**UN@70 High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly 12 July 2016**

**Trusteeship Council**

**Opening Segment**

Keynote Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UNGA

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN SG

spoke about violence, refugees seeking asylum face discrimination and value of supporting human rights which are at the heart of 17 SDGs. Balance of three pillars of the UN. Must bring human rights into the central of our discussions. Must focus on prevention instead of on action after conflicts. Requires the full commitment of member states who have the power. When governments take action under the guise of counter-terrorism can lead to a reduction of human rights. Both can be done without jeopardizing rights.

H.M. Queen Mathilde of Belgium, SDG advocate

Rule of law, access to justice and human rights are promoted. Path towards lasting peace, justice and well being is a long, hard one. Must flesh out this vision. Mentioned wide range of stakeholders. Culture is a driver of development.

Three principles:

1. struggle against inequalities must continue. Girls and women must be given their right to education and training.
2. good governance
3. goals must be pursued in a symbiotic relationship by all stakeholders. Private sector is responsible for protecting human rights as well as a driver of development.

We are witnessing a huge momentum with growing awareness of climate change and of the dignity of all human beings. The UN will take up these major challenges. She is an advocate of the SDGs.

Ms. Agnes Leina Ntkaampi, Exec Director, Illaramatak Community Concerns, Kenya

What have we achieved in honoring all of these anniversaries? How many covenants have we signed and used to claim citizens rights? In Africa, only the Congo has ratified and used an agreement to support human rights. Still a dream to come to so many populations. Rising xenophobia and gender discrimination. Need to build capacity. In Kenya, we can learn from each other; avoid pitfalls of MDGs; scarce resources; environmental challenges; increased intolerance to civil society particularly on land issues (exclusive profiteering). People have lost their lives eg in Honduras. We cannot celebrate but pause and reflect on this beginning. ]

**9:30 - 11:30 Ministerial Plenary Debate Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**

Key questions:

- What strategies can the UN employ to further advance human rights in our world?

* What changes are needed to enable the overall UN system respond better to human rights concerns and support member states in meeting their obligations?
* What do major developments like the adoption of the 2030 Agenda or the recent reviews on peace and security, mean for the UN's approach to human rights?

Contributions from member State Ministers:

Swedish female: UN plays a central role in Swedish foreign policy. Advocate women in peacekeeping and involved in Nordic Women's Peace group.

Minister for Justice, Senegal: Court is paralyzed. Violations continue to be rife. Women are targeted and are victim to all types of violence as are children. Thousands are refugees do not know where to go. Injustices cannot continue.

Foreign Minister of Guatemala: two covenants on human rights were adopted. Indigenous groups are priorities for our government. Resulting in conventions and treaties. 19 September UN event on refugees and migrants. Giving priority to health, education and environment and on peace, justice and strong institutions. UNDP facilitated meeting on rule of law. We are a candidate for Human Rights Council.

Female Deputy of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia: spoke about a cross country Human Security Network which includes Chile and others. Help government in design and implementation of policies to deal with threats in a holistic approach to address root causes of conflicts. Recent reviews of UN peacekeeping show that silos of decision-making need to be replaced by a comprehensive approach to address emerging conflicts. Need to build just and inclusive societies with good governance with transparent and accountable institutions. She included **older persons** in her list of vulnerable people.

Female Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina:

Protection of human rights is deeply personal. No peace without peace or vice versa and none without due respect for full enjoyment of all their rights. New opportunities to place people as rights holders with approval of SDGs. Not possible to further achieve our mandates without predictable resources.

Hungary: Support multi-lateralism and strengthening of work of GA and Human Rights Council.

 Must build on SDGs and their implementation with a comprehensive set of indicators.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Belarus:

See a lack of developing consensus at the UN motivated by parochial national interests. President has extended an invitation to the High Commissioner to visit our country. "Dialogue devoid of conditions and blackmail". We must not loosely interpret this document or read between the lines (of Agenda 2030).

Under-Sec Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey:

Empowerment of girls and women are important to us. Spoke of terrorism including PKK. Racism and xenophobia continue to challenge us. Fully support call for action to refugees.

