CONCEPT NOTE
24 February 10.30am-12:15pm

PLACING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CENTER - A SHARED PATH FOR THE CALL TO ACTION AND OUR COMMON AGENDA

Two years ago, the Secretary-General launched his Call to Action for Human Rights to reignite global efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Call to Action is the Secretary-General's transformative vision for human rights in which he emphasizes that human rights underpin the work of the entire UN system and must permeate everything that it does - in the field and at Headquarters. In 2021, the Secretary-General issued his report “Our Common Agenda” which starts with a call for a renewed social contract anchored in human rights, firmly placing human rights at the core of his vision for a more networked, inclusive, and effective multilateral system. Our Common Agenda reiterates the centrality of human rights to the collective work of the United Nations systems and its partners.

In light of the important synergies between these two cross-cutting agendas, the virtual event seeks to gather stakeholders across Member States, civil society and the UN system at both Headquarters and in the field to share best practices, opportunities for cooperation, and to inspire broad ownership of the challenge ahead of us: rebuilding and transforming our societies with human rights at the core.

Register [here].

10:30-10:35 Opening segment
Welcome, housekeeping

10:35-11:30 Panel discussion: Renewing efforts to place human rights at the core of the work of the entire UN system to ensure the protection of human rights - views from HQ and the field
The panel invites UN and civil society actors to share experiences related to the implementation of the Secretary-General’s Call to Action. The discussion will bring forward good practices and lessons learned through the work on the Call to Action and invite panelists to reflect on ways to capitalize on the synergies between the Call to Action and recommendations in Our Common Agenda.

Ilze Brands Kehris  Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights
Volker Türk  Under-Secretary-General for Policy

Panelists (TBA)
- Field leadership
- CSO representatives
- UN entities

11:30-12:10 Member State perspectives

12:10-12:15 Closing/wrap-up