

THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

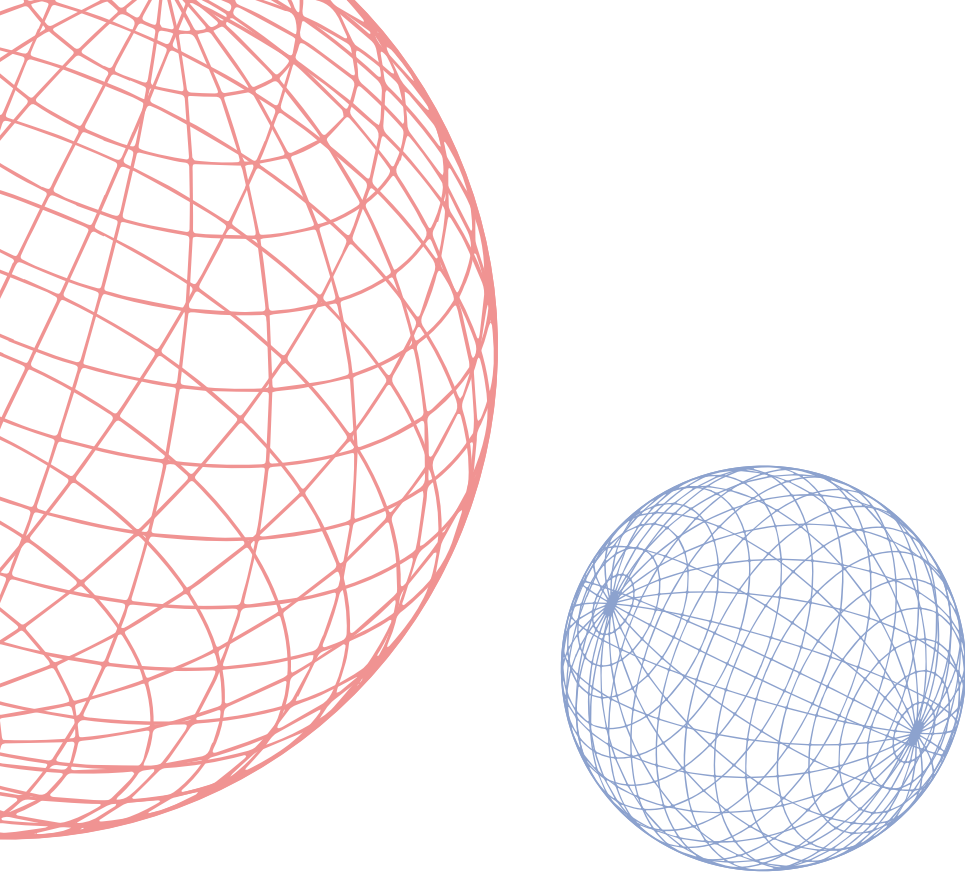
FROM LOCAL
TO GLOBAL

12-14 October 2026
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



24TH INFORMAL SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS
#ASEMHR24





FOREWORD

Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA

Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation

“Fall seven times, stand up eight.” It is a Japanese proverb about resilience, and it is a fitting companion to this year's Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights. Across Asia and Europe, the systems we built to protect human dignity are under real strain. But they have also shown, repeatedly, that they can adapt and renew themselves, and that is the spirit in which the Asia-Europe Foundation, together with its partners, presents the 24th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights, “The Future of Human Rights – From Local to Global.”

We meet at a difficult time. Conflict, a fractured multilateral order, climate and environmental crises, rapid technological change and shrinking civic space are converging, and they compound one another. Yet recent years have also brought real progress: the right to a healthy environment now recognised, a UN envoy for future generations in place, and the first binding AI treaty signed. These developments show that the human rights system retains a real capacity for renewal, but closing the distance between universal standards and lived reality will take more than defending what exists. It will take better connections between the levels we already have: global norms that carry real weight locally, regional bodies that reinforce rather than duplicate domestic institutions, and local experience that shapes the wider system in turn.

For this reason, the Seminar is organised around three interconnected levels: global, regional and domestic. Three working groups will take these up in turn on the second day.

The first will examine the global human rights system, including the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures. It will ask what a realistic and achievable agenda for their strengthening might look like at a time of constrained resources and uneven compliance.

The second will turn to the regional level, considering Europe's court-based system of binding oversight alongside Asia's dialogue-based, consensus-

driven arrangements. Its purpose is to ask what each region can learn from the other, and where inter-regional cooperation can add value.

The third will look at the domestic and local level, where the promise of international human rights law is ultimately kept or broken. It will focus on national human rights institutions, national action plans, and the growing role of municipal authorities and civil society in everyday protection.

The Seminar's conclusions will reflect the connections between these levels, and not only each level on its own.

These discussions are grounded in this year's background paper, *Asia-Europe and the Future of Human Rights: Bridge-Building for Shared Pathways*, prepared by our Lead Rapporteur, Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, together with co-rapporteur Dr Domenico Zipoli. The paper takes stock of human rights protection across both regions at each of the three levels, then sets out shared pathways for Asia-Europe cooperation, from following up on treaty body recommendations to responsible digitalisation and AI.

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I am deeply grateful to both authors for their care and scholarship.

We are delighted to be hosted this year in Ulaanbaatar. Mongolia's position between Asia and Europe makes it a fitting home for a Seminar built on exactly that kind of bridge-building, and I extend our sincere thanks to our hosts, the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, for their generous welcome.

My thanks, too, to ASEF's long-standing partners and the Seminar's Steering Committee for their continued support. To all participants and delegates, I extend a warm welcome. I hope these three days offer you the space to exchange openly, learn from one another's experience, and leave with concrete ideas for how Asia and Europe can work together to bring the rights we have promised closer to the lives people live. I wish the 24th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights every success.

Thank you.



WELCOME GREETINGS

Dr SUNJID Dugar

Chief Commissioner,
National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 24th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights in Mongolia.

I am confident that the discussions ahead will be substantive, forward-looking, and action-oriented. By bringing together representatives of governments, national human rights institutions, international organizations, academia, and civil society from across Asia and Europe, this Seminar provides a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives, deepen mutual understanding, and strengthen the partnerships essential to advancing human rights in an increasingly interconnected world.

At a time when many of the challenges facing humanity transcend national borders, our responses must be equally collaborative. No country, institution, or region can address these challenges alone. Meaningful progress depends on our ability

These developments show that the human rights system retains a real capacity for renewal, but closing the distance between universal standards and lived reality will take more than defending what exists.

Ambassador Stoczyńska joined the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in October 2024 as its 9th Executive Director and the first Polish national to lead the organisation.

The Ambassador has a distinguished career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Prior to her appointment at ASEF, she was the Polish Ambassador to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN. She has also served as Ambassador to New Zealand. Her portfolio at the Ministry included the Asia Pacific region as well as relations with the European Union. She brings to ASEF invaluable experience and a broad international network.

to work together, drawing on our diverse experiences and expertise while remaining united by our shared commitment to human dignity and human rights.