Ireland: 10th anniversary of Human Rights Council and 70th anniversary of the UN. Acceptance of diversity and respect for rule based natural order. We welcome scrutiny and accept that there is more for us to do. Civil society have a top role to play eg in climate agreement.

Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister, UAEmirates: We believe in strong institutions of governance. Legislated laws eg religious rights. Have established a federal council for gender equality where women are represented as equal partners eg in Parliament and are 30% of our Cabinet. Concern for protection of children and enacted a law effective last January. Concern for foreign workers and amended our law recently on contracts. Must fight intolerance religion. Protect the rights of Palestinians under foreign occupation.

Rep of Tunisia on behalf of the African Group: reaffirm commitment to human rights eg Charter of human rights in 1981, Protocol in 1998, Peer review mechanism in protection and promotion of human rights. Opposes human rights as conditionality. Voluntary Trust Fund should be properly funded. Right to development is a human right. Condemns all forms of terrorism and urges support for all religions.

Tunisia: new constitution. Right to trade unions, right to religious freedom. Women, girls and children in the list of those in vulnerable situations. Welcome civil society more engaged. Palestinian people have had their rights oppressed.

Rep of Finland: SDGs are dependent on human rights. Finland's first report on SDGs advocates broad based civil participation and gender equality. Finland was appointed to consult with PGA on indigenous peoples. UPR process was useful and are preparing for its 2017 report by working with civil society. Finland is seeking candidacy for the Council as is Denmark.

Rep of Spain: role of human rights councils are clear early warning signals of conflicts and mobilize necessary technical assistance. SG initiative launched in 2013. Civil society must be heard and protected.

Rep of Canada: Have developed human rights norms and standards but have fallen short in implementation. Each country has its own challenges. Canada has to face up to its indigenous peoples based on rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. What changes are needed to enable the overall UN system to support member states?

What do we as member states engage with the UN:

1. be cooperate with special rapporteurs; with UPRs
2. be inclusive welcome and support civil society organizations including at the UN; fight against global crackdown
3. governments should support, engage with national human rights institutions which monitor effective implementation
4. value and respect diversity He was born of Syrian Muslim parents and was elected and appointed by the PM as Parliamentary Secretary

H.E. Choi Kyonglim, President of the Human Rights Council and Rep of Korea to the UN:

Must ensure that human rights remain at the core of the UN. 50th anniversary of human rights covenants.

Foreign Minister of Venezuela:

We believe deeply in the right to peace for peoples.

**11:35 - 1:00 pm Interactive segment 1: Combatting discrimination & inequalities**

Format: moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors

Key questions:

* What are the major obstacles to eliminating discrimination and reducing inequalities?
* What can be done most effectively first? How can rapid improvements be made?
* How can we ensure that the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to "leave no one behind" contributes to the realization of the principles of equality and non-discrimination?
* How can we mobilize greater political will at global and national levels among governments and ordinary people to engage everyone in realizing this vision?

Moderator: Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Panelists:

Ms. Opal Tometi, Co-founder, Black Lives Matter Network

Her background is Nigerian.

Must acknowledge colonialism and enslavement of African descent.

Challenges:

1. global capitalism contributes little to local communities. Neo-liberal agenda examples: Detroit lost 48% of its jobs as a result of free trade agreement; outside interests have forced expensive development projects in Haiti post earthquake; 6 of top 10 nations impacted by climate change are in Africa
2. white supremacy - belief that people of color are inferior
3. suppression of democracy

Lessons learned:

1. tell the truth - for an honest solution-based dialogue
2. be inclusive and make central concerns of the most vulnerable
3. mobilization is not sufficient; must demand transformation of current system

Challenge us to fight for fairness

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under SG and Exec Director UN Women

Key opportunities from Agenda 2030:

1. all kinds of discrimination are complex and require comprehensive responses
2. gender equity is cross cutting as well as a separate goal 5. **She included older women in her list.**

Must take big steps.

