



U-Reporters in Niamey, the capital of Niger. U-report is a social platform created by UNICEF, available via SMS, Facebook and Twitter, where young people express their opinions and can be positive agents of change in their communities. Source: Frank Dejongh, UNICEF.

Human Rights in Development Cooperation – what has been achieved and the way forward

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document in the history of human rights, and the 20th anniversary of the UN Common Understanding of a Human Rights Based Approach. Welcome to a Development Talk with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, as keynote speaker, which will explore today's context and challenges for human rights in development cooperation, what has been achieved and the ways forward.

Date: Friday, 27th October, 2023

Time: 10.00–11.30 CET

Hosted by: The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida

Location: Sida's Head Office, Ursvik Entré, Rissneleden 110 and livestreamed on [YouTube](#)

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75 years ago the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – a milestone in human history. The document was drafted by representatives from all regions of the world and from different ethnical, religious and cultural backgrounds. It is the first time humans have expressed a common understanding of human rights, equal to all, that are universally protected. The UDHR is widely recognized as having inspired, and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties, applied today on a permanent basis at global, regional and national levels.

The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) – a conceptual framework to integrate human rights in development cooperation – celebrates its 20th anniversary. The approach seeks to identify, analyse and address inequalities, discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power which lie at the core of development problems, impeding development progress and often resulting in groups of people being left behind. The HRBA is applied by empowering rights holders to claim their human rights and by developing the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligations to respect, protect, fulfil and promote human rights. It sounds like a simple idea but what does it mean in practice? Does a HRBA make development cooperation more relevant and effective? What are the implications of this approach in today's context?

Welcome to a Development Talk where we take a closer look at the commitment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights", and what this entails for development cooperation and the way forward.

You are invited to listen to and discuss with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, on his first visit to Sweden since he took office. You will get an opportunity to know more about the EU's work on Human Rights Based Approach and how safe and decent work for youth and women in Kenya's Rift Valley have been promoted through a Public Private Development Partnership based on human rights. The webinar will also highlight what occurred when Statistics Sweden imbued its work with a human rights based approach.

Programme

Friday, 27th October, 10.00–11.30 CET

Welcoming remarks

Torbjörn Pettersson, *Head of Department of International Organisations and Thematic Support, Sida*

Anette Dahlström, *Lead Policy Specialist on Democracy and Human Rights, Sida*

Key Note Speech

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk

Panel discussion

- Volker Türk, *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- Chiara Adamo, *Deputy Director for International Partnerships, Governance, Democracy, Gender Equality, Human Rights, European Commission*
- Isaac Kiema Muema, *Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization*
- Jackson Obare, *Regional Director, ForumCiv*
- Anna Gunterberg, *Programme Manager, Statistics Sweden*
- Zeina Zouein, *Deputy Director for Programs, International Rescue Committee Lebanon*

Closing remarks

Irina Schoulgin Nyoni, *Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs*

Moderators

Helena Bjuremalm, *Deputy Head, Democracy and Human Rights Unit, Sida*

Fredrik Westerholm, *Strategy Coordinator and Specialist, Democracy and Human Rights Unit, Sida*