As we consider the future of human rights, let us reaffirm our collective determination to strengthen the connections between international standards, regional cooperation, and national implementation. Through sustained dialogue and closer collaboration,

At a time when many of the challenges facing humanity transcend national borders, our responses must be equally collaborative. No country, institution, or region can address these challenges alone.

we can help ensure that human rights frameworks remain relevant, responsive, and effective in addressing the realities of our time.

We are honored to welcome you to Mongolia and are grateful for the commitment that has brought each of you to this gathering. Your presence reflects the enduring value of dialogue, partnership, and cooperation in advancing our shared objectives.

I encourage all participants to engage openly, thoughtfully, and constructively throughout the Seminar. I hope that the perspectives, experiences, and recommendations shared over the coming days will contribute meaningfully to strengthening human rights protection across Asia and Europe. Let us use this opportunity to renew our shared commitment, deepen our cooperation, and translate the principles we uphold into meaningful progress for people and communities.

Dr Sunjid Dugar is a Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia. She is a lawyer with extensive experience in legal aspects of development, especially promoting and protecting human rights and advancing the rule of law in the country.

She has 28 years of professional experience across a range of fields, including government and civil society organizations, academic teaching, legal and policy research, legislative and legal drafting, project management, consultancy, and advocacy. Her areas of expertise include Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, and Administrative Law.

She holds BBL and LLM from Law School of Mongolian National University, LLM in Public Law and Doctoral (Doctor Juris) in Comparative Constitutional Law from Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Germany.



KEYNOTE SESSION

Day 1 - Monday, 12 October 2026



MUNKHBAATAR Lkhagva
Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice

Munkhbaatar Lkhagva is a Member of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia. He began his professional career in 1999 as a specialist in the Legal Reform Strategy Planning Department of the Ministry of Justice. From 2000 to 2006, he served as a Specialist and Senior Specialist with the Crime

Prevention Council of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, and from 2006 to 2008 as Head of the Information, Monitoring and Assessment Department.

From 2008 to 2009, he served as General Inspector and Chairman of the National Center for Civil Registration and Information, followed by service as Chairman of the State Registration Authority from 2009 to 2011. He was an Advisor to the Prime Minister of Mongolia in 2012 and an Advisor to the Chairman of the Mongolian People's Party in 2013. From 2014 to 2016, he was Head of "Khuvsgul Khugjil".

He served as a Member of the State Great Hural from 2016 to 2020 and from 2020 to 2024. He chaired the Standing Committee on Justice from 2022 to 2023 and served as Deputy Chairman of the State Great Hural from 2023 to 2024.

From 2024 to 2025, he was Chairman of the Mongolian People's Party Parliamentary Group in the State Great Hural. In 2025, he served as Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs of Mongolia.

He graduated from the School of Law of the National University of Mongolia with a Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies in 1999 and obtained a Master's degree in Economics from Otgontenger University in Ulaanbaatar in 2008.

KEYNOTE SESSION

Day 1 - Monday, 12 October 2026



H.E. Batmunkh BATTSETSEG
Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

Born in Bayankhongor province, Battsetseg Batmunkh has served as Mongolia's Foreign Minister since 2021. A career diplomat and entrepreneur, she previously held the position of Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs (2016–2020) and began her public service as Head of Foreign Relations at the Foreign Investment and Foreign Trade Agency (2005–2007). She has been elected as a member of the Parliament since 2024.

She holds degrees in International Relations (National University of Mongolia, 1996), Business Administration (University of Finance and Economics, 2000), and an MBA from Maastricht School of Management (2005). Before entering public service, she founded and led “Mönkhyin Üseg” Co., Ltd and launched the “Azkhur” bookstore chain.

She is Mongolia's third female Foreign Minister and a strong advocate for gender equality and rural women's empowerment. In 2023, she hosted Asia's first Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Ulaanbaatar. She also spearheaded the national “Right-minded Mongolian” education initiative.

Battsetseg Batmunkh currently serves as President of the Mongolian Red Cross Society and Vice President of the Social Democratic Mongolian Women's Union, and chairs over 20 national and international committees, including the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO.

A committed Buddhist and cultural patron, she actively supports the arts and emerging talents.



Prof Marta CARTABIA
President of the Venice Commission
(European Commission for Democracy through Law) of the Council of Europe

Marta Cartabia was elected President of the Venice Commission in December 2025, following terms as the Vice-President (2023-2025), Member in respect of Italy (2021-to date) and Substitute Member (2017-2021).

She is a full Professor of Constitutional Law at Bocconi University of Milan (since 2020), where she is also the Dean for Social Engagement (since 2024).

Prof Cartabia was the Minister of Justice of the Italian Republic in the Draghi government (from 2021 to 2022). She is currently the President Emerita of the Italian Constitutional Court, where she served as the President (2019-2020), Vice-President (2014-2019) and Judge (2011-2020). From 2008 to 2010, Ms Cartabia was a senior legal expert for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna. She holds a PhD in Law from the European University Institute in Florence (1993) and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in law from the University of Milan (1987). Amongst her many academic and civic honours, she was awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of Saint Agatha of San Marino in 2022 and the Knight Grand Cross in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 2011.

Prof Cartabia has founded and presided over several academic and scientific institutions and learned societies. She has also held numerous editorial responsibilities, including as the founder and co-editor in chief of the Italian Journal of Public Law, and co-authored many publications across various discourses of law and academic fields.



VIDEO MESSAGE
Amb Sidharto Reza SURYODIPURO
President of the UN Human Rights Council
in 2026

Ambassador Suryodipuro was appointed by President Prabowo Subianto of the Republic of Indonesia on 25 August 2025 as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations in Geneva. He was elected by the Human Rights Council as President of the 20th cycle in 2026 on 8 January 2026. Prior to his current appointment in Geneva, he served as Director-General for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Cooperation and as Indonesia's Senior Official to ASEAN, contributing to advancing regional dialogue and cooperation on maritime stability, food and energy security, human rights, and the effectiveness of regional institutions. Previously, he served as Ambassador to India and Bhutan, further strengthening Indonesia's diplomatic engagement across key regions. His overseas assignments also included service in New York during Indonesia's membership in the United Nations Security Council, as well as bilateral postings in Canberra and Washington, D.C., where he served as Deputy Chief of Mission. Ambassador Suryodipuro holds a Master of Arts in National Security from the Naval Postgraduate School, United States, and a Bachelor of Political Science in International Relations from Parahyangan University, Indonesia.



STATEMENT*
Mr Volker TÜRK
United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Mr Türk is the current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Prior to this, he was the Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General where he coordinated global policy work. He also ensured UN system-wide coordination in the follow-up to the Secretary-General's “Call to Action for Human Rights” and his report, Our Common Agenda, which sets out a vision to tackle the world's interconnected challenges on foundations of trust, solidarity and human rights. He previously served as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and as Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva.

Over the course of his career, he held a number of key positions including at UNHCR headquarters where he served as Director of the Division of International Protection; Director of Organizational Development and Management; and Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice. He holds a doctorate in international law from the University of Vienna and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Linz, Austria. He has published widely on international refugee law and international human rights law.