Mr. Mutuma Ruteere, UN Special Rapporteur on the contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

What could member states do to reverse the trend of increasing discrimination?

We must pay attention to structural forms of discrimination.

1. promote social solidarity particularly locally not us vs them
2. ensuring access to justice to victims
3. importance of civil society that provides first welcomes and services to victims
4. education - in framing how people see each other
5. development of coherent, connected national plans that link sectors of development to sectors of development. GA and Security Council and other agencies need to provide leadership
6. role of political leaders in denouncing racism, discrimination, xenophobia
7. justice is where we must pay attention

Mr. Jose Maria Viera, Human Rights Policy Advisor and Coordinator International Disabilities Association

15% of global population live with disabilities. Call for better data disaggregation. What tools have you used from which we can draw lessons? Describe diversity of those with disabilities and suffer from different kinds of discrimination and lack of access and communication. 10th anniversary of CPDR. 7 of the SDGs relate to those with disabilities.

Contributions from member states encouraged. Need shared, inclusive leadership.

Chair and rapporteur of Right to Development: What steps would you ask member states to take? At international or national levels correlate to absence of development. Need for richer countries to help. Need to be able to make an assessment of how things are being done - voluntarily.

Leader for realized sexual and reproductive justice in Senegal:

She is part of a worldwide women's movement. She is a Mandingo. We are all guilty of participating in continuing discrimination and have failed to live up to the promises of the UN. The Office of Human Rights is to be appreciated. Two weeks ago in Geneva, adopted another resolution to protect all gender rights. "It is all about sex". "We are here because two people had sex." June 20, 2015 resolution on elimination of genital female mutilation. Right of sex workers, limit criminalization. "We must be masters of our own bodies."

Propose:

1. GA remind those hiding that we should move ahead

H.E. Mr. David Stanton, Minister of State for Justice, Equality, Immigration and Integration, Ireland LGBIT continue to face threatens. Change and does happen. It is the responsibility of governments to do this. Same sex marriage in Ireland occurred due to a vote. Most important step in human rights for Ireland. Marriage act provides that neither religious bodies can be forced to carry out marriages. Adults can determine their gender and be fully recognized.

Representative of Slovenia:

Proud to have highest employment rate of mothers with one year paid leave and have narrowest pay gap for women in the EU. 47% of women in government; 16% in the army.

Kazakhstan: We report to treaty body in respect to implementing UN conventions including CPDR which are being implemented under our laws.

Chad: Focus on racial discrimination are potential sources for conflict. How many countries have genuinely have anti-racism policies? We lack political will. More grassroots activism and to tackle poverty.

UK: Need for accountability among states and among individuals; need for justice and protection of adolescent girls (bodily integrity). Global capitalism as a challenge but it has also improved lives and provided technology. How can we use the system we have to support human rights?

H.E. Finland: Member states have a key role. Gender equality is a strong principle of our lives.

Civil Society: New Zealand representing migrants and refugees. What about growing income inequalities as well as gender inequality and racial inequalities. All are interlinked.

**Side event "A Human Rights Approach to Combating Inequalities and Discrimination"**

**Conference Room 11 co-sponsored by Finland and Chile**

Moderator: Ignacio Saiz, Exec Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights

SDGs have a new stand alone commitment to reduce inequalities, Goal 5, and those who were left out. But are concerned that it will remain empty rhetoric unless human rights principles and standards must be ensured. Indicators exist on economics eg on accumulation of wealth.

Speakers:

Mr. Rauno Merisaari, Ambassador at-large for Human Rights from Finland: Finland has cooperated closely with UN and civil society to support human rights. He did **not** include older persons in his list of those who are excluded. Those facing multiple discrimination are more impacted. Collection of disaggregated data is key. Poverty reduction must take a comprehensive approach. Inclusive quality education has been important. Advocate broad based human rights, civil society and gender equality. More communication is needed between governments and civil society.

