

25.10.2013



Forum Overview

December 10, 2013 at the CICG (Geneva International Conference Centre)

Background

Every few minutes, someone, somewhere is a victim of human rights violations. Be it torture, arbitrary detention, destruction of their environment or even deprivation of their right to life, peoples' fundamental human rights continue to be violated with impunity. Current protection mechanisms are insufficient, and urgent reforms are needed. Existing and well known problems often receive substantial coverage yet efforts to bring forward solutions tend to be ignored. Following a conference in December 2012, a group of human rights professionals decided to help remedy the situation by launching an organisation to take on the challenge.

Objectives for 2013

Our intention is to provide an annual platform on the occasion of Human Rights Day to highlight and develop new innovative solutions to issues of concern, improve coordination among civil society as well as encourage greater public participation. The project is ambitious and success requires cooperation between all stakeholders on international, regional, and national levels. The Forum intends to create a space for top experts, human rights defenders, independent journalists, non-governmental organisations, students and civil society to discuss pressing issues in the international system, as well as potential solutions.

Forum Format:

To maximise the impact, the 2013 Forum has a dynamic programme. Speakers will briefly illustrate specific weaknesses in the current human rights system, with reference to their personal experience in field, and formulate possible remedies. The public will be engaged in a full participatory dialogue to assist in the process of prioritising various ideas. Substantive, implementable proposals will be summarised in an outcome document.

Key Topics:

Placing the Environment on the Human Rights Agenda

Raising awareness and taking action to ensure the existence of healthy ecosystems for future generations.

New International Structures: A Way Forward

Discussion surrounding various proposed initiatives including a world court of human rights, a world parliamentary assembly and an international bill of rights all aiming to improve human rights implementation procedures.

The Current Human Rights System: Shortcomings and Solutions

Contributions from Inter-governmental organisations, NGO's, human rights defenders and civil society.