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Rolf RING
Secretary to the Board of
Trustees, Raoul Wallenberg
Institute of Human Rights and
Humanitarian Law



***DELIVERED BY**
Reem MAZZAWI
Country Coordinator, Universal
Periodic Review Branch, Office
of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)

PRESENTATION OF THE BACKGROUND PAPER

Day 1 - Monday, 12 October 2026



Prof Vitit MUNTARBHORN
Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, Thailand

Vitit Muntarbhorn is a Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. He is a graduate of Oxford University (M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)) and Universite Libre de Bruxelles (Licence Speciale en Droit Europeen (Brux.)). He is a Barrister at Law (The Middle Temple, London). He teaches International Law, Human Rights and related subjects.

He has held a number of pro bono UN positions, in particular the following: the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the first UN Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. He was UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia, under the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva (2021- 5). He was the Chairperson of the UN appointed Commission of Inquiry on the Ivory Coast (2011) and a member of the UN appointed Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (2012-6). He also served on the Advisory Board of the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation on Human Rights (Geneva) and on the Advisory Board of the UN Human Security Fund (New York). He was a UN University Fellow at the Refugee Studies Programme of Oxford University. He was, for a decade, a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. He has been a consultant to many UN organisations and programmes, including UNESCO, UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNHCR and ILO.

He has taught in several countries, including the UK, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea and France. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg. He served as the Alternate Thai member on the ASEAN High Level Panel that drafted the Terms of

Reference to establish the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights. He was, for several years, Co-Chairperson of the (civil society) Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. He helps non-governmental organisations in Thailand in a pro bono capacity.

He has published widely on International Law and Human Rights. His books include The Status of Refugees in Asia (Clarendon/Oxford University Press); Unity in Connectivity: Evolving Human Rights Mechanisms in the ASEAN Region (Brill/Nijhoff); The Core Human Rights Treaties and Thailand (Brill/Nijhoff). His latest book is Challenges of International Law in the Asian Region (Springer). He also writes for the media, in particular the Bangkok Post and other Asian newspapers.

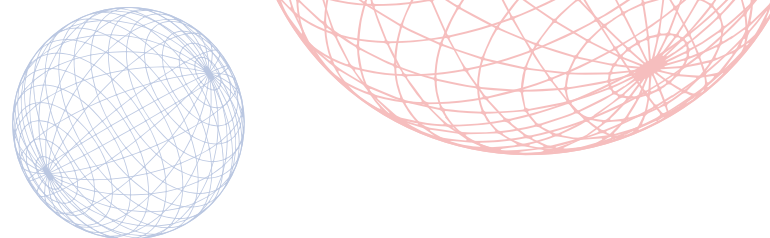
He has won a number of awards nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of the 2004 UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize. He was bestowed a British Knighthood (KBE) for his international work on Human Rights in 2018.



Virginia BRÁS GOMES
Vice-President
Geneva Human Rights Hub (GHRH)

Virginia Bras Gomes served as a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for 14 years, during which she served as Vice-Chair, Rapporteur and Chair of the Committee. She was a Senior Social Policy Adviser in the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal and a member of the Portuguese National Human Rights Commission until 2021.

In Addition, Virginia Bras Gomes is presently an independent consultant in the field of human rights. Her work has included contributing to the joint OHCHR / ILO Fact Sheet on the Right to Social Security, conducting a study on Social Protection for Women in the Informal Sector in Timor-Leste, and reviewing the proposed New Labour Code in Cuba. She has also



served as Vice-President of the Geneva Human Rights Hub and as a Member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights.

From 2018 to 2026, she served as a Distinguished Guest Lecturer in the LLM Program in Intercultural Human Rights at St. Thomas University School of Law. In 2015, she was an invited expert at the School of Regulation and Global Governance at the Australian National University / College of Asia & the Pacific. From 2011 to 2015, she was a faculty member of the Leadership Institute in Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She has provided training on human rights and treaty body reporting in Africa, Asia and Europe on behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and at the invitation of governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations. She has published articles in national and international publications.



Dr Domenico ZIPOLI
Head of Programmes
Geneva Human Rights Hub (GHRH)

Dr Domenico Zipoli is a Senior Research Fellow and Project Coordinator at the Geneva Human Rights Platform. His research focuses on the question of connectivity among international human rights mechanisms and on national strategies for monitoring, implementation, and follow-up of international human rights obligations and recommendations. He is currently leading a research initiative aimed at advancing digital solutions to improve the efficiency of human rights and SDG monitoring and implementation, leveraging digital human rights tracking tools, databases and artificial intelligence.

He is also Project Coordinator at the Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP), providing expert input to different Geneva-based international organizations and permanent missions as well as coordinating the organization and development of GHRP projects, events, workshops and training

courses. Prior to starting at the Geneva Academy, Dr Zipoli worked as PhD Fellow at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. He successfully defended his doctoral thesis in 2021 ('The Power of Engagement: Assessing the Effectiveness of Cooperation between United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies and National Human Rights Institutions'). He previously worked as Research Assistant for the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020, as Research Trainee at the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency, and as a research assistant at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Throughout his research, he also carried out visiting stays at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Australian Institute for Human Rights (Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales) as well as internships at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division) and two National Human Rights Institutions (the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia and the Defensoria del Pueblo of Ecuador).

Dr Zipoli holds a PhD in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oslo, a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Exeter.



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SCAN TO VIEW
BACKGROUND PAPER

Asia-Europe and the
Future of Human Rights:
Bridge-Building for Shared
Pathways

OPENING PANEL

Day 1 - Monday, 12 October 2026

National Human Rights Institutions in the Face of Emerging Challenges: from AI to Climate Change

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are facing an increasingly complex and rapidly changing human rights landscape. Artificial intelligence, climate change, digitalization, corporate activity, and economic decision-making are creating new challenges that cross traditional institutional boundaries and involve both public and private actors. Against this backdrop, the panel will examine whether NHRIs' mandates, expertise, methods, resources, and institutional safeguards are evolving sufficiently to remain effective, independent, and responsive while upholding the Paris Principles.

This panel will explore the capacities and safeguards NHRIs need to address these emerging challenges while preserving their independence and broad mandate. Drawing on experiences from Mongolia, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), the European Union, and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the discussion will share practical experiences and lessons learned and examine ways to strengthen monitoring, advocacy, partnerships, and engagement with governments, businesses, civil society, and rights-holders. It will also consider how local, regional, and global cooperation can strengthen the effectiveness and independence of NHRIs in a rapidly changing human rights environment.



Photo source: Pexels © Lovesa Chang



Dr SUNJID Dugar
Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM)

Dr SUNJID Dugar is a Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia. She is a lawyer with extensive experience in legal aspects of development, especially promoting and protecting human rights and advancing the rule of law in the country. She holds BBL and LLM from Law School of Mongolian National University, LLM in Public Law and Doctoral (Dr.jur.) in Comparative Constitutional Law from Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Germany. She has 28 years of professional experience across a range of fields, including government and civil society organizations, academic teaching, legal and policy research, legislative and legal drafting, project management, consultancy, and advocacy. Her areas of expertise include Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, and Administrative Law.

