



9th Budapest Human Rights Forum (Budapest, 17 and 18 November 2016)

Concept Note

The year 2016 is marked by important human rights' anniversaries: the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights as well as Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were adopted 50 years ago, the UN Human Rights Council was established 10 years ago and the European Union launched the EU Framework for National Roma Strategies 5 years ago. The 10 year existence of the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), endorsed as a global political commitment at the 2005 World Summit, provides an opportunity to assess the progress made and the challenges ahead. After the adoption last year of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this year is marking the start of its practical implementation. The 9th edition of the Budapest Human Rights Forum will focus on issues related to these landmark achievements and will be also a dedicated event of the *#EU4HumanRights* initiative.

Following the established tradition the Forum will consist of four panel debates.

1. First Panel: The role of effective multilateralism in the promotion and protection of human rights - 50th anniversary of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 10th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Council.

The two Covenants - together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - form fundamental pillars of the promotion and protection of human rights globally given the fact, that they were ratified by almost every country. Human rights instruments and mechanisms established since then, – especially conventions on third-generation human rights (ex: CAT, CEDAW, CRC) – are also aiming at protecting and guaranteeing the rights enshrined in the Covenants. Having replaced the UN Human Rights Committee in 2006, the UN Human Rights Council is the most important human rights body of the UN being responsible for the realization of this effort. This panel will provide the opportunity to exchange experiences regarding the implementation of the Covenants, to give an overview and evaluation of the 10 years' work of the HRC and to discuss future challenges.



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2. Second Panel: Prevention of mass atrocities and violent extremism in light of the ‘responsibility to protect’ principle – 10 years later

The unprecedented spreading of non-state actors and violent extremism resulting in grave human rights violations, the necessity to act against related phenomena, such as hate speech, make the principle of ‘responsibility to protect’ (R2P) ever more relevant. The panel will discuss the ways of how to find common understanding on the implementation of all the three pillars of R2P (responsibility of the state to protect, international assistance and capacity building, timely and decisive response) in a manner that will result in substantial assistance to individuals and societies as well; how to realize a balance between collective responsibility of the international community and sovereign equality of states, how to make prevail prevention of mass atrocities as the most effective way to implement this principle and how to build early warning capacities and develop immediate response ability of states and the international community.

3. Third Panel: Minority rights - 5 years of the EU Framework for national roma integration strategies

The protection and promotion of minority rights is a long-standing priority of the Hungarian foreign policy and a permanent element of the agenda of the Budapest Human Rights Forums. This panel has the aim to highlight the importance of the EU Framework for National Roma Strategies elaborated and adopted during the Hungarian EU presidency in 2011; review relevant national policies introduced in the last five years, share best practices and discuss future challenges. This panel is closely related to the report ‘Global Study on the Protection of Roma’ presented by Rita Izsák UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, who had played a crucial role in drafting the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy as well.

4. SDG 16. goal: Creation of peaceful and inclusive societies in order to foster sustainable development; ensuring access to justice for all; building well-functioning, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels – human rights dimensions of good governance in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The new sustainable development framework and the 17 SDGs adopted by UN member states in the autumn of 2015 define a program and a variety of tools for the international community aiming at eradicating poverty, promoting development and well-being for all, protecting the environment and tackling climate change at a global level. The adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes, in a cross-cutting manner, solid human rights dimensions. The aim of this panel is to discuss the human rights aspects of good governance, in light of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on the rule of law, institution building, fight against corruption, legislation and policy making against discrimination, access to information and protection of fundamental rights, protection of vulnerable groups such as countering violence against minors, prevention, links between



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national institutions and the international cooperation in the context of the fight against terrorism and organized crime.



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