Craig Mokhiber, Chief of Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch, OHCHR

Described push to include focus on inequalities in SDGs which was not easy. Purpose of economy is to ensure freedom from fear or what (by state) for all. Everyone is entitled to a social order where rights are available throughout the public and private space through international laws. Governments have pursued a particular kind of economic growth despite its devastating effects on the environment. GDP is called growth. Wealth was funneled upward. Near absolute political capture, systematic erosion of political and social rights, discrimination, environmental degradation. Included **age** in list of discrimination. Dismantling of social security, universal health care, etc. Impunity for those who commit discrimination. Level of inequality is unparalleled since Depression. Average CEO pay is $12 million. Results impact negatively on growth, development, distort democratic decision-making, etc. Agenda 2030 is really a revolution. Two out of 17 address inequality with specific targets. Agenda includes specific issues. Agenda for equality and therefore will be resisted and requiring civil society and others to push for its implementation.

Lilian Sepulveda, VP, Center for Reproductive Rights

What are we doing in Brazil and why is human rights approach is essential.

How can we ensure that SDGs are different reaching furthest behind first. Case brought by Center for Reproductive Rights before CEDAW Committee. Found that Brazil discriminated against the woman due to gender, race and economic status. States that seek to achieve target of leaving no one behind must seek just healthcare open to all. Women must be enabled to meaningly participate in policy design, monitoring and accountability. Human Rights framework is essential to ensure equitable follow up for the most vulnerable.

Yetnebersh Nigussie, Senior Inclusion Advisor, International Disability Alliance

Comprise estimate of nearly 1 billion of world's population. She comes from rural area as a black woman with a disability. We were excluded from MDGs and therefore funding streams. Target met by "all" is insufficient with governments focusing on low hanging fruit. Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities can contribute to what leaving no one behind can mean. She did **not** include **age** in list of who should not be left behind. By utilizing CPDR (more than 163 countries have ratified) it is a key milestone for us. If profits are only numbers, it is insufficient. Who has been farthest left behind to focus on first. Women and girls with disabilities are the most farthest behind. We need to have persons with disabilities to be involved. Inclusion in the process not just in the content of SDGs.

Sherine Tadros, Head of UN office, Amnesty International

Good news: discussions in this building on leave no one behind; 92% of targets have a human rights focus. Now, we must concentrate on implementation. With MDGs, there was regression without human rights approach. Inputs from 22 member states - looks like we are going backwards - lip service to leave no one behind in actual indicators and disaggregated data. Need to recognize who has been left behind at the last stage but bringing in actual communities not leaders from the beginning at all stages. It must a transparent process. Accountability - language tends to be quite soft and voluntary process. Need rigorous accountability system like UPRs. Civil society must step in to fill gaps perhaps with parallel reports.

Iain Levine, Deputy Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Last night, he attended a Brooklyn vigil in response to recent killings. It was multi-faith gathering. Struggle for human rights is both local and international. Work on discrimination on basis of age, gender, disabilities, etc. Canada is one of the wealthiest and water rich yet for many indigenous peoples, water is often contaminated. Report published last month. Bangladesh report "nepotism and neglect" also addresses water quality in rural areas (arsenic) despite millions of dollars of investment. Least access to influence, media, channels of decision making have worst circumstances. Climate change provides most important obstacles to development. Mitigation and adaptation strategies are important. eg Kenya enormous pressure to get clean water. SG spoke this morning about the importance of human rights and urged that more be done.

1. disaggregated data is essential
2. development and climate change policies must be in better sync at all levels
3. accountability mechanisms like UPR to hold governments to account to their commitments
4. most importantly, it is about voice, participation of the poor, space in civil society most effected and in need of the policies; free press; active participation by those unheard.
5. struggle for human rights

Chilean Mission who was a co-sponsor: government in process of reforms eg labor rights, education and constitutional reform process. We have just created a multi-sectoral council to implement Agenda 2030 to include civil society. Creating a National Plan for enterprises and human rights dialoguing with private sector.

Q & A:

Ellen Raider: Can we assume that SDGs can be reviewed by UPR that are not voluntary?

Ethiopian mission: thanked all. Ethiopia is party to CEDAW, CPDR, etc. SDGs are dealt with by Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. Challenges of being young democracy.