With her extensive research and academic experience in constitutional law, administrative law, and human rights, Dr Sunjid has presented 41 papers at national and international conferences and published more than 40 academic articles. She has authored scholarly books and publications in her areas of expertise in both Mongolian and German, participated in approximately 33 research projects, authored seven books independently, and co-authored eight books. She has also served on working groups responsible for drafting 10 laws and has edited five publications and manuals.



Thuy DOAN-SMITH
Director
Asia-Pacific Forum (Australia)

Thuy Doan-Smith is the Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF). With over 20 years' experience working with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region, she is committed to seeking and enabling collaboration and fostering partnerships to enhance the role and impact of the APF. Thuy holds bachelor's degrees in social sciences and international relations, both from the University of Technology, Sydney. Having endured five years of her young life as a refugee, she values the inherent diversity of all human beings and is ardently dedicated to seeking equality and fairness.



Dr Hans-Otto SANO
Senior Researcher, Emeritus
The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Dr Hans-Otto Sano is a Senior Researcher, Emeritus, at the Danish Institute for Human Rights and an expert in human rights and development. He has worked on human rights issues since 1997 and has more than 20 years of experience with the Danish Institute for Human Rights. He has also worked at the World Bank, where he served as a Senior Program Officer.

Throughout his career, Dr Sano has worked as a researcher, consultant, programme officer and interim director. His areas of expertise include poverty, human rights indicators, research methodology and governance. His research has also addressed human rights-based approaches, social accountability and the relationship between human rights and development.



Carolina CRITTIN
Senior Human Rights Officer
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)

Carolina Casotti DB Crittin is a Senior Human Rights Officer at the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in Geneva. She supports national human rights institutions in strengthening their work and connects institutions across regions to exchange expertise and address shared challenges. Her current areas of focus include climate change and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, digital technologies, the human rights of older persons, and torture prevention. Before joining GANHRI, Carolina managed an international programme at the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) addressing torture and other ill-treatment of children. She previously worked with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and held legal and human rights roles in Brazil, Guatemala and the occupied Palestinian territory. She holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex and a law degree from the State University of Londrina, Brazil.

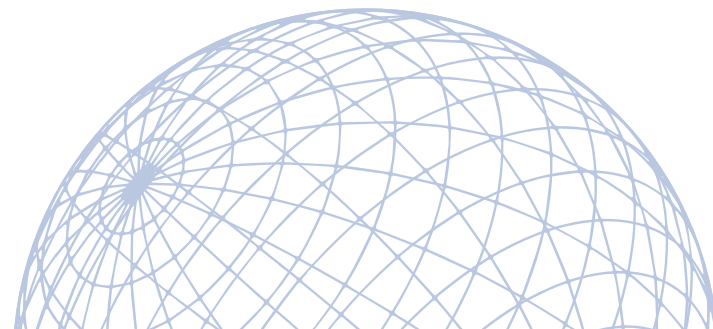
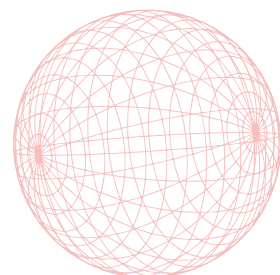


MODERATOR
Dr ENKHBOLD Batzeveg
Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

Dr Enkhbold Batzeveg earned his doctoral degree from Kyonggi University in the Republic of Korea and has experience working as a professor and lecturer at the University of Internal Affairs of Mongolia. His areas of expertise include criminology, law enforcement, implementation of rights to a fair trial, and protecting human rights in criminal proceedings.

As a Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, he is on charge of matters concerning the protection and implementation of human rights within law enforcement, state military organizations, and criminal proceedings. He has also led research and developed policy recommendations on human rights in law enforcement, victim-centered investigations, the human rights situation in military, support for the social reintegration of persons released from prison, forensic science and human rights, and comparative research on the right to be free from torture.

He has authored more than 40 articles and research publications. He has also worked in working groups and subgroups established from the Government and the Parliament on drafting legislations related to the judiciary, investigation, and law enforcement, as well as developing Mongolia's Second National Plan for Ensuring Human Rights.



WORKING GROUP 1 Human Rights Protection at the Global Level

Day 2 - Tuesday, 13 October 2026



MODERATOR
Dr Anna Camille TALBOT
Lecturer in the School of Global and Public Law,
The University of New South Wales

Anna is a researcher, writer and international human rights lawyer. Her focus is on international human rights law, including the right to life (with dignity), non-refoulement, discrimination against women, the impacts of disasters and climate change, and positive human rights obligations. She also maintains an interest in domestic constitutional law, especially as it relates to international human rights law. She has published widely in these fields in both peer-reviewed journals and policy documents, as well as presenting at various conferences and expert meetings. Anna teaches Public International Law, International Refugee Law and Federal Constitutional Law. Her research, writing, presentations and teaching are informed by and influence both domestic and international legal practice. Before becoming an academic, Anna engaged with expert UN human rights mechanisms, representing Amnesty International in complex negotiations in Geneva and New York. Anna also practised as a litigation solicitor, conducting complex strategic human rights litigation in both domestic courts and international fora.



RAPPORTEUR
Virginia BRÁS GOMES
Vice-President, the Geneva Human Rights Hub
(GHRH)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. International human rights standards are widely agreed on yet turning them into real protections for people on the ground remains a persistent challenge. What are the main obstacles, whether institutional, political, or financial, that prevent these commitments from being fully realised in practice, and how do these challenges play out in different ways across Asian and European contexts?
2. Shifting geopolitical dynamics are placing the compliance culture that once gave human rights mechanisms their practical force under growing strain. What can states, international institutions, and other actors do to strengthen adherence to international human rights obligations in this more challenging environment?
3. Questions have been raised about the selectivity and representativeness of the international human rights system. How can the system be strengthened and made more inclusive and credible across diverse regional contexts, while preserving the universality and indivisibility of human rights norms?
4. The Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, the UPR, and Special Procedures each play distinct but interconnected roles, yet they often operate in silos, with limited coordination and mutual reinforcement. How can these mechanisms be better aligned and made to work more coherently together, and how can the UN80 process¹³ be used to build the political momentum, secure the resources, and drive the institutional reforms needed to make this happen?
5. As the global human rights system faces growing strain, what role can regional mechanisms, NHRIs, and civil society play in reinforcing and complementing its work, and what are the limits of such efforts in the absence of a well-functioning global framework?
6. When human rights violations go unaddressed at the global level, the credibility of the entire system is weakened. How can states move beyond selective engagement and build a more consistent and principled culture of collective accountability, and what would this require in terms of institutional design, diplomatic practice, and political commitment? What forms of Asia-Europe cooperation - in UN processes, capacity-building, and standard-setting - could most effectively contribute to strengthening the global human rights system at this critical moment?
7. Looking ahead to a stronger and more effective international human rights system, what does a realistic and achievable agenda for consolidating its gains and expanding its impact look like? What are the two or three most important steps that could be taken in the next five years to build on existing foundations, and who is best placed to lead them?

