caucus on Human Rights and Climate Change. Dr. Adham holds a PhD in Law from the University of Wollongong (Australia) and Master's degree from the United Kingdom. His research interests are environmental law, human rights law and transnational crime prevention.

Ms. Hannah Forster

Executive Director of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) based in Banjul, The Gambia. She has been engaged with the African and international human rights system and mechanisms for almost three decades and worked for the AU Commission and regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa. Furthermore, Ms. Forster has worked for and with civil society at the local, national, sub region, regional and international levels for over three decades, prior to this she served in the Ministry of Education, as an educationist and information scientist for over twelve years.

Mr. Ayman Okeil

Chairperson of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, and coordinator of the Egyptian national Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Mr. Okeil is a development, training and capacity building consultant, as well as a lecturer and instructor on issues related to decentralization and good local governance, international instruments and mechanisms for protecting human rights. Mr. Okeil is a legal advisor of many of the Egyptian and International CSOs.

Ms. Fatin Tawfig

Associate Programme Officer, Adaptation Division of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat. She has served as a lead or contributing author for a chapter on global progress in adaptation planning in the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report from 2020 to 2022. Ms. Tawfig is also one of the secretariat's focal points for human rights and climatechange.

Mr. Hanny Megally

Deputy Director and Senior Fellow of New York University's Center on International Cooperation. His work focuses mainly on extremism, human rights and law. He served as the Chief of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, and North Africa Branch at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Previously, he was Vice-President for Programs at the International Center for Transitional Justice. He has overseen several programs in the MENA region and Asia Pacific, through managing fact-finding commissions on human rights and leading high-level talks with heads of states and governments.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Aua Baldé

Chairperson of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, has an expertise in international human rights law, in particular the African Human Rights systems. Notably, she has worked as an Information Analyst Officer at both the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and at the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as at the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Fabián Salvioli

Human rights lawyer and professor. He has a PhD on Juridical Sciences and a Master degree on International Relations. He took up his functions as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence on 1 May 2018. He is also member of the General Assemblies of the International Institute of Human Rights and the Inter American Institute of Human Rights. Mr. Salvioli has authored several books and articles on international human rights law.

Mr. Habib Belkouch

Has been editor of Dirassate magazine on human rights and democracy since 2021. He is an expert consultant in human rights and transitional justice with various organizations in Morocco and abroad. Mr. Belkouch is President of the Center for Studies in Human Rights and Democracy (CEDHD).

Mr. Diego Blazquez Martin

holds a Law Degree from the Carlos III University of Madrid. Currently, he is the General Director of Democratic Memory. He held several senior positions, particularly Senior Advisor in the Cabinet of the First Vice President of the Government, having previously been part of the Cabinets of the Minister for Equality and the Mayor of Madrid. He is Professor of the philosophy of law at the Carlos III University of Madrid and a member of the Gregorio Peces-Barba - Human Rights Institute. He published several books and various academic publications on the history and theory of human rights, in addition to occasionally collaborating with some journalistic publications. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) in the 2008-2012.

Ms. María Florencia Segura

Lawyer, holds a Master's Degree in Philosophy and Political Science. She is currently working in the Directorate of Human Rights at the Argentine Foreign Ministry. She Completed her thesis on Comparative Analysis of Foreign Policy on Human Rights between Argentina and South Africa. She served as Chargé d'Affaires a.i at the Argentine Embassy in South Africa (2018-2018; 2020-2021). She was Deputy Consul at the Consulate of the Argentine Republic in Madrid (2011-2015).

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. María Fernanda García Iribarren

Has a degree in Arts from the Catholic University of Chile. She also holds a Master's in Cultural Management from the Complutense University of Madrid and postgraduate degrees in Cultural Administration, Executive Production of Cinema and TV and a specialization in Political Communication, at CJC University from Spain. She has rich expertise in the management of foundations and cultural centers, theater halls and museums, executive production of audiovisual projects, and in the creation and promotion of public politics. She performs these occupations while taking into consideration the protection of women, non-violence towards gender and humans rights.

