

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVERSATIONS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COMMISSION FOR THE HRC STATUS REVIEW

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021, 14:00 - 15:30 (CET)
ONLINE

Join us online for this Human Rights Conversations to discuss the lessons learned from the Commission that are useful in terms of the UN Human Rights Council functioning, including for the 2021–2026 status review by the UN General Assembly.

ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVERSATIONS

Human Rights Conversation are a series of events, hosted by the Geneva Human Rights Platform, aimed at discussing contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond.



At this side event during the 46th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC), John Pace, Secretary of the former UN Commission on Human Rights will present his recent OUP book *'The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, a Very Great Enterprise'*, which provides a detailed account of the work of the Commission to the HRC, from 1946 to 2019.

Starting from this input, panelists will discuss the lessons learned from the Commission that are useful in terms of the HRC functioning, including for the 2021–2026 status review by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

One issue in this review is the proposal to re-constitute the Council from a UNGA body to a Charter body in which all States (contrary to the current 47) participate equally. Panelists will discuss whether it is time to move to a Charter body or else to enhance the connectivity between the HRC and UN treaty bodies (TBs). They will also address how the results of the HRC own efficiency process weigh in on those questions.

In a more immediate manner, panelists will also look at the functioning of the Universal Periodic Review – the next cycle will start in 2022 and while this mechanism surely was a great achievement in the HRC creation, it might be time to evaluate how to enhance its impact and use, for example by strengthening the links to the independent expertise provided by UN Special Rapporteurs and the TB system.

MODERATION

- **Felix Kirchmeier**, Executive Director, Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP)

PANELISTS

- **John Pace**, Secretary of the former Commission on Human Rights, Coordinator of the Vienna Conference on Human Rights and author of 'The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, a Very Great Enterprise'
- **Ambassador Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger**, Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN in Geneva and President of the Human Rights Council in 2020
- **Ambassador Yvette Stevens**, Former Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN in Geneva and Chair/Rapporteur, UN HRC Experts' Group on Prevention (2019–2020)
- **Eric Tistounet**, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Adrien-Claude Zoller**, President, Geneva for Human Rights

ONLINE PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

This event will take place online on the platform Zoom.

To follow it, [register here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.