



Human Rights Council

SOCIAL FORUM 2008

1-3 September 2008

Conference Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Programme of work

MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2008

10h00 – 10h30 Opening of the Social Forum

- H.E. Mr. Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi, President of the Human Rights Council, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- H.E. Mr. Mousa Burayzat, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Social Forum, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Poverty and Human Rights

10h30 – 11h00 Human rights and extreme poverty

A. Normative Framework

Speakers:

- Ms. María Magdalena SEPULVEDA, UN Human Rights Council's Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty
- Mr. Ariranga PILLAY, Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

11h00 – 11h30 B. Enabling Environment

i) Foreign debt and poverty

Speakers:

- Mr. Cephas LUMINA, UN Human Rights Council's Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
- Mr. Nasser SHRAIDEH, Secretary General, Ministry of Planning and

International Cooperation, Jordan (NOTE: his statement was read out by the representative of the Permanent Mission of Jordan)

11h30 - 11h45 **ii) The role and responsibility of the State in poverty eradication**

Speaker:

- H.E. Mr. LI Baodong, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office in Geneva

11h45 – 12h00 **iii) International assistance and cooperation**

Speaker:

- H.E. Mr. Omar BEN MAHMOUD, Secretary of State, National Fund for Solidarity, Tunisia

12h00 -13h00 **Open debate on the topics**

13h00 – 15h00 LUNCH BREAK

15h00 – 15h45 **iv) International trade policies and poverty**

Speakers:

- Mr. Jean-Pierre LEHMANN, Professor of International Political Economy, IMD, Founding Director of The Evian Group
- Ms. Aileen KWA, Programme Coordinator of the Trade and Development Programme, South Centre
- Mr. David LUKE, Senior Trade Adviser and Coordinator of the Trade and Human Development Unit, UNDP/Geneva

15h45 – 16h30 **Open debate on the topic**

16h30 – 17h15 **v) The role of civil society in the eradication of poverty at grass-roots level**

Speakers:

- Ms. Ingrid SRINATH, Secretary General of CIVICUS
- Mr. Alain GENIN, ATD Quart Monde
- Ms. Rosalbina PEREZ DE PEREZ, ATD Quart Monde

17h15 – 18h00 **Open debate on the topic**

TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2008

B. Enabling Environment (Continued)

10h00 – 10h30 **vi) The role and social responsibility of transnational corporations in poverty eradication**

Speakers:

- Mr. Gerald PACHOUD, Special Adviser to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights

- Mr. Filippo VEGLIO, Business Solutions Leader, Development Focus Area, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

10h30 – 11h15 **Open debate on the topic**

Social dimension of the globalization process

11h15 – 12h00 **A. National strategies**

i) Decent and favourable work conditions

Speakers:

- Mr. Raymond TORRES, Director of the International Institute for Labour Studies, International Labour Organization
- Ms. Anna BIONDI, Director of the International Trade Union Confederation, Geneva Office
- Mr. Brent WILTON, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Employers

12h00 – 13h00 **Open debate on the topic**

13h00 – 15h00 LUNCH BREAK

15h00 – 15h45 **ii) Good governance / Corruption**

Speakers:

- Ms. Nadia BALGOBIN, Board Member of Transparency International/Switzerland
- Mr. Derek LUYT, Head, Media and Advocacy, Public Service Accountability Monitor
- Ms. Nohay EL-MIKAWY, Policy Advisor for Governance and Poverty, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre

15h45 – 16h30 **Open debate on the topic**

B. Global challenges

16h30 – 17h00 **i) Access to affordable essential drugs and health care**

Speakers:

- Mr. Richard LAING, Medical Officer, Policy, Access and Rational Use, Medicine Policy and Standards, World Health Organization
- Ms. Margaret EWEN, Health Action International

17h00 – 18h00 **Open debate on the topic**

WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2008

B. Global challenges (Continued)

10h00 – 10h45

ii) Climate change

Speakers:

- Mr. Theodor RATHGEBER, German Forum on Human Rights
- Mr. Tomas ALARCON, President of the Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos
- Mr. Ismail ELGIZOULI, Programme on Climate, High Council for Environment, Sudan

10h45 – 11h30

Open debate on the topic

11h30 - 12h15

iii) Food security, the food crisis and the right to food

Speakers:

- Mr. Olivier DE SCHUTTER, UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
- Mr. Christian COURTIS, Legal Officer for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the International Commission of Jurists
- Dr. Manzoor AHMAD, Director, FAO Liaison Office, Geneva

12h15 – 13h00

Open debate on the topic

13h00 – 15h00

LUNCH BREAK

15h00 – 16h00

Interactive debate with holders of the relevant thematic procedures mandates of the Human Rights Council on issues related to the topics of the Social Forum

16h00 – 17h30

Conclusions and recommendations to be presented to relevant UN bodies

- i) Raising international awareness
- ii) International assistance and cooperation
- iii) Specific and action oriented initiatives
- iv) An enhanced role of the UN system
- v) Possible themes for the 2009 Social Forum

17h30 – 18h00

Closure of the Social Forum