Malaysia:

1. What can we do to integrate reporting mechanisms?
2. How do we strengthen the complaints mechanisms?
3. Most governments make promises but not at the national level and may restrict human rights at the regional level eg ASEAN.

Taz, New Zealand micro-enterprising efforts for refugees and migrants:

Laurie Johnson, How can we cite human rights in shadow reports (Is it part of official report and do countries have to respond?).

Responses:

Sherine: SDGs must be monitored on various levels - regional and national levels. Amnesty has been asking for at least every 5 years with UN, Stakeholder and country reporting.

Lilian: diversification of fora. Must be holistic and multi-prong approach. Treaty bodies monitoring, UPR, special rapporteurs, etc.

Iain- must bring a human rights approach. Must ensure that we don't allow technical explanations to prevail. He worked for UNICEF for 10 years.

Yetnerbersh: MGoS reports have been submitted and are online. Must work on collaboration.

Craig: Real opportunity with SDGs. HLPF is product of political negotiation at moment of fatigue and some wary about accountability. If we can use UN reports and make sure that the data gets to those in Geneva and NY. Needs meaningful civil society involvement which is shrinking.

Civil society's Spotlight report was released last week.

**3:00 pm - 4:25 pm Interactive segment 2: Building the foundations for Human Rights - governance, the rule of law and access to justice**

Format: moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors

Key questions:

* What are sone of the most effective strategies to achieve better protection of human rights and accountability through the national legal system? What about at the international level?
* How have legal frameworks in compliance with international standards facilitated socially and economically inclusive development and helped to build peaceful and inclusive societies?
* What practical measures can State institutions take to embed principles of transparency and accountability into their work in order to achieve the SDGs including Goal 16?
* What kind of support can non-state actors - civil society, national human rights and ombuds institutions, the private sector, the UN and other international organizations provide to Governments to strengthen good governance and the rule of law?

Moderator: Mr. Ken Roth, Exec Director Human Rights Watch

Access to justice eg Kenya had promised domestic justice for post domestic violence but has done so; police in Rio who kill so-called criminals; in the UAE, if you are victim of domestic violence you have no recourse to justice unless you demonstrate physical damage; UN Commission on Human Rights in Latin America has provided significant role in the past but now is struggling for lack of financial support; Rwanda pulled out of African Court just before decision on their opposition leader who was jailed; Russia has hundreds of decisions against it; international tribunes Chadian dictator who was brought to justice by Senegal under a AU mandate; hybrid courts proposed for South Sudan but which have not been implemented; Sri Lanka promised justice for 40,000 killed but has not yet done so; international criminal court - conviction of first case of rape but Bashir from Sudan who has not been arrested; Russia and China has vetoed bringing Syrian president before ICC.

Panellists:

Ms. Silvia Fernandez de Gunnendi, President, International Criminal Court since March 2015 and more than 20 years practicing international law and played central role in establishing ICC.

1. Intern criminal justice is essential to foster rule of law. Biggest achievement is development of human rights standards but violations occur. Need to give teeth to the system via ensuring accountability for those who violate system
2. Intern criminal justice needs to be applied consistently globally; all perpetrators need to know that there will be consequences for their acts. Not be subject to political compromise. Victims do not have equal access to justice via the ICC
3. need interdependent global system of international and national judicial systems

ICC is the last resort and is complementary to national judicial systems/codes. The Rome Statute serves as a model.

Civil society assists in building capacity for national courts/system of justice. Need strong political commitment and effective practical cooperation from global community.

Ms. Irene Khan, Director General International Development Law Organization

only NGO; book translated into many languages and was with Amnesty International

Multi-lateral NGO only one to advancing rule of law and development.

1. what do we mean by rule of law? More acceptable than human rights as there is no clear definition of it. Laws can be enablers or barriers. Institutions can be manipulated by powerful. Rule of law is equal protection; predictability and due process and substantive justice.
2. importance of rule of law to sustainable development, for promoting equal access and fighting inequality.
3. rule of law is enabled through access to justice (about empowering people). People do not trust institutions because they see corruption, impunity. Frank conversation in Africa recently revealed huge pressure on judiciary and issue of accessing the systems.

