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70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK 19-23 NOVEMBER 2018

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Brussels, Tuesday 20 November 2018

Opening conference

Hemicycle

14:00: **Doors Open**

14:45 - 14:50 *Jeunesses Musicales* performs with the cooperation of BOZAR

15:00 - 15:30 **Opening speeches**

Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament

António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations (tbc)

Federica Mogherini, Vice President of the European Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

15.30 - 17.00 **Panel I**

Universality and indivisibility of Human Rights in today's global and digital world

Over the last 70 years international cooperation helped codify human rights in a universally recognised regime of treaties and norms. Efforts at national, regional and international level involved a dynamic and decentralised network of civil-society actors. Today's global environment is marked by uncertainties, nationalist rhetoric, cultural relativism, and trampling of rule of law and democratic principles. Defending existing standards, strengthening international human rights system and promoting new norms remain significant challenges. Against this backdrop, climes of hope emerge across the globe. Positive experiences and significant achievements show that the drive to defend human rights is alive and irreversible.

The panel will focus on:

- *Addressing the counter-narrative on universality and reaffirming indivisibility of HR*
- *Defending targeted rights holders: migrants/refugees/women/children/LGBTI*
- *Safeguarding human rights in new environments: digital/technology/climate change*
- *Reinforcing international accountability and fight against impunity*
- *Learning from good human rights stories*

Chair: **Pier Antonio Panzeri**, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights

Speakers:

Ms Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms Fatou Bensouda, General Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative on Human Rights

Ms Nadia Murad, Sakharov Laureate 2016, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2018, and UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human trafficking of the United Nations (tbc)

Q&A session with the active participation of UNICEF and EU-NGOs Forum

Closing remarks: **Claude Moraes**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

17.00 - 17.30 **Break**

17.30 - 19.00 **Panel II**

Synergies in strengthening the global Human Rights architectures and mechanisms

Many people perceive Human Rights as irrelevant as persecution, social exclusion, discrimination and mass-crimes that the international community had pledged to tolerate never again continue across the globe. Some feel excluded from the debates while others wonder if denouncing abuses is limited to vanishing words. Tackling this widespread feeling requires joint efforts and strategic action to defend the global human rights system, and to build broader support with the involvement of emerging players (small and middle-sized states, regional institutions and NGOs). Making thus sure that no one feels left behind can eventually help regain credibility.

The panel will focus on:

- *Improving prevention, early response and accountability*
- *Defending the central role of the UN Human Right Council*
- *Engaging with emerging / small states stepping into leadership role*
- *Enhancing national and regional institutions' monitoring activities*
- *Reaching out towards broader sections of society on the importance of human rights*

Chair: **David McAllister**, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Speakers:

Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Ms Soyata Maiga, Chair of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Mr Joel Hernandez Garcia, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and vice-President of the Inter-American Juridical Committee,

Ms Beate Rudolf, Chair of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and of the Board of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

Q&A session with the active participation of UNICEF and the EU-NGOs Forum

Closing remarks: **Cecilia Wikström**, Chair of the Committee on Petition and the Conference of Committees' Chairs

updated 15/10/2018