WORKING GROUP 2

Human Rights Protection at the Regional Level

Day 2 - Tuesday, 13 October 2026



MODERATOR
Prof Hélène TIGROUDJA
Professor of Public International Law
Aix-Marseille University, France

Prof Dr Hélène Tigroudja is Professor at Aix-Marseille University, France. Since 2019, she has served as an Independent Expert of the United Nations Human Rights Committee in charge of the supervision of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In 2025, she was elected Vice-Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee and appointed as Rapporteur of General Comment No. 38 on the right to freedom of association. For several years, she has also served as lead expert for UNESCO missions on the Protection of the Safety of Journalists and the Role of the Judiciary. She is the co-Director of the Master 2 Humanitarian Action and Law and co-director of the Legal Clinic of Human Rights (Aix-Global Justice). She publishes extensively in public international law and international human rights law. In this regard, she recently published her collected Course at the Hague Academy of International Law on "Armed Conflicts and International Human Rights Law" (Brill, 2025), and she co-authored International Rights Law – A Treatise, published by Cambridge University Press (2025).



RAPPORTEUR
Prof Vitit MUNTARBHORN
Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University,
Bangkok, Thailand

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Regional human rights arrangements across Asia and Europe reflect markedly different institutional structures and levels of development. What are the principal factors explaining these differences, and what can each region learn from the other's experience?
2. ASEAN's regional human rights framework is built on the principles of consensus, dialogue, and non-interference. How has this approach shaped the development of human rights cooperation in Southeast Asia? What good practices have emerged from this model, and how might they inform the framework's evolution to address emerging challenges more effectively?
3. Europe's regional system faces significant pressures, including democratic backsliding, non-implementation of Court judgments, and growing political tensions around supranational oversight. What good practices and hard-won lessons could inform and inspire more effective regional human rights cooperation in Asia and beyond?
4. Large parts of Asia currently lack access to a dedicated regional human rights mechanism. What concrete steps could states, NHRI networks, civil society, and sub-regional frameworks take to advance regional human rights cooperation in Asia, and which of these actions are most realistic and likely to gain traction in the near term?
5. Existing regional human rights frameworks were largely designed before the digital revolution, the climate crisis, and the rise of artificial intelligence. How are regional mechanisms in Asia and Europe adapting to these emerging challenges, and how are regional mechanisms in Asia and Europe adapting to these emerging challenges, and where can the two regions work together to develop common standards and responses?
6. How effectively do existing regional human rights mechanisms reach and serve the rights-holders they are designed to protect, including marginalised and vulnerable groups - and what practical reforms would make them more accessible and responsive?
7. What are the two or three most important and realistic steps that could be taken in the decade ahead to strengthen regional human rights cooperation across Asia and Europe, and what role can informal dialogue platforms such as the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights play?

WORKING GROUP 3

Human Rights Protection at the Domestic Level

Day 2 - Tuesday, 13 October 2026



MODERATOR
Adrià DUARTE
Head, International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP); Coordinator, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights



RAPPORTEUR
Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat
Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission
of Mongolia

Dr Narantuya oversees civil and political rights and serves as a Privacy Commissioner under the Personal Data Protection Law (2021), focusing on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, access to information, and the human rights implications of digital governance and data protection.

She is also a Visiting Fellow of the School of Regulation and Global Governance at the Australian National University. With over two decades of experience across legal practice, policy, and public service, she has held senior leadership roles and has worked as an independent expert advising international organisations, development partners, and civil society across the Asia-Pacific region.

She holds an LL.B from the National University of Mongolia, an LL.M from the University of Melbourne, and a PhD from the Australian National University.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where implementation of human rights obligations has improved meaningfully at the domestic level, what specific measures, institutions, or processes made the difference? How can these lessons be applied to close the gap between international commitments and reality in contexts across Asia and Europe where progress has stalled?
2. Tools for domestic accountability already exist in many countries, and constitutional guarantees, NHRIs, and national action plans have expanded significantly across the ASEM membership. How can these instruments move beyond formal commitments to deliver concrete results: accessible complaints mechanisms, independent investigations, and follow-through on recommendations?
3. As more NHRIs across the ASEM context achieve and sustain A-status, what specific conditions and support mechanisms have proven essential to maintaining that independence and effectiveness? How can these good practices be used to strengthen institutions still operating under political pressure or resource constraints?
4. As civic space continues to narrow across both Asia and Europe, what concrete measures - drawn from good practices in both regions - have proven most effective in protecting and expanding space for civil society and community-based groups to operate freely? What specific responsibilities fall to states, international institutions, and regional mechanisms in sustaining these efforts?
5. The human rights cities movement demonstrates that meaningful implementation can happen below the national level. How can the role of municipal authorities and local actors in human rights governance be better recognised, resourced, and connected to national and international frameworks? And how can local human rights actors be better equipped to address everyday violations, including discrimination, access to justice, and the right to adequate housing, that most directly affect the communities they serve? What examples of good practices exist, and what can they teach us about scaling and sustaining local human rights action?
6. Corporate accountability, mandatory human rights due diligence, and access to remedy are among the most dynamic areas of human rights implementation today. How can local human rights actors, including municipal authorities, ombudspersons, and community organisations, engage more effectively in these processes, and what would genuinely accessible remedy look like for the communities most affected?
7. Climate vulnerability, digital surveillance, shrinking civic space, and economic inequality intersect and compound one another in ways that siloed approaches cannot adequately address. How can national human rights frameworks and institutions better respond to this complex and shifting reality, and what concrete steps can be taken now to build more joined-up, effective responses?
8. The future of human rights will be determined in national courtrooms, institutions, and communities. What are the two or three most important investments that would most strengthen national human rights systems in the decade ahead?

SIDE EVENT

Day 2 - Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Organised by the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia
Venue: UN House



SCAN TO VIEW
SIDE EVENT DOCUMENT

From Law to Protection: Mongolia's Lessons on Protecting Human Rights Defenders

The side event examines how national legal and institutional frameworks can translate international human rights standards into effective protection for human rights defenders, with a focus on strengthening accountability, safeguarding civic space, and enhancing the role of national human rights institutions and other mechanisms as bridges between human rights defenders, state institutions, civil society, and international human rights mechanisms.

Bringing together the experiences of Mongolia and the Philippines with regional and comparative perspectives from national human rights institutions across the Asia-Pacific region, the discussion considers how protection mechanisms can move beyond addressing individual cases to strengthen civic space and contribute to an enabling environment for human rights defenders.

In 2021, Mongolia became the first country in Asia to adopt dedicated legislation on the legal status of human rights defenders, establishing a national protection mechanism within the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia. The event presents Mongolia's experience as a practical case study—not as a model to be replicated, but as a basis for open discussion on its achievements, challenges, and areas requiring further development. These include the need for timely responses to emerging and urgent risks, effective compliance by duty-bearers, sustainable resources, procedural efficiency, and access to comprehensive protection for human rights defenders.

The discussion also draws on the experience of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines in using national inquiries as a tool for investigation, accountability, and systemic human rights protection. In addition, the event provides regional perspectives on the situation and protection of human rights defenders in the Asia-Pacific region, including relevant experiences and practices of national human rights institutions in strengthening national protection mechanisms.