Must hold institutions to account by strengthening citizen engagement. Must also measure impact. Laws are not ends in themselves. What is the point of building capacity of judges if there is no political will? Human rights is a journey. Challenge is to create space to get people to own rule of law that upholds justice.

Ms. Jacqueline Moudeina, lead lawyer for the victims of the Hissene Habre regime

represented Habre victims for 15 years which was dangerous and a police commissioner who she had charged was hurt by him. She gave 17 years of her life to this case. Victims suffered for 25 years ago under Habre. Trial took place in Senegal. 96 victims traveled to Senegal. Role of the lawyer as confident of the victims as they relived the atrocities. There no others to assist them. Several were turned into sex slaves by the soldiers and by Habre himself. No thanks to them, rape is no longer a hidden topic. Little by little justice can change history. Her job was to reassure them that they were taking the step for those in the future. Called on courts to give victims a front and center role. Thanked Senegal and Ken Roth for his tireless support for the victims.

Ms. Harkristuti Harkrisnowo, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Indonesia

She is a senior faculty and heads its Center for Human Rights. Manager and sec and acting ED on ASEAN human rights issues and member of National Law Commission. UN has developed a global system of human rights. Still facing significant challenges. She wants to connect this morning's session with this one - How this issue of human rights benefits us all. Begins with rule of law (which is just in line with human rights standards involving stakeholders on the ground).

Indonesia has enacted guide applicable to national and local levels of government involving civil society people. Involves national human rights institute. Poor, disabilities, victims of crimes, women and children **not older persons.** Free services to the poor by law. National human rights has trained religious leaders as well as others. Business in the ground and human rights - Indonesia has conducted this to ensure that all companies comply to CSR.

Discussant:

Mr. Ivan Simonovic, Assistant SG, OHCHR

In October will take up new position on right to protect.

1. human rights and rule of law are closely related. Rule of law is like a boat; human rights are a compass.
2. disrespect of human rights and rule of law = cause of conflict
3. lack of independence of judges is corrosive
4. rule of laws should be supported by donors When he was Minister of Justice, his colleague was involved in justice reform and found a donor who wanted to increase number of courts as a condition but donor ran out of resources; second donor asked for one condition that courts be reduced by 75% to guarantee efficiency
5. protecting human rights and rule of law while countering terrorism must be done

Mr. Ian McDougall, Exec VP and General Counsel, Lexis Nexis

Helped found Business for the Rule of Law for the Global Compact

Rule of law is the foundation for everything. Rule of law means equality under the law; access to law; access to remedy. It is not rule BY law not rule OF law. It is a global concept. Not one part of world imposing its philosophy over another part. Business community can deploy business skills to advance rule of law. We Eyewitness to Atrocities App - record is not kept on the phone to reduce evidence on it. We can show how self interest is involved.

Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant SG for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, DPKO (Dept of Peacekeeping Operations)

Rule of law is sensitive if not dangerous endeavor. Police and judicial systems are often corrupt and even destructive. In Mali, have reconstructed almost 80% of prisons and courts and are massively involved with partners in rebuilding justice. Congolese military authorities are supported who made trials possible in most remote areas of DRC. We embed human rights activities for example in Haiti. Global Focal Point for Peace and Justice has proven to be flexible on multiple aspects of governance post conflict situations. We recommend that UN develop special tools aimed at helping measuring progress in rule of law.

Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP Eradication of poverty and fundamental freedoms. UNDP in Central Africa Republic held sessions on justice processes and worked with stakeholders to establish criminal court. In Timor L'Oeste where he served in a senior position, trained judges, etc to take over from international experts. More than 150 have been trained and certified.

