

Human Rights Go Local: What Works

Academy & Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels

Accountability in Action: Human Rights Action Plans of Local Governments"

5 – 8 February 2024

(Version: November 2023)

Tentative Agenda

Please note that all times listed are Central European Time (GMT+1, Paris/Geneva/Vienna)

Monday, 5 February 2024: Stocktaking

The first day addresses the following questions: To what extent have human rights action plans proven helpful for local governments to promote human rights? What are the possibilities and what are the limitations of human rights action plans when it comes to promoting accountability of local governments? What is the importance of multi-level governance in this context and what has been the experience of local authorities around the world in aligning local action plans with national and international human rights action plans?

11:30-12:00

Introduction, opening by the Academy's Steering Group

12:00-13:00

Plenary Session A

Impulse speeches by:

International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional levels under the auspices of UNESCO | HRGL Publication series, Volume 5

Joyce Monteiro | UNESCO, The 10 Point Plan of Action (including references to the EU project "ACTION") (tbc)

James Flolu | Afadzato South District, Ghana

Channeh Maram Joof, Toralv Moe, Rowena Teodocio | City of Oslo, Norway

Eirini Dourou | Congress Spokesperson for Gender Equality and former Governor of Attica, Greece (tbc)

13:00-13:30

Break



13:30-15:30 **4 parallel working groups in breakout rooms**

In parallel

13:30-15:30 **Mentoring session** for the next generation with Claudia Scheufler | UN Habitat

In parallel

13:30-15:30 **Working group in the framework of the EU project [ACTION](#)**

15:30-16:00 **Closing and thoughts on the day**
Morten Kjaerum | Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (tbc)

Tuesday, 6 February 2024: Lessons from the field

Day 2 addresses the following questions: How can human rights action plans actually make a difference at the local level? What are the key factors and tools (e.g., participatory planning, budget anchoring, monitoring, multi-level governance, certification, etc.) that help local governments to promote accountability through action plans? What lessons have been learned so far and can be shared? How can existing practices best be transferred to other local contexts?

11:45-12:00 **Introduction and organisational matters**

12:00-13:00 **Plenary Session B**
Impulse speeches by:

Gyonggu Shin | City of Gwangju, Human Rights Action Plan in the Human Rights City of Gwangju, Republic of Korea

Wolfgang Palle | Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities, City of Graz, The Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Inclusion Strategy in Graz, Austria

Nexhat Beqiri | City of Helsinki, Finland, Action Plan Helsinki of Human Rights (2020-2021)

Nino Gvasalia | Head of Service for Sustainable Development and Implementation of innovative Approaches, Ponti Municipality, Georgia

13:00-13:30 **Break**



13:30-15:30 **2-4 parallel working groups in breakout rooms**

In parallel

13:30-15:30 **Mentoring session** for the next generation with a member of a local authority

15:30-16:00 **Closing and thoughts on the day**
Amanda Flety | Coordinator UCLG Global Charter-Agenda, the UCLG Global Charter Agenda

Wednesday, 7 February 2024: Needs and potentials

What is needed to embed effective human rights action plans in local government systems worldwide? What steps need to be taken next so that action plans can be better used to promote accountability of local governments?

All participants will be given the opportunity to share their future visions and recommendations for the promotion of accountability through action plans. The day is dedicated to synthesizing the findings from the previous days of discussion and to collaboratively finalizing an Outcome Document aimed at local governments. The Outcome Document encourages local authorities all over the world to develop and implement binding action plans and thus meet their accountability for human rights implementation.

11:45-12:00 **Introduction and organisational matters**

12:00-13:00 **Plenary Session C**

Impulse speeches by:

Pradeep Wagle | Chief of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Robert Lewis-Lettington | Senior Advisor, Land, Housing and Human Rights, UN-Habitat

Ana Isabel Rodriguez Basanta, City of Barcelona, Spain | The ECCAR City Reporting Tool

Markus Schabler | City of Graz, Austria, Certification Child and Family Friendly Community Graz

Windi Arini | Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Jakarta, Indonesia

13:00-13:30 **Break**



13:30-15:30 **2-4 parallel working groups in breakout rooms** (0,5h: explanation of the task; 1h working; 0.5h: presentation of findings in plenary)

One of these working groups is only for members of **the next generation**. The participants will develop critical questions and recommendations, which they will address to the high-level experts through a nominated representative at the Conference on February 8th.

15:30-16:00 **Closing and thoughts on the day**
N.N. I Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Thursday, 8 February 2024: High Level Conference to present and discuss the Outcome Document

A Conference will take place with high level representatives to discuss the outcomes of the Academy and to make concrete proposals on how to develop and realize binding action plans. The Outcome Document will be presented as a step-by-step guideline for the accountability of local governments to implement human rights at the local level.

Networking and cooperation-building

The day offers the virtual participants the opportunity to exchange contact details, build working relationships and strengthen collaborations. The tool “gathertown” is used for the networking event.

12:00-16:00 **Networking Day**

