



TRAINING

# Advanced Programme on Human Rights and Sustainable Development

26 June–5 July 2023  
United Nations Office at Geneva

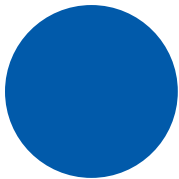


**UNRISD**

UNITED NATIONS  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT

현대차  
정몽구 재단  
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# Advanced Programme on Human Rights and Sustainable Development

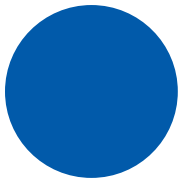
The Advanced Programme co-organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) provides course participants enriching opportunities for learning and exchanging knowledge with senior researchers and experts on the multifaceted issues of human rights and sustainable development and unparalleled access to international organisations.

## Programme Overview

26 June–5 July

<b>Day 1</b> Monday, 26 June Room 307-2, Building H			
9:00–10:30	<a href="#">ORIENTATION</a> Get to know each other session and get familiarized with the course details	Programme facilitators: Ilcheong Yi and Zhen Lee	Coffee/Tea/Orange Juice and light pastries provided
11:00–12:30	<a href="#">LECTURE 1</a> Overview of the United Nations	Paul Ladd, Director of UNRISD	
Lunch Break– UNOG Cafeteria			
14:30–16:00	<a href="#">LECTURE 2</a> Human rights and Development	Jung Rin Kim, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)	Coffee/Tea/and light snacks provided
16:20–17:20	<a href="#">COURSE WRAP-UP</a> Recap the findings and lessons and exchange views on key issues related to the lectures		
<b>Day 2</b> Tuesday, 27 June Room 307-2, Building H			
9:00–10:30	<a href="#">LECTURE 3</a> Key issues of human rights and sustainable development: Toward a new eco-social contract	Katja Hujo, UNRISD Senior Research Coordinator	Coffee/Tea/Orange Juice and light pastries provided
11:00–12:00	<a href="#">COURSE WRAP-UP</a> Recap the findings and lessons and exchange views on key issues related to the lecture		
Lunch Break– UNOG Cafeteria			
13:30–14:30	Signing Ceremony for the MOU		Room viii, Palais des Nations
14:30–16:00	<a href="#">LECTURE 4</a> Understanding Just Transition	Vincente Paolo Yu, UNRISD Visiting Research Fellow	Coffee/Tea/and light snacks provided
16:20–17:20	<a href="#">COURSE WRAP-UP</a> Recap the findings and lessons and exchange views on key issues related to the lecture		
19:00–21:00	Dinner hosted by the CMK Foundation		Restaurant O'Five Lake Geneva Hotel
<b>Day 3</b> Wednesday, 28 June Room 307-2, Building H			
9:30–11:00	<a href="#">GROUP WORK FORMATION AND BRAINSTORMING SESSION</a> Teams of participants of 2 or 3 will be formed to work on a research project or ideas based on the topics of the lectures/ previous research	Programme facilitators: Ilcheong Yi and Zhen Lee	Coffee/Tea/Orange Juice and light pastries provided
11:00–12:00	Questions and answers		

