



Luncheon BUSINESS, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RULE OF LAW AND THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM

Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.
Palais des Nations, Delegates Restaurant
Geneva

By bringing together different stakeholders, the present luncheon - organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), with the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact on the margins of the 2014 Forum on Business and Human Rights - provides an opportunity for an informal exchange of views and ideas to relate the debate on business and human rights, with the ongoing discussions on the contribution of the rule of law to “sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development”(Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, 2012).

IDLO’s Director-General, Ms. Irene Khan, will moderate the discussion and will be joined by Georg Kell, Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact.

CONTEXT

In elaborating a new development framework, the consensus is growing that the international community cannot eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development or create inclusive economies when human rights are ignored, when the rule of law is absent, when justice and accountability systems do not function properly, when women and minorities suffer from discrimination and when opportunities are open only to a few based on wealth and privilege. Poverty is not just about low income, it is actually about the denial of human rights - the right to decent work, housing, health, the right to information, the right to participation - the whole gamut of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights.

Over the past decades, the process of globalization has seen non-state actors - such as international corporations - play an increasingly important role at both the national and the international levels, giving rise among other things to a debate about the roles and responsibilities of such actors in relation to the advancement of human rights. As part of this process - on 16 June 2011 - the UN Human Rights Council endorsed the “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights “ providing - for the first time - a global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activities.

The panel discussion that will take place at this luncheon is intended to bring the debate on business and human rights to bear on the going discussions to shape an inspirational and truly transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda rooted in human rights and the rule of law.