

Human Rights Go Local: What Works

Academy & Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels 2022

***"From Intentions to Commitments:
Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights"***

1 – 8 February 2022

Programme Outline

(version: 9 November 2021)

The Academy takes place from 1 February to 8 February 2022. The first three days of the Academy are dedicated to three thematic strands on human rights commitments at the local level around the world. A networking event will be held on 4 February, in particular for next generation human rights professionals. After a two-day break, the participants will reunite on 7 February to synthesise the findings and proposals of the event into the Outcome Document expressing possible ways forward for local governments.

Aims, approach and target groups

The Academy aims to facilitate exchange on eye-level between different actors, regions and governance levels. The event is cooperative in that it uses a peer-to-peer learning and multi-actor approach to collaboratively generate knowledge and credible encouragements to human rights at the local and regional levels. There are no lectures or traditional teaching methods. The goal of the event is to bring together, match and synthesise different experiences, attempts, approaches, and visions in relation to our topic. The organisers believe that everyone who attends the Academy has something meaningful to contribute and can learn from it, regardless of their degree of knowledge or experience. Participants are urged to participate actively in all sessions.



Tentative agenda

Tuesday, 1 February 2022: Drivers and actors of human rights commitments

Day 1 is devoted to the developments around the world to strengthen local governments' commitments to human rights. Thereby, a stocktaking of drivers and actors of human rights commitments at local / regional level takes place. The goal is to collect and map initiatives and policies that have a tangible impact on municipal activities around the world.

Participants are invited to highlight existing strategies in their respective regions and pinpoint their thematic priorities, drivers and actors. The extent to which these initiatives are related to the realization of Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, and how they achieve the pledge to "leave no one behind" will be a vital component of these discussions.

11:30-12:00 **Opening ceremony**

Academy organisers

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

Inputs and moderation will be provided by practitioners and researchers from international organisations and local and regional authorities

13:00-13:30 Break

13:30-14:30 **Workshop session**

two parallel workshop groups covering the same content

- Workshop Session 1: Drivers¹ and actors of commitment:

Part A: challenges and possible solutions

Example questions:

- What are the most important drivers of commitment?
- Which actors inspired the local commitment and how?
- What approaches and initiatives work in which local context?
- What challenges exist in driving human rights commitment at local level? E.g. data gaps, biased-research, transferability, institutional challenges, etc.
- What are possible solutions to these challenges?

Part B: requirements and recommendations

Example questions:

- What are the key requirements to drive and enable HR commitment at the local level?
- What makes research a solid base for tailored and contextualized HR Commitments?
Preconditions and requirements
- How can local initiatives be more clearly connected to efforts by national governments and international organisations to meet the SDGs?
- What are the crucial actors of a broad collaboration and participatory approach to elaborate the commitment?

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-15:30 **Closing**

Summary of workshop findings

Thoughts on the day

¹ Such as: common principles, frameworks, declarations, research, etc.

Wednesday, 2 February 2022: Local development of commitment: Exchange of experiences

Day 2 is all about exchange and interaction about “what works” in the local development of commitment to human rights. Participants will share the concrete tools and measures proven effective in their local contexts to support local governments in achieving stronger human rights commitments. This includes, for example, the establishment of institutions or procedures, the adoption of frameworks or accreditation processes, review mechanisms (including peer- and self-assessments), the adoption and implementation of action plans, and so on. Against the backdrop of achieving the goals set by Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda and the pledge to “leave no one behind”, best practices and successful methods are shared. Challenges encountered are discussed as well as solutions applied. The transferability of proven practices (including Local Voluntary Reviews) to other regions and settings will be discussed too.

11:45-12:00 Introduction and organisational matters

12:00-13:00 Plenary Session B

Inputs and moderation will be provided by practitioners and researchers from international organisations and local and regional authorities

13:00-13:30 Break

13:30-14:30 Workshop session

two parallel workshop groups covering the same content

- Workshop Session 2: Local development of commitment

Part A: challenges and possible solutions

- How can a participatory approach help the elaboration of commitment?
- What are the main challenges in formulating and contextualising human rights commitments? Refer to the substantive, procedural and institutional dimension of commitments.
- Discuss the challenges and solutions in effectively implementing a participatory approach to contextualise HR commitments at local level.

Part B: requirements and recommendations

- What is needed to build an enabling environment for the realisation of human rights?

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-15:30

Closing

Summary of workshop findings

Thoughts on the day



Thursday, 3 February 2022: From commitment to responsibility

On Day 3, participants will be given the opportunity to share their visions of human rights commitment at the local level. Based on the mapped initiatives and experiences made across the regions, the steps necessary to attain the intended goals will be defined. Both, broader visions such as "leave no one behind," as well as concrete benchmarks and conditions to increase human rights commitment of local authorities will be considered. Next generation human rights professionals have a crucial role during the day, as they are the stakeholders of the future.

11:45-12:00 Introduction and organisational matters

12:00-13:00 Plenary Session C

Plenary discussions, moderation will be provided by practitioners and researchers from international organisations and local and regional authorities

Panel A: Frameworks of responsibility (members of international organisations)

Panel B: How to implement the frameworks (representatives of local authorities)

13:00-13:30 Break

13:30-14:30 Workshop session

two parallel workshop groups covering the same content

- Workshop Session 3: Implementing frameworks

The workshops will be held as focus group sessions to elaborate local authorities' and practitioners' feedback and recommendations to international organisations. Their experience in implementing international frameworks and documents form the basis for this feedback. The experiences and visions of the next generation will feature strongly in this session.

14:30-15:00 Break

15:30-16:00 Closing discussion

Representatives of local authorities present their feedback, discussion

Thoughts on the day

Friday, 4 February 2022: Networking and opportunities for professionalization

On Day 4, the next generation human rights professionals will have an informal place to engage and connect with established human rights experts and practitioners. The networking day seeks to establish a link between today's stakeholders and tomorrow's actors in order to exchange practical knowledge of working in the field, discuss the realization of future perspectives and aspirations, and provide insight into the opportunity to professionalize in human rights, a field of professional activity that is becoming increasingly important at the local level.

13.30-14.15 Introduction of human rights experts

14:15-15:30 Three parallel roundtable sessions: 45 min

Human rights experts and practitioners engage in informal discussion with next generation human rights professionals and practitioners



Monday, 7 February 2022: Building bridges towards sustainable results

Day 5 is dedicated to synthesizing the findings from the previous days of discussion and collaboratively finalizing an Outcome Document aimed at local governments. The Outcome Document shall draw together encouragements for local governments on how to best implement regional and global agendas at the local level following a human rights-based approach.

11:45-12:00 Introduction and organisational matters

12:00-13:00 Plenary Session D

Inputs and moderation will be provided by practitioners and researchers from international organisations and local and regional authorities

- Plenary discussion (25 min)

13:00-13:30 Break

13:30-14:30 Workshop sessions: 3 parallel workshops

Aim of the workshops: Collaborative finalisation of the Outcome Document:

- Workshop 10: Drivers and actors of commitment
- Workshop 11: Local Development of commitment
- Workshop 12: From commitment to responsibility

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-15:30 **Closing**

Tuesday, 8 February 2022: High Level Conference to present the results of the Academy

On Day 6, a Conference will take place with high level representatives to discuss the outcomes of the Academy and to make concrete proposals on how to locally implement the international agenda following a human rights-based approach. The Outcome Document will be adopted as a guideline for local authorities on how to effectively strengthen commitments to human rights at the local level.