Lunch Break– UNOG Cafeteria			
15:00–16:30	LECTURE 5 Technology and Human Rights	Yoo Jin Kim, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)	Coffee/Tea/and light snacks provided
16:30–17:30	COURSE WRAP-UP Recap the findings and lessons and exchange views on key issues related to the lecture		
Day 4 Thursday, 29 June			
9:00–12:00	STUDY VISIT ILO	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	ILO premises 4 route des Morillons, Geneva
Lunch Break – ILO Cafeteria			
14:00–16:30	STUDY VISIT WTO	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	WTO premises Rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva
Day 5 Friday, 30 June			
9:30–12:00	STUDY VISIT UNCTAD	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	Palais des Nations UNCTAD Building E 8, Av. de la Paix 14, Geneva
Lunch Break – Palais des Nations Cafeteria			
14:00–16:30	STUDY VISIT WHO	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	WHO premises, Av. Appia 20, Geneva
Day 6 and 7 Saturday and Sunday, 1-2 July			
All day	Free days for course participants		
Day 8 Monday, 3 July			
9:30–12:00	STUDY VISIT IOM	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	Palais des Nations Building H 8, Av. de la Paix 14, Geneva
Lunch Break – Palais des Nations Cafeteria			
14:00–16:30	STUDY VISIT OHCHR	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	OHCHR - Palais Wilson Rue des Pâquis 52, 1202 Geneva
Day 9 Tuesday, 4 July			
9:30–12:00	STUDY VISIT UNHCHR	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	Switzerland for UNHCHR Rue de Montbrillant 96 1202 Geneva
Lunch Break			
14:00–16:30	PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL IDEAS 15 minutes presentations, 10 minutes for questions and answers for each group	Programme facilitators: David Vergari and Zhen Lee with staff agencies	
16:30–17:30	PROGRAMME WRAP-UP Best team award and certificates for the training course participants will be awarded	Paul Ladd, Director of UNRISD	
Day 10 Wednesday, 5 July Departure Day			



## Course lecture details

All course participants are expected to complete the reading assignments before each lecture and to actively participate in each lecture discussion to get the most out of the training.

LECTURE 1

### The United Nations

Paul Ladd, Director of UNRISD

#### Overview

This session will provide a brief overview of the founding, purpose, membership and structures of the United Nations. It will discuss how decisions are reached on key issues, by whom, and in which bodies. It will then concentrate on the UN’s work promoting international cooperation on development through the UN Development System. The lecture will cover the UN ‘development decades’, the various international summits on key sectors and issues in the 1990s, the Millennium Summit and promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (from 2000), and the process for defining and agreeing the current 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### Course readings

- [The United Nations Charter](#)
- [The Main Bodies of the United Nations](#)
- [The Millennium Declaration \(2000\)](#)
- [Road Map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration \(document A/56/326\)](#)
- [Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(document A/RES/70/1\)](#)
- [Negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals: A transformational agenda for an insecure world](#), Felix Dodds and David Donoghue
- [Redefining Development: The Extraordinary Genesis of the Sustainable Development Goals](#), Paula Caballero with Patti Londoño

LECTURE 2

### Human Rights and Development

Jung Rin Kim, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

#### Overview

The session will discuss the evolution of human rights over the past 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 – how the human rights framework has been elaborated, expanded and changed gear over the time. It will examine whether the human rights framework is relevant and what contribution it can make to addressing and providing guidance/solutions to the current global issues, such as growing poverty and socio-economic inequalities, privatization of social services, climate change, and various crises and conflicts. It will also examine the economic, social and cultural rights framework, which has not been explored to its full potential to address such issues and unpack key elements of it.

#### Course readings

- [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(1948\)](#)
- [The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action \(1993\)](#)
- [The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(1966\)](#)
- Sandra Fredman, [Human Rights Transformed](#), Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Samuel Moyn, [Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World](#), Harvard University Press, 2018.
- Mila Versteeg, “[Can Rights Combat Economic Inequality?](#)”, Harvard Law Review, Vol. 133, Issue 6, April 2020.
- César Rodríguez-Garavito, “[Human Rights 2030: Existential Challenges and a New Paradigm for the Field](#)”, New York University School of Law, Public Law and Legal Theory Research Paper Series, Working Paper No. 21-39, June 2021.

LECTURE 3

### The role of social protection for sustainable and human-rights-based development

Katja Hujo, UNRISD Senior Research Coordinator

#### Overview

This session focuses on the role of social protection for sustainable and human-rights-based development. In 2015 world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Social protection encompasses social insurance, social assistance and labour market policies and is concerned with preventing, managing and overcoming situations that adversely affect people’s well-being, for example poverty and social exclusion or income loss related to “life cycle risks”, for example sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age, or the death of a family member. It also covers benefits for children and adult dependents. It fosters economic and social development, reduces inequality and promotes social cohesion.

