



CLAIMING DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FRIDAY JULY 12 6.30 - 8 PM

UNHQ, CR 1

- Why do we need civil society to achieve the 2030 Agenda?
- How do we counter shrinking civic space worldwide?
- What role do different actors play in ensuring democratic freedoms?

Protection of fundamental freedoms is a commitment under SDG 16 and relevant for achievement across the SDGs. The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association has identified a number of trends restricting civic space, including legal barriers, repression of social movements and peaceful protests, and obstruction of digital space. These trends should raise concern not only for human rights activists around the world, but for all actors who work towards the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

No Global Goals Without Civic Space: This event will highlight and illustrate the importance of a free civil society for the achievement of sustainable development goals, with a particular focus on achievement of SDGs under review (SDG 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17). Participants will be invited to ask questions and share examples of methods to counter shrinking civic space and contribute to achievement of SDGs.

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PROGRAM

1. Opening remarks and welcome

Martin Bille Hermann, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

2. Interview and dialogue session with experts and practitioners from Member States, Multilateral Organizations, Academia and Civil Society.

- **Clément Voule, UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association:** *The importance of democratic freedoms and implementation of SDG 16*
- **Eugene Owusu, President's Advisor on SDGs, Ghana:** *How civil society enabling environment contributes to sustainable development in Ghana*
- **Naomi Hossain, Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (IDS):** *Presentation of ACT Alliance/IDS report "Development Needs Civil Society – The Implications of Civic Space for the Sustainable Development Goals"*
- **Mbuki Mburu, Youth and Governance Advocate ActionAid young civil society representative:** *Amplifying voices of young women and men for democratic freedoms, SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda*
- **Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Environment Programme Coordinator at the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact:** *The importance of civic space in achieving SDG 16 and the Agenda 2030 with a particular focus on climate action (SDG 13)*
- **Rasmus Stuhr Jakobsen, Secretary General, Care Denmark and Chair, Global Focus:** *Joint CSO-government strategies to counter shrinking civic space globally and methods to achieve SDG 16.*

Moderator: Tim Whyte, Secretary General, MS ActionAid Denmark

3. Closing remarks

- **Marie Ottosson**, Deputy Director-General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).