Ms. Fatima Chohan

Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission. She previously served as Deputy Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa and was appointed as a Member of Parliament in 1996 and became Deputy Minister of Home Affairs in 2010. Ms. Chohan previously served as a Legal Advisor in the Gauteng Legislature and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council.

Mr. Joseph Whittal

Commissioner Joseph Whittal is a lawyer and President of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), an independent constitutional authority established by the Constitution of Ghana of 1992. He has been President of the CHRAJ since 20 December 2016.

Mr. Ephraïm Isaac

Director of the Institute of Semitic Studies, Princeton, NJ. He is a fellow at the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation. He was named by Harvard GSAS in 2022 with "Alumni Who made a Difference in the World". He is the founder and international Chairman of the Board of Peace and Development Center which promotes peace in the Horn of Africa.

Mr. Abderrazak Rouwane

Special advisor at the Public Prosecutor Office in Morocco. holds a Master's degree in international human rights law from University of Essex. From 2019 to 2020, he was a Special Advisor to the head of government of Morocco. Prior to this position, he assumed the positions of Secretary General of the Moroccan Inter-Ministerial Delegation for human rights (DIDH) and Director of Cooperation and International Relations at the National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH). Mr. Rouwane held senior positions at the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) – Morocco's truth commission. In October 2021, he was elected member of the United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) for the period 2022-2025.

Ms. Mukashema Marie Louise,

Lawyer at the Rwanda Bar since 2013 and member of East African Law society. She worked as Coordinator of the project "Access to justice" for *Avocat Sans Frontière* and then she continued her career as a lawyer where she was involved in advocacy on the issue of access to justice and in strategic litigation. She contributed to various research on human rights including "Baseline Study on the Status of Discrimination against Historically Marginalized People in Rwanda and Situation of Indigenous People's Land Rights in Rwanda".

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Rodrigo Gomez Tortosa

Deputy Executive Secretary of the World Forum on Human Rights 2023 (FMDH23) and the Director of Studies and Research at the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights of UNESCO (CIPDH-UNESCO) and Executive Secretary of the Argentine Network of Professionals on Foreign Policy (REDAPPE).

Mr. Edgar Corzo Sosa

Doctor of constitutional law from the Autonomous University of Madrid. Mr. Sosa has a long-term commitment with the Mexican NHRI, coordinating the programs of migrants, civil human rights defenders, and human trafficking. He was appointed technical secretary of the Network of Migrants and Human Trafficking of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudspersons (FIO). In September 2022, Mr. Corzo Sosa began his mandate as the new Chair of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers.

Mr. Mohamed Amarti

President of the Regional Human Rights Commission (CRDH) of the Oriental and member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Holder of a PhD in law from Mohammed V University in Rabat, Mr. Amarti works as a university professor and Director of the Lab of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

He is also member of the National Council of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights and the Moroccan Association of Constitutional Law.

Mr. Iván Martín

Economist, adjunct professor at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and at the Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Morocco. He has coordinated several international research projects, including on economic and social rights as part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Since 2010, he has worked as consultant and trainer on labour migration, youth employment and migration and development in Southern Mediterranean Countries, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

Mr. Francois Reybet-Degat

Prior to being assigned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as UNHCR Representative in Morocco and taking up his new function, Mr. Francois Reybet-Degat, held since mid-2013, the position of Deputy-Director of the Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) covering the Syria and Iraq situations and performing the function of Deputy Regional Refugee Coordinator. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Reybet-Degat served for 24 years with UNHCR in varied operations and was also seconded to the UN in Viet Nam as Head of Resident Coordinator's Office. Mr. Reybet-Degat holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the "Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble" and has studied classical and colloquial Arabic in both Damascus and Paris.

Mr. Franck Iyanga

Civil society activist, a migration consultant and the Secretary General of the Democratic Organization of Immigrant Workers in Morocco.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Priscillah Mbanga

Director of Monitoring and Inspections at the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC). She has specialized in human rights law and is a member of the NANHRI Working Group on migration representing Zimbabwe. At the Human Rights Commission, Ms. Mbanga leads a team which monitors the human rights situation including the situation of prisoners, those in care institutions, refugees and irregular migrants.

