



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

P.O. BOX 300, A-1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

TELEPHONE: (+43 1) 260 26-0

FAX: (+43 1) 269 26 69

www.unido.org

unido@unido.org

4 May 2015

No.18

INFORMATION NOTE

Interactive Panel Discussion and Reception “Applying the human security approach and its contribution to priority areas of the international community and the United Nations system”

On behalf of the Director General, I have the honour to invite representatives of Permanent Missions to an interactive panel discussion on the application of the human security approach to priority areas of the international community, which will take place on

Monday, 11 May 2015, at 3 p.m. in Conference Room C1 (C-building, 2nd floor).

The event is organized by the United Nations Human Security Unit (HSU) with the support of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Vienna, as Chair of the Human Security Network (HSN), the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The panel discussion will be followed by an informal reception.

A programme note with further information is attached to this note. Any queries related to the event may be addressed to Mr. Huw Beynon, Human Security Unit, United Nations (e-mail: beynon@un.org). Focal point for this event at UNIDO is Mr. Christoph Klose, Strategic Donor Relations Unit; Industrial Policy, External Relations and Field Representation Division (tel. +43 1 26026 3354 or e-mail: c.klose @unido.org).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fatou", is written over a horizontal line.

Fatou Haidara

Director

Policymaking Organs Secretariat
Advocacy and Communications Branch

Distribution:

Permanent Missions to UNIDO

Programme Note
Interactive Panel Discussion and Reception
“Applying the human security approach and its contribution to priority areas of the international community and the United Nations system”

Location: Vienna International Centre, Conference Room C1 (C-building, 2nd floor)

Date and Time: 11 May 2015: Panel Discussion 15:00 – 17:00, Reception 17:00 – 19:00

Co-hosts: Organised by the United Nations Human Security Unit (HSU) with the support of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Vienna, as Chair of the Human Security Network (HSN), Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Objective

The interactive panel discussion on “Applying the human security approach and its contribution to priority areas of the international community and the United Nations system” provides a forum to raise awareness and exchange views on the application of the human security approach as a tool for developing effective policies and programmes by the United Nations, its Member States and the broader international community, including the private sector. Drawing on experiences from the United Nations and academia, the event is an important opportunity to share lessons learned and best practices on the application of the human security approach, while exploring its added value as a people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented framework to respond to and mitigate risks, increase resilience and lay the foundation for greater confidence in today’s gains and tomorrow’s potential.

Background

The passage of General Assembly resolution 66/290 was an important milestone in the 20-year evolution of the application of human security within the United Nations system. It reflects the consensus agreement by Member States of the United Nations on a common understanding of human security. More recently, the latest report of the Secretary-General (A/68/685) provides a comprehensive overview of experiences on the application of human security by national governments, regional organisations, United Nations Country Teams and non-governmental entities. These examples illustrate a wealth of lessons learned and best practice experiences from those implementing the human security approach and highlights the centrality of the human security approach as a universal framework to respond to a wide range of challenges and opportunities in the 21st century, including the implementation of an inclusive and integrated post-2015 development agenda.

The proposed interactive panel discussion is part of the ongoing collaboration between the HSN, the HSU and Member States of the United Nations. Prior events have provided important opportunities for Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to reflect and engage on the application of human security across a wide range of country experiences and thematic areas. An interactive panel discussion in Vienna, in collaboration with the HSU, UNIDO and the Permanent Missions of Austria and Japan, will build upon these prior efforts and enrich ongoing discussions on how best to respond to transverse and cross-cutting issues. Experiences shared at the event will underline the importance of a robust and comprehensive analytical lens that can help address the totality of

challenges to individuals and communities and facilitate actions taken across a wide range of interconnected issues that contribute to peace and security, development and human rights.

Interactive Panel Discussion

The event will provide for an interactive dialogue with experts and practitioners. Panellists will draw on their first hand experiences in applying the human security approach, its added value, lessons learned and best practices. The event will also provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on how the human security approach can bring value to priority areas of the international community such as improving the effectiveness of the United Nations system through “Delivering as One”; supporting the articulation of the post-2015 development agenda; enhancing disaster risk reduction; and strengthening resilience building in crisis-affected settings. In addition, by exploring the important position of the private sector in the advancement of human security, the event will offer an important opportunity to discuss how public-private partnerships around the advancement of human security can promote mutually complementary solutions towards addressing poverty in all its forms, promoting social harmony, limiting violence and improving environmental sustainability.

Participants

The interactive panel discussion is expected to attract participants from Permanent Missions in Vienna as well as staff of Vienna based international organisations.

Agenda

Moderator: Professor Wolfgang Benedek

Professor Benedek is Head of the Institute of International Law and International Relations and Director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy of the University of Graz. His main research fields include the implementation of international human rights in particular at regional and local level, human rights education, international economic law and human security. He is a long-time advocate of human security.

15:00 - Opening Remarks

- Mr. Li Yong, Director General, UNIDO
- Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Vienna
- Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna
- Ambassador Matjaž Kovačič, Advisory Board on Human Security

15:30 – Panel Presentations

- **Ms. Giovanna Ceglie: UNIDO Representative and Director Regional Office, Egypt**

Ms. Ceglie is UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt, where UNIDO is currently leading the implementation of the project “Human security through inclusive socio-economic development in Upper Egypt”, funded by the UNTFHS and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation. Ms. Ceglie will share the project’s

experience in working to improve employment opportunities and support entrepreneurship, enhance agricultural productivity and strengthen social cohesion among marginalized communities in Upper Egypt. With innovative approaches, such as the establishment of ‘Human Security Forums’ through which community members can play an active role in advancing sustainable development based on the priorities defined by the communities themselves, Ms. Ceglie’s presentation will highlight the added value of the human security approach in strengthening resilience and addressing risk management.

- **Mr. Alexander Zuev: UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Tajikistan**

As Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and Resident Representative for UNDP in Tajikistan, Mr. Zuev will share the Country Team’s experience and lessons learned from applying the human security approach to address the multiple insecurities faced by vulnerable and rural communities in Tajikistan’s remote Rasht Valley. Reflecting on the added value of the human security approach in promoting an integrated response by the United Nations and its national partners, Mr. Zuev will outline how the United Nations Country Team is working together to address the regions multiple insecurities, ranging from economic stagnation and agricultural decline, limited access to health care and education and the impact of natural disasters.

- **Dr. Mary Martin: Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics**

Dr. Martin is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of International Development, London School of Economics (LSE). She was previously Director of Communications and Research for Human Security as LSE Global Governance, and coordinator of the Human Security Study Group from 2006-2010. Her research focuses on how state and non-state actors, including businesses, can benefit from the application of the human security approach. With examples from the Balkans and Latin America, Dr. Martin will explain how global business impacts upon human security and how human security offers an important analytical lens as well as a methodology for thinking about corporate responsibility and for co-operation between private and public sectors.

16:15 - Open discussion

An open session will allow participants to pose questions to the panel and also share their own experiences implementing the human security approach and their insights and on its contribution to the work of the United Nations.

16:50 - Closing Remarks

Professor Benedek will summarize the highlights of the discussion before closing the event.

17:00-19:00 - Reception

An informal reception will be held immediately following the event.