
Eradication of Poverty through Human Rights Economy

Date & Time: October 6, 20:00-22:00 KST / 13:00-15:00 CEST

Organizers: UN Human Rights, Raoul Wallenberg Institute,
UCLG-CSIPDHR, WHRCF Secretariat

Background

Local authorities have a critical role in the practical implementation of the State's human rights obligations, including the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Many of the challenges relating to poverty and inequalities stem from States' political and economic choices. Against this background, this session will explore the role of local governments in adopting economic policies and programmes that enhance the realization of human rights, and thus reduce poverty. The objective of the session is to share good practices, identify challenges and innovative solutions to better integrate human rights principles and obligations in economic policies and decision-making, including budget decisions of local governments, tax policies, anti-corruption efforts and allocation of maximum available resources for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights such as social security, quality education, healthcare, housing, food, water and sanitation.

A human rights economy centres people and the planet in all economic, social, and environmental policies, plans and programs and aims at ensuring that development, economic, industrial and trade policies, investment decisions, consumer protection and choices as well as business models are firmly guided by human rights norms and principles. It strives to give meaning to the 2030 Agenda commitment to leave no one behind, by intentionally placing the international human rights standards of equality and non-discrimination at the heart of economic policy making.

A human rights economy is defined by both the content of economic policies, and the process by which economic policies are made and implemented. Pursuing a human rights economy requires transparency and accountability and creating space for social dialogue, scrutiny and participation, especially for affected individuals, groups, and communities, for example in the budget process. Subnational levels of government have an obligation to ensure that people have access to budget information, which is necessary for example to conduct human rights-based budget analyses.



Furthermore, relevant indicators and measures are a key component of assessing that budget allocations and expenditure are human rights compliant and thus contribute to reducing poverty and inequalities.

Objectives

1. Discuss the concept of human rights economy, including key pathways, strategies and challenges to pursue economic policy choices, plans and programmes that deliver on human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Discuss how local and regional governments can address the systemic and structural causes of poverty through economic policies, programmes, projects and decision-making.
3. Representatives of local governments and other stakeholders share good practices, promising initiatives, challenges and solutions to better integrate human rights principles and obligations in economic policies and decision-making.