The event concludes with an interactive exchange to identify practical lessons for ASEM partners to strengthen national protection of human rights defenders and translate human rights commitments into effective protection.



Photo source: Pexels © Shuping Zhao



MODERATOR
ALTANTUYA Bardorj
Executive Director
Amnesty International Mongolia

Altantuya Batdorj has extensive experience working in civil society and human rights at the national, regional, and international levels, with academic training in law and Mongolian studies. She previously served on Amnesty International's International Campaigning Management Team, Language Policy Advisory Team, and Global Management Team, and was elected to the Board of the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN). Her areas of expertise include human rights education, business and human rights, law enforcement and human rights, the abolition of the death penalty, and the prevention of torture.



PANELLIST
Dr DONDOV Sangisharav
Commissioner, National Human Rights
Commission of Mongolia

Dr Dondov Sangisharav is a lawyer with working experience of 25. As part of her social responsibility as a lawyer, she protected the rights of victims and provided pro bono services to the victims of gender-based violence. While supporting and collaborating with civil society organizations. Since 2010, she has served as the chair or member of the boards for civil society organizations such as the Human Rights Development Center, the National Network "Monfemnet", the Women's Fund of Mongolia, and the Human Rights Forum. In 2022, she was selected and appointed as Commissioner in charge for human rights defenders' issues of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia.



PANELLIST
Thuy DOAN-SMITH
Director
Asia-Pacific Forum (Australia)



PANELLIST
Faydah Maniri DUMARPA
Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights
of the Philippines (CHR)

Commissioner Faydah Maniri Dumarpa is a member of the CHR's 6th Commission en banc. She is the focal Commissioner for gender and leads the CHR's work through the Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center (GEWHRC), promoting women's rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), supported by key Philippine laws such as the Magna Carta of Women (RA No. 9710), Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (RA No. 9262), Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (RA No. 7877), Safe Spaces Act (RA No. 11313), among others. She also plays a pivotal role in jail visitation programmes, focusing on the protection of persons deprived of liberty and compliance with international human rights standards in detention facilities. Beyond gender equality and prison reform, she actively works on issues related to the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), as well as the rights of Indigenous peoples, the Bangsamoro community, and internally displaced persons. She also engages with human rights issues arising from emerging technologies, advocating for approaches that respect human dignity and human rights. She brings experience in legal, socio-political and administrative fields to her work at the CHR.



CLOSING DAY

Day 3 - Wednesday, 14 October 2026



OPENING REMARKS FOR THE CLOSING DAY AND CLOSING PLENARY CHAIR

Indah Nuria SAVITRI
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Indonesia

Indah Nuria Savitri is the Director for Human Rights and Migration Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. She previously served as Director for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs at the Ministry. In this capacity, she has been involved in Indonesia's international human rights engagement, including co-chairing the 10th EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels in July 2024.

Her directorate covers multilateral foreign relations and foreign policy relating to civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development, the rights of vulnerable groups, and humanitarian issues. In 2026, in her role as Director for Human Rights and Migration, she has also represented the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in discussions concerning Indonesia's role in the UN Human Rights Council.

Reporting back from the Working Groups



RAPPORTEUR
Virginia BRÁS GOMES
Vice-President, the Geneva Human Rights Hub
(GHRH)

Theme:
Human Rights Protection at the Global Level



RAPPORTEUR
Prof Vitit MUNTARBHORN
Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, Thailand

Theme:
Human Rights Protection at the Regional Level



RAPPORTEUR
Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat
Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

Theme:
Human Rights Protection at the Domestic Level

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Day 3 - Wednesday, 14 October 2026

Connecting the Dots - Strengthening Human Rights Protection Across Local, Regional and Global Levels

The Seminar's three Working Groups examine the domestic, regional and global dimensions of human rights protection. Yet, as the Seminar's Background Paper notes, these levels often operate in parallel. International recommendations are not always reflected in national planning, regional systems in Asia and Europe have developed at very different paces, and decisions are not always implemented. The Closing Panel brings these strands together, exploring how action at each level reinforces, or depends on, the others. Speakers representing local government, national human rights institutions and civil society, the EU, the ASEAN human rights system and OHCHR will discuss how to strengthen the links between levels, close gaps in implementation and follow-up, and draw on Asia-Europe cooperation. The panel will end the Seminar with concrete, forward-looking reflections for participants to take forward.



Karen S. GOMEZ DUMPIT
Former Commissioner at the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Karen S. Gomez Dumpit is a Former Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) (June 2015- May 2022). She has served the Philippine Government for 32 years with over 28 years in various positions in the Commission on Human Rights. As a member of civil society, she currently leads national non-government human rights organizations in the Philippines — Human Rights and People Empowerment Center and the Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Karen's regional connections include the Regional Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism as the Chair of the Philippines Working Group and the Anti - Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) as Convenor. She is an elected board member of international non-government human rights organizations which include the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) as its Vice President and is a board member of the Geneva-based Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) . She has worked as an independent consultant in various human rights projects implemented by various international organizations and teaches part time at the De La Salle University's Political Science Department. Karen finished AB Communication Arts at the De La Salle University. She obtained a Master in Public Management with honors at the Development Academy of the Philippines (1994) and a Master of Science in Human Rights with merit, as a British Chevening Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science (2004).



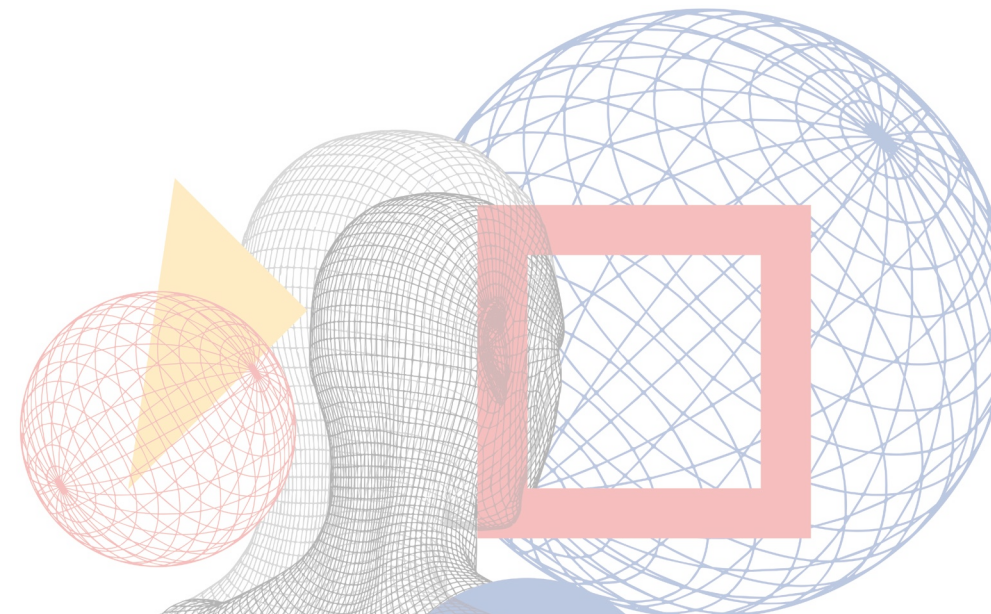
Tihamér CZIKA
Policy Officer, Human Rights, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Tihamér CZIKA is policy officer in the human rights division of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the foreign service of the EU. He currently covers bilateral human rights dialogues with several South-East Asian countries, the one with ASEAN (AICHR), human rights meetings of ASEM and policy files such as freedom of expression and media, IHL, rule of law, corruption and human rights. Between 2020-2024 he was the Deputy Chief of Mission and head of the political section of the EU Delegation to Cambodia. Between 2015-2020 he worked in Brussels at the European Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection department (DG ECHO), both as international relations officer, covering mainly coordination with Asian donors (Japan, RoK, China) and as team leader in the communication unit, covering programs in Asia-Pacific (ex. Myanmar) and the Middle-East (ex. Syrian crisis). He was previously attached to the European Commission's communication department (DG COMM), dealing with corporate communication campaigns in EU's external relations (in trade & neighbourhood policy).