Mr. Mounir El Fassi

Diplomat, lawyer and journalist. He worked as a journalist at the Maghreb Arab Press Agency before joining the League of Arab States to serve as Head of the Counter-Terrorism Section, Second at the Permanent Observer Office of the League of Arab States to the International Organizations in Vienna and Director of Human Rights - a position he has held since 2017.

Mr. Mohammed Charef

President of the Regional Human Rights Commission (CRDH), Souss Massa. He is also a university professor and member of the Committee on Migrant Workers. A geographic - urbanist and expert in the field of migration, population mobility and urbanism. He is a graduate of the Aix-En Provence regional planning institute (IAR). He holds a PhD in planning geography (University of Poitiers -1986) and a PhD in Sciences (the Free University of Brussels -2000). He is a professor of geography at the University of Ibn Zohr in Agadir and director of Regional Migration Observatory: Spaces and Societies (ORMES). He is an associate member of the MIGRINTER-CNRS Poitiers team, France, and a member of several networks and geography associations.

Mr. Kamal Lahbib

Founding member of the Forum des Alternatives Maroc and Coordinator of the Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice. He chairs the Moroccan Observatory for Social Protection and the Associative Collective for the Observation of Elections. He is also member of the International Council of the World Social Forum.

Mr. Mazen Darwish

Secretary General of the FIDH, journalist, member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and founder and Director of the Syrian Centre for Media and Free Expression. He has a consultative status with the UN ECOSOC. In 2011, he received the Roland Berger Human Dignity Award 2011 for establishing the Syrian Center for Media and Free Expression.

Mr. Idrissa Sow

Magistrate, Delegate Counselor at the Supreme Court of Senegal and Lecturer at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. Holder of a PhD in public law from the Montesquieu University of Bordeaux, Mr. Sow is the author of numerous publications and books in the field of law. Mr. Sow is also Commissioner at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) where he chairs the Working Group on Death Penalty and Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings in Africa.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

Jordanian politician and an advocate for human rights, peace and security, youth empowerment, as well as and inclusive governance. Ms. Abu Ghazaleh is the Assistant Secretary General, Head of the Social Affairs Sector at the League of Arab States. Ms. Abu Ghazaleh was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 following her nomination selection for the “1000 women for Noble Peace Prize”. Among Ms. Abu Ghazaleh’s former positions: Senator to the Jordanian Upper House of Parliament, Minister of Tourism, and Antiquities, and Regional Director of UN Women. Ms. Abu Ghazaleh holds two PhDs in education and psychology, a Master in educational counseling and a BA in psychology and sociology.

Ms. Arantxa María Ríos Echeverría,

Lawyer, holds a PhD in Legal and Social Sciences from the Catholic University of Temuco, where she specialized in the law of indigenous peoples and constitutional law. Following her graduation, she worked in the judiciary, specializing in reformed systems and oral proceedings, particularly in criminal proceedings. She then joined the Diplomatic Academy, where she worked at the General Directorate of Consular Affairs, Immigration and Chileans Abroad. She joined the Human Rights Division, where she developed her career both in the Inter-American and universal system of human rights. She is in charge of the Unit of Indigenous Affairs.

Mr. Mabassa Fall

Professor of political science at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. He is a founding member of the National Organization for Human Rights in Senegal and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) prior to joining the FIDH. Moreover, he is a founding member of the African Union for Human Rights and the African Center for Conflict Prevention. At the African Commission for Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), Mr. Fall is the promoter of the initiative of Resolution 79 on the establishment of the Working Group on the Prevention of Death Penalty during the 38th Ordinary Assembly of the ACHPR.

Ms. Fatima Cabrera de Rica

Professor and coordinator of the literacy program at PAEBYT CABA. She is a member of the Board of Directors and representative of human rights organizations at the “Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos”. Ms. Cabrera de Rica is the coordinator of the “Interreligious Space Patrick Rice” and one of the representatives of human rights organizations within the CIPDH-UNESCO. She is member of the Coalition on Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC).



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WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS
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