The Right to Social Security is enshrined in human rights law (Article 9 of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)) and promoted through various ILO conventions and recommendations. Yet, according to ILO estimates, 73 per cent of the world population lacks adequate social protection, and suffers from a lack of rights, dignity and a decent standard of living. Realizing the Right to Social Security and improving coverage of the entire population with social protection benefits is therefore a key target of inclusive and sustainable development.

Social protection has regained attention in recent decades in a context of multiple and overlapping crises and increasing inequalities. Social protection is considered as an instrument to provide livelihood security in times of crises, conflicts, natural disasters and during periods of structural change. It is a crucial instrument to address economic and social inequalities by redistributing income, assets and in-kind benefits and reducing exclusion and discrimination. Against the backdrop of the climate and environmental crisis, social protection can play important roles in the sustainability transition, pursuing social and environmental goals simultaneously in what has been labelled eco-social policies.

Finally, social protection is a key pillar of social contracts. Erosion of social rights in the context of neoliberal globalization has undermined social contracts and resulted in decreasing levels of trust and state legitimacy. The session will discuss the UNRISD proposal on how to reform and strengthen social contracts and turn them into new eco-social contracts for economic, social and environmental justice.

#### Course readings

- UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development). 2006. [Transformative Social Policy: Lessons from UNRISD Research](#), Research and Policy Brief No. 5, Geneva: UNRISD.
- Hujo, Katja, Christina Behrendt and Roddy McKinnon. 2017. [Introduction: Reflecting on the human right to social security. International Social Security Review](#), Special Issue: The human right to social security, Vol. 70, No. 4.
- Hujo, Katja. 2021. [A New Eco-Social Contract: Vital to Deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). Issue Brief No. 11, March 2021. UNRISD: Geneva.
- UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development). 2022. [Crises of Inequality: Shifting Power for a New Eco-Social Contract](#). Research and Policy Brief No. 39. Geneva: UNRISD.

LECTURE 4

### Understanding Just Transitions

Vincente Paolo Yu, UNRISD Visiting Research Fellow

#### Overview

This session will unpack the interlinkages of climate change and inequalities, highlighting socioeconomic interconnectivities and power relations between the global North and South that shape global climate injustices and pose a challenge for multilateral cooperation. Using the examples of loss and damage and just transition, the session will examine questions of equity and justice in the climate negotiations, outline different human rights implications associated with different levels of ambition pursued by negotiating parties, and identify possible ways forward for establishing equity-oriented approaches to climate action and just transitions.



Course readings

- UNRISD, [Crisis of Inequality: Shifting Power for a New Eco-Social Contract](#). 2022.
- JTRC (Just Transition Research Collaborative). 2018. [Mapping Just Transition\(s\) to a Low-Carbon World](#). Geneva: RLS and UNRISD.
- JTRC [Online Forum](#) (for example the piece on “Indigenous Views on Just Transition in Northern Patagonia”)
- Vicente Paolo Yu, [Green Deals and Implications for the Global South](#). 2021.
- Vicente Paolo Yu, [Economic Diversification from Oil-Dependency: Practice and Lessons from Persian Gulf Oil-Dependent Developing Countries](#). 2022.
- UNRISD Just Transition readings with a human rights lens/angle:
- JTRC (Just Transition Research Collaborative). 2019. [Climate Justice from Below—Local Struggles for Just Transition\(s\)](#). Geneva: UNRISD and RLS.
- Krause, Dunja. 2019. [“Why Human Rights-Based Social Protection is Needed in Climate Change Responses: A Just Transition.”](#) Social Protection and Human Rights Platform, 21 March.

LECTURE 5

Technology and Human Rights

Yoo Jin Kim, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Overview

In today’s interconnected world, digital technology plays an increasingly pivotal role in shaping our lives, influencing societal structures, and transforming the way we communicate, work, and access information. As the digital landscape continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, it brings with it a range of opportunities and challenges for the promotion and protection of human rights. Digital technologies affect all types of range – civil and political, as well as economic, cultural and social rights.

On one hand, technological innovations have empowered individuals and communities, providing new avenues for expression, participation, access to information, as well as economic empowerment, education and social protection. Internet connectivity and social media platforms have enabled marginalized voices to be heard and empowered movements for social change. Additionally, digitalization of healthcare, education, and commerce have expanded opportunities for individuals around the world, bridging the gaps between geographies and socioeconomic backgrounds.