Contributions from member states encouraged. Contributions from:

H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice of Senegal and President of the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

1. access to justice is access to human rights education at all levels
2. access to just and fair trials for victims eg Chadians who have been campaigning for many years seeking justice
3. equality of opportunity for access to justice at local level for small claims or for divorces
4. International Criminal Court in the Hague also must exist

H.E. Mr. Soren Pind, Minister of Justice, Denmark

We must ensure that our societies are rule based; systems that ensures good governance and fights corruption. Ombudsman invests complaints. Free media are also keeping us on our toes and sometimes stepping on them. Every person must be treated equally. We pay high taxes so why are we so happy? People trusted that they got a fair deal from their institutions.

Foreign Minister of Guatemala: importance full respect for justice and strengthening of our institutions. Overhauling institutions via UN (changed constitution resulting in a plural justice for indigenous people and others). He has signed Arms Trade to end it and worked hard to ensure that it was created at the UN.

UAE:

Has a number of laws eg hate crime discriminated against anyone. May 2015 submitted a number of recommendations nearly ready for shelters, domestic violence courts and to define domestic violence. Results of wide ranging consultants since 2014. Numerous semi-governmental organizations are available. She was a former member of anti-trafficking and shelter. Don't claim to be perfect. New child protection law was enacted. Welcome constructive engagements.

Rwanda:

Clarification - Rwanda did not request withdrawal of court because the way the court is drawn and did not relate to a particular court case. Pointed out Human Rights Watch's efforts to undermine Rwanda.

**4:30 - 5:50 pm Interactive segment 3: Enabling active participation in society**

Format: moderated dialogue between member states and expert contributors

Key questions:

* How can Governments and international organizations work together to incentivize a pro-civil society culture in support of human rights and the SDGs?
* How can fears of those who seek to limit or dismantle public freedoms, be disarmed?
* How can we build better appreciation and solidarity to safeguard the "super-rules" across all sectors within which civil society actors are engaged?
* Within the inter-governmental bodies of the UN, what can be done to meaningfully widen the space for civil society participation?

Moderator: Ms. Laura Trevelyan, BBC Correspondent

Was the UN correspondent.

Panellists:

Mr. Salil Shetty, SG of Amnesty International

Attack on journalists is an attack on people/human agency.

Scale of the challenge: 113 countries have restricted freedom of expression; 60 freedom of assembly; 100+ killed. AI is based in the UK. Recently discovered that the UK government is spying on AI and has taken them to EU court. Saudi Arabia has many challenges. Turkey has now come into AI's list. Muscular government eg in Turkey and in Philippines with new president threatening rights. We are dealing with new problems with old means. Trust in governments and private sector have been diminished. Way forward is a strong accountable government. Solution is that if you don't make change, it will be done to you. Brazil has no government. It was tone deaf to what was happening. Mechanisms governments are using eg misuse criminal laws eg Malaysia using Sedition Act from British times being used on a cartoon. Now more modern ways where you are blocking economic progress if you are fighting for rights of indigenous people. The west has selectively used human rights with their allies and themselves.

Ms. Alaa Murabit, founder of Voice of Libyan Women, SDG Advocate

Assumption that you choose security or rights. We looked at cultural reasons why women's rights weren't supported. In 2014 and 2015, we began a campaign that used the scripture to challenge lack of rights for women. Women are keeping Libyan society. Women are not recognized by the UN for the work that they do in peacekeeping or by global NGOs. It is not just the states' responsibility but a global responsibility to preserve human rights. Questioning about whether or not the government is representing their constituents. UN needs to promote human rights. Many governments talk about their history as defending their positions.

Mr. Christophe Deloire, Director-General, Reporters Without Borders

Why is the situation becoming worse? In Philippines, India, Mexico City, etc where journalists were killed. The number remains about the same (67 in past year). Some 800 over 10 years were deliberately targeted and killed. 176 journalists are in prison eg in Turkey. In Algeria, heads of tv stations are in prison and we don't know why. In Iran, in China, etc. Index annually on press see decrease 4% of press freedom. Need to be able to check information. Now propaganda and lies can be disseminated easily. Journalists need to be protected when they challenge these efforts. Many measures to foster pluralism.