Rafendi DJAMIN
Human Rights Resource Center / First Indonesian Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) 2009–2015

Rafendi Djamin is a Senior Human Rights Advocates and Researcher, currently member of Governing Board for Human Rights Resource Centre for ASEAN, based at University of Indonesia, Jakarta. He was the first Regional Director of Amnesty International for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (2016) and also Chair of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2011, representing Indonesian Government over the period of 2009-2015. Founder and Director of Human Rights Working Group-Indonesian, an Indonesia's NGO's Coalition for International Human Rights Advocacy (2003-20015). He has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Indonesia and a Master of Arts (MA) in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.





Reem MAZZAWI
Human Rights Officer
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Ms Reem Mazzawi is a human rights lawyer and practitioner with more than 20 years of experience in international human rights law, policy, monitoring, reporting, advocacy, and technical cooperation, including field experience and work across multiple regions. Since joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2005, she has held diverse thematic, geographic, investigative, and management roles, working across the Middle East and North Africa, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and international human rights mechanisms. She currently serves as Country Coordinator in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Branch at OHCHR in Geneva, supporting country analysis, reporting, stakeholder engagement, and follow-up to UPR recommendations, with a focus on implementation and national ownership.

Previously, Ms Mazzawi served as Coordinator of the North Africa Cluster and the Egypt Country Programme within OHCHR's Middle East and North Africa Section, overseeing monitoring, reporting, regional engagement, and technical cooperation. She has also held assignments with OHCHR's Executive Office, Africa Section, Asia-Pacific Section, Anti-Racial Discrimination Section, and Treaty Body Branch, as well as with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, human rights defenders, women's organizations, minority communities, and grassroots actors. Her work has focused particularly on strengthening their participation in international human rights processes, supporting effective advocacy, and facilitating dialogue with governments, United Nations entities, and regional partners. She has also designed and delivered training and capacity-building programmes on international human rights standards and mechanisms. Ms Mazzawi holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex and an LL.B. She is an Attorney at Law with specialized expertise in international human rights mechanisms, women's rights, minority rights, equality and non-discrimination, and human rights-based approaches to governance and sustainable development.



MODERATOR
Adrià DUARTE
Head, International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP);
Coordinator, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Committee
on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

Adrià Duarte is Coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CISDPDH) and Head of the OIDP Technical Secretariat at the World Secretariat of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). He is a political scientist specialising in participatory democracy, political communication and local governance. His work focuses on strengthening democratic participation, human rights and social inclusion at the local level, and on connecting local government experiences with international policy processes. He holds a degree in Political Science and Public Administration from Pompeu Fabra University and a Master's degree in Political and Institutional Communication from the Ortega y Gasset Institute.

PLENARY DISCUSSION



CLOSING REMARKS
ON BEHALF OF THE HOST
ERDENEBO LD Sukhbaatar
Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament)
of Mongolia

Mr Erdenebold Sukhbaatar holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the School of Law at the National University of Mongolia. He earned a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the Maurer School of Law, Indiana University (2008), and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2016). He was elected as a Member of the State Great Khural in 2024 and served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights from 2024 to 2026. Prior to his election to Parliament, he held several senior public service positions, including Director of the Public Relations and Communications Division and Spokesperson to the President of Mongolia from 2009 to 2015. He also served as President of the Democratic Youth Federation of the Democratic Party of Mongolia from 2017 to 2023 and as President of the Mongolian Archery Association from 2018 to 2024. In 2019, he founded the Mongolian Aerospace Research and Science Association (MARS-A) and initiated the MARS-V Project. As a Member of Parliament, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening the rule of law, promoting and protecting human rights, advancing transparent and accountable governance, fostering innovation-driven development, and expanding Mongolia's international cooperation.



CLOSING REMARKS
ON BEHALF OF THE HOST
Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat
Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission
of Mongolia

OFFICIAL CLOSING

Day 3 - Wednesday, 14 October 2026



CLOSING SPEAKER
AMARZAYA Tumurbaatar
General Director
The Mongolian Youth Council

Ms Amarzaya Tumurbaatar has been active in the civil society sector since 2008, focusing on children's rights, youth and citizen participation, and policy advocacy.

She holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and has been pursuing a master's degree in political science at the National University of Mongolia since 2022.

Ms Amarzaya co-founded the NGO "Youth Policy Watch" in 2014 with the aim of enhancing political party transparency and increasing youth participation in elections, and she served as its director from 2021 to 2024. She completed the "Women's Political Leadership" program in 2017 and the "Lead Mongolia" program in 2019, and has served as a board member of the Lead Alumni Association. Since 2024, she has been serving as the Director of the Mongolian Youth Council, a youth civil society umbrella organization dedicated to increasing youth participation in decision-making.



CHAIR
Rolf RING
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Raoul Wallenberg Institute
of Human Rights and
Humanitarian Law



CLOSING SPEAKER
Nate WILBOURNE
Make it 16

Dubbed as one of New Zealand's "most dynamic changemakers" by the New Zealander of the Year Awards, 18-year-old Mr Nate Wilbourne is a globally recognised youth, nature, and future generations advocate.

He has been included in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026 list and a two-time semi-finalist for Young New Zealander of the Year, Nate has emerged as a leading voice for his generation. He is now taking that passion and drive to the Wellbeing Economic Alliance Aotearoa (WEAll), where he works as the Future Generations Lead, leading the campaign for a Future Generations Act here in New Zealand.

He also is an ambassador for the Make it 16 Campaign to lower the voting age and encourage young people to get into civics in New Zealand.



CLOSING REMARKS
ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANISERS
Rolf RING
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Rolf Ring is an international human rights administrator, legal expert, and educator who has spent over three decades advancing global human rights education, institutional capacity building, and international dialogue. He is widely recognized for his long-standing leadership at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), an independent academic institution affiliated with Lund University in Sweden.