However, digital technology also presents unprecedented challenges to human rights. Concerns surrounding privacy, surveillance, and data protection have come to the forefront. State and non-state actors alike employ digital tools to monitor and suppress dissent, potentially undermining freedoms of speech, assembly, and association. Discrimination, hate speech, and online harassment have also intensified, affecting individuals and communities, particularly marginalized groups. Moreover, the increasing application of artificial intelligence systems in various sectors have raised questions about the impact of algorithmic decision-making on the full spectrum of human rights.

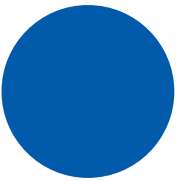
Recognizing these multifaceted challenges, this lecture seeks to engage participants in a thought-provoking discussion about the implications of digital technology on human rights and the role they can play in ensuring that digital technologies uphold the fundamental principles of dignity, equality and freedom for all.

Through this lecture, participants will gain a deeper understanding of:

1. The intersection of digital technology and human rights, exploring both the opportunities and challenges presented by digital technologies. In particular, this lecture will focus on the digital divide and its implications for the realization of human rights, as well as the human rights impacts of artificial intelligence systems, including algorithmic bias and automated decision-making systems.
2. The importance of safeguarding human rights in the digital age – what is at stake?
3. The role of digital technology in promoting human rights and sustainable development.

Course readings

- Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (2019). [A/HRC/74/439](#)
- Question of the Realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in All Countries: The Role of New Technologies for the Realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Report of the Secretary-General (2020). [A/HRC/43/29](#)
- The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2021). [A/HRC/48/31](#)
- Internet Shutdowns: trends, causes, legal implications and impacts on a range of human rights, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2022). [A/HRC/50/55](#)



Group project and presentation

Course participants are asked to choose a topic of their choice in relation to the lectures and write a brief research presentation summary (at least 800 words) and prepare for group presentation during the final day of the programme. The final project will be presented during the last session.

Guidelines

Course participants are asked to work in a small group of 2-3 and present a current case related to human rights and sustainable development issue that falls within the provided lecture topics outlined in this programme overview. The case study should present key facts and issue, as well as a discussion of potential pros and cons of policy solutions.

All groups are required to discuss their ideas from Day 3 onwards. The final case study presentation on Day 9 should be no longer than 15 minutes to allow space and time for questions and answers as well as feedback. Please submit the brief research presentation summary by 9:00 in the morning before the presentation in the afternoon to provide time for reading by the professor and teaching assistant.

Additional Information

ACCOMMODATION

Hôtel Résidence  
Le Montbrillant

Address: Rue de  
Montbrillant 2, 1201  
Geneva, Switzerland



VENUE

Building H at the  
Palais des Nations  
United Nations Office  
at Geneva  
1211 Geneva



LECTURE

Room 307-2 and  
additional rooms for  
group brainstorming



## About the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

UNRISD is an autonomous research institute in the UN system that focuses on the social dimensions of contemporary development issues. Our work is guided by a Board of independent academic advisers. This gives us the freedom to ask the difficult questions relating to development processes—about power, politics and distribution. We are unlike any other organization in the UN system, and our broad network of collaborators say they deeply value our work.

Our institutional strategy is focused on overcoming inequalities. It covers not only the research areas we seek to support progress on, but also how we do our work. We co-produce research with a truly global network of partners, providing support if needed on scoping work, methodology and communications. We benefit from both an insider and an outsider perspective. We participate in UN processes at all levels, yet we also join up with coalitions of campaigning and advocacy groups and align ourselves with those fighting for social, economic and environmental justice.

We do not receive any resources from the United Nations itself. Instead, we mobilize what we need each year from a range of aligned partners, including cooperation agencies, foundations, UN agencies and sometimes the private sector. We are an efficient organization—every dollar counts for us. Our main office is in Geneva and we have an office in Bonn that focuses on research uptake through partnerships, outreach, communications and training.

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