



10th Budapest Human Rights Forum
Budapest, November 28-29, 2017
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Concept Note

The 10th Jubilee Budapest Human Rights Forum will focus on four topical issues in accordance with the priorities defined in the national pledges regarding Hungary's membership in the United Nations Human Rights Council, namely the rights of women, minorities and indigenous people, as well as the current challenges of sustainable peace. The Sustainable Development Goals being a traditional theme of the Forum, this year the 10th Goal on the elimination of inequalities will be emphasized.

1st Panel: The security aspects of human rights – in the context of sustainable peace, development, terrorism and violent extremism

One of the basic conditions of sustainable peace is lasting peace and security in which the assurance of human rights is a key issue. It is also true vice versa, as the effective enforcement of human rights is achievable only under peaceful conditions through which sustainable development can be ensured in the long run. Today's violent events, especially cases of terrorist attacks generated by extremism, pose serious challenges in enforcing human rights. The aim of the panel is to enlighten the security aspects that hinder the effective implementation of human rights under the conditions of terrorism and violent extremism. The debate will present the opportunity to review the factors, legal and institutional frameworks contributing to the enforcement of human rights that guarantees sustainable peace and development.

2nd Panel: Protection of minorities and the convergences of human rights of indigenous peoples – identities and differences, the lack of binding international legal protection

The subject of minorities as one of the traditional priorities of the Hungarian foreign policy is a permanent element of the Human Rights Forum. 25 years ago the United Nations accepted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, while 10 years ago the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People, which quickly gained consensual support and was

confirmed in the Final Document of the Review Conference of Durban in 2009. The conference offers the opportunity to enlighten on characteristics concerning the identities and differences of the rights of the minorities and indigenous peoples. Furthermore, it will be possible to discuss the factors that hinder the formation of legally binding international mechanisms or the good practices and experiences of implementation promoting the enforcement of rights in the absence of such mechanisms.

3rd Panel: The protection of women's human rights, their enforcement and factors impeding their effectiveness – are the existing international mechanisms effective?

One of the most important aspects of sustainable development is equal opportunities. The key issue in this regard is the assurance of equality between women and men and the promotion of women's empowerment. With regards to strengthening women's human rights at international level, the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 was a milestone, as well as the Declaration and Action Plan of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adopted during the Women's World Conference in Beijing in 1995, which are still valid. Formulated as a medium-term program, the Millennium Development Goals guides the activities regarding the solutions responding to the challenges of the 21st century. The consequent 2030 Agenda adopted in 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals also set the improvement of the status of women as a priority, including strengthening their economic and political role, their access to education, health and the protection against violence. In the course of the consultation there will be an opportunity to review the extent to which the legal and institutional mechanisms set up for the protection of women's rights fulfill their role and the impediments to the accomplishment and enforcement of this mandate.

4th Panel: SDG 10: The elimination of inequalities - the disparities between and within nations, to the right to education and health, the wage gap based on gender - in the light of the situation of the most disadvantaged developing countries.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals contained therein had the objective of introducing a holistic approach to the guaranteeing of human rights. The panel will focus on the international initiatives on assuring equal opportunities, the promotion of national efforts directed at eliminating inequalities, human rights review programs in relation to the underdeveloped and the most disadvantaged, in particular focusing on the right to food, health and education and the elimination of the wage gap based on gender.