Ms. Monika Bickert, Director of Public Policy, Facebook

Facebook live broadcasting. Tremendous challenge to find a space to advance human rights while ensuring that those speakers are protected. We can provide a voice to those who didn't have one years ago (those with access to a cell phone). Challenges: access; people feel safe using their voice online (can share with privacy restrictions); need rules in place; must enlist community to help identify problems. Do get requests from governments that they violate their laws or standards (Facebook looks at the issue case by case). Look at what is the impact if government blocks Facebook. Semi-annual report on which countries block Facebook. How to deal with untruths? We deal with abuse but we should not be the truth police but we can facilitate critical thought by working with civil society on how to look at facts and how they can use Facebook to think critically.

Discussant:

Mr. Milan Antonijevic, Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

We can see ways of working with civil society:

1. protecting against threats eg Azerbaijan
2. can raise issue of how much support governments give to civil society; good models are being undermined.
3. financial and sustainability of civil society

Pressure from state and non state actors eg in Serbia some of media talking about Russian model. Encouraging examples: dialogue with Serbia on some laws being adopted. Belgrade formed human rights houses to support civil society.

Mr. Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association We can change attitude of UN agencies stuck in the 20th c with primacy of the states. UNEP has begun to expand the space for civil society which has led many issues. UNDP is having a difficult time that civil society can challenge the state. Mistake is to work through UNDP to expand civil society space. NGO Committee of ECOSOC that gives accreditation is in trouble because some states resist accreditation. India offered 75 questions to one NGO who works with Dalits. Question about official visits by special rapporteurs. So many states don't invite them on an official visit.

EU: How do you protect rights of journalists? EU has dedicated fund to support civil society. We provide political support eg with meetings with human rights dialogues. Just established a civil society run providing support human rights defense. Work publicly and privately to get releases from jail. At the UN, work with like minded to protect rights of civil society. Democracy begins at the ballot box and for us, interacting with civil society is the way to retain stability. Civil society provides us with invaluable expertise that otherwise we would not have. When we implement development programs, we need to make sure that they help people on the ground, civil society are our partners. Sustainable security cannot be achieved without civil society. Smart girls become smart women and make change and terrorists want black holes that they can fill in with their power. If you want sustainable society, educate girls. Afraid of free press and freedom of religion is the way.

Mr. Alan Miller, Special Envoy, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Produced a report identifying what needs to be done by all states to create an enabling environment for civil society. We looked at 22 reporting countries next week.

What steps need to be taken:

1. clear constitutional legal framework
2. effective participation in decision making
3. financing
4. favorable public
5. culture of respect

How to challenge governments:

1. a concern of all of us of the shrinking space and civil society needs to be protected and monitored

Q & A:

New Zealand supporting migrants and came from Zimbabwe which shut down ? via social media. How does Facebook discern who is a legitimate activist vs a terrorist? Answer: we remove terrorists sites by looking at actual acts that have been committed. If a government asks for data from a person who made a comment against them, they would not do it.

Laurie Johnson: How can we safely promote our human rights activities as indigenous people who may be seen as anti? Response: work with special rapporteur for your group and work with NHRIs. Use the mechanisms - naming and shaming...

US rep: Will you stay focused on elevating issue of closing civil society space? We can't do it alone. Committee to Protect Journalists vote will be coming up soon. Most populations don't know much about SDGs and she asked about promoting SDGs. Alaa responded: She worked heavily in women's rights eg resolution 1325 and yes, we can tools to promote SDGs. Community leaders eg ministers of health (pamphlet in each midwife or doctor's office). Christophe: world is increasingly interdependent. There is a globalization of information and journalists' role is also changing to draw attention to situations and must rely on grassroots' sources.

Panelists one minute summary:

Monika: Facebook did research for 2 years and learned that messages that are for positive in favor of awareness get more interaction than hateful ones and need to generate more. Grassroots' speakers who are more credible.

Alaa: In Libya organized session on transitional justice with UN. UN asked why there weren't women in the Libyan group and that group turned to the UN and asked same question as the UN group was also all male.

Christophe: What is required is a global movement to sustain Goal 16 to promote free flow of pluralistic information.