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Distinguished Professor of International Law
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Ambassador and Partnerships Manager
Make it 16
New Zealand



Natalia SINEAEVA
Peacebuilding and Human Rights
Practitioner / Researcher/ Cofounder
Minorities for Peace
Poland



Dr Jonathan ANDREW
Research Fellow / Visiting International
Fellow Geneva Academy (UNIGE) /
Pufendorf Institute (Lund University)
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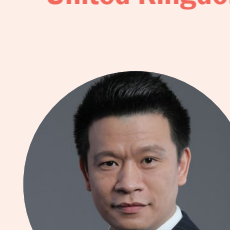
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Muhammad Mudassar JAVED
CEO, Society for Human Rights
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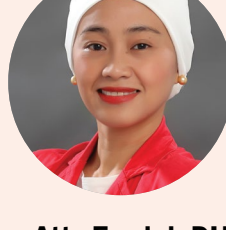
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PUREVDULAM Altantsetseg
Professor, Etugen University
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Commissioner, Commission on Human
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SEMINAR & CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING



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ERDENETUGS Bolortuya
Referent, National Human Rights of Commission of Mongolia, Darkhan-Uul Province
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TRAINER
Azin TADJINI
Human Rights Officer
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

PROGRAMME

12 - 14 OCTOBER 2026

Day 1
Monday, 12 Oct 2026

The Consensus Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
Peace Avenue 7A, Ulaanbaatar 14210

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)
15:00	Welcome remarks and opening	Chair: Armi H AARNI , Asia-Europe Foundation Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation Dr SUNJID Dugar, Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM)
15:15	Keynote Session	Chair: Rolf RING , Raoul Wallenberg Institute MUNKHBAATAR Lkhagva, Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice Mr AMARTUVSHIN Gombosuren, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Prof Marta CARTABIA, President of the Venice Commission (European Commission for Democracy through Law) of the Council of Europe Ambassador Sidharto Reza SURYODIPURO, President of the UN Human Rights Council in 2026 (video message) - Statement* by Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Delivered by Reem MAZZAWI, Country Coordinator, Universal Periodic Review Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
15:45	Formal Group Photo (Coffee Break)	
16:15	Presentation of the Background Paper, followed by open plenary discussion	Chair: Rolf RING Prof Vitit MUNTARBHORN, Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand Virginia BRÁS GOMES, Vice-President, Geneva Human Rights Hub (GHRH) Dr Domenico ZIPOLI, Head of Programmes, Geneva Human Rights Hub (GHRH)
17:15-18:30	Panel: National Human Rights Institutions in the Face of Emerging Challenges: From AI to Climate Change	Moderator: Dr Enkhbold BATZEVEG , Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia Panellists: Dr SUNJID Dugar, Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM) Thuy DOAN-SMITH, Director, Asia-Pacific Forum (Australia) Dr Hans-Otto SANO, Senior Researcher, Emeritus, The Danish Institute for Human Rights Carolina CRITTIN, Senior Human Rights Officer, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
19:00	Welcome dinner hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia	<i>Venue: Ulaanbaatar Hotel Restaurant (by invitation only)</i>

PROGRAMME

12 - 14 OCTOBER 2026

Day 2
Tuesday, 13 Oct 2026

Venue: Novotel Hotel, Ulaanbaatar

TIME	SESSION	
09:00	Registration of Participants	
09:30	Simultaneous Working Groups	
	Working group 1: Human Rights Protection at the Global Level	
	• Moderator: Dr Anna Camille TALBOT , Lecturer in the School of Global and Public Law, The University of New South Wales, Sydney	
	• Rapporteur: Virginia BRÁS GOMES , Vice-President, the Geneva Human Rights Hub (GHRH)	
	Working group 2: Human Rights Protection at the Regional Level	
	• Moderator: Prof Hélène TIGROUDJA , Professor of public international law, Aix-Marseille University, France	
	• Rapporteur: Prof Vitit MUNTARBHORN , Professor of law at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand	
	Working group 3: Human Rights Protection at the Domestic Level	
	• Moderator: Adrià DUARTE , Head of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) and Coordinator of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights	
	• Rapporteur: Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat , Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia	
12:30-14:00	Lunch and networking	<i>Venue: Food Exchange, Level 2, Novotel</i>
14:00-16:30	Simultaneous working groups continue	
17:00-18:30	Side Event:	<i>Venue: UN House, UN Street-14, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar-14201</i>
	From Law to Protection: Mongolia's Lessons on Protecting Human Rights Defenders	
	Organised by the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia	
	Moderator: ALTANTUYA Batdorj , Executive Director, Amnesty International Mongolia	
	Panellists:	
	• Dr DONDOV Sangisharav , Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia	
	• Thuy DOAN-SMITH , Director, Asia-Pacific Forum (Australia)	
	• Faydah M. DUMARPA , Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	
19:00	Dinner hosted by the Co-organisers	<i>Venue: Novotel Ulaanbaatar (by invitation only)</i>

Day 3
Wednesday, 14 Oct 2026

Venue: Ballroom, Novotel Hotel, Ulaanbaatar

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)
09:00	Registration of Participants	<i>Venue: Ballroom Foyer</i>
09:30	Opening remarks for the closing day	Indah Nuria SAVITRI , Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

PROGRAMME

12 - 14 OCTOBER 2026

Day 3
Wednesday, 14 Oct 2026

Venue: Ballroom, Novotel Hotel, Ulaanbaatar

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)
09:35	Closing Plenary: Reporting Back from the Working Groups, followed by open plenary discussion	Chair: Indah SAVITRI Theme: Human Rights Protection at the Global Level Rapporteur: Virginia BRÁS GOMES , Vice-President, the Geneva Human Rights Hub Theme: Human Rights Protection at the Regional Level Rapporteur: Prof Vitit MUNTARBHORN , Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand Theme: Human Rights Protection at the Domestic Level Rapporteur: Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat , Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia
10:30-10:45	Coffee	
10:45-11:15	Open Plenary Discussion	
11:15	Panel: Connecting the Dots: Strengthening Human Rights Protection Across Local, Regional and Global Levels	Moderator: Adrià DUARTE , Head of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) and Coordinator of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights Panellists: • Karen GOMEZ DUMPIT, Former Commissioner at the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines • Tihamér CZIKA, Policy Officer, Human Rights, European External Action Service (EEAS) • Rafendi DJAMIN, Human Rights Resource Center / First Indonesian Representative to the ASEAN Inter- governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) • Reem MAZZAWI, Human Rights, Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
12:15	Official Closing Session	Chair: Rolf RING
	Closing remarks on behalf of the host:	• ERDENEBOLD Sukhbaatar , Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia • Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat , Commissioner National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia
	Closing speakers:	• AMARZAYA Tumurbaatar , General Director, The Mongolian Youth Council • Nate WILBOURNE , Make it 16
	Closing remarks on behalf of the organisers:	• Rolf RING , Raoul Wallenberg Institute
12:45 (estimated)	Lunch & Networking (for participants only)	
	End of the Seminar	

HOSTS & CO-ORGANISERS



Dr SUNJID Dugar
Chief Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission
of Mongolia



Dr NARANTUYA Ganbat
Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission
of Mongolia



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FEEDBACK FORM

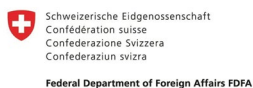
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