



HRC57 – Panel discussion on protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities

BENELUX Statement

(September 11th 2024)

Thank you, Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of the Benelux countries: Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. We align with the EU statement. We thank the panellists for their contributions.

The promotion, respect, and fulfilment of all human rights for all human beings must guide us in the design of policies that work for people and planet. The full realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights goes hand in hand with the full realisation of civil and political rights. In the same vein, inequality cannot and must not be reduced to economic inequality – social protection, political emancipation, fundamental freedoms, and the protection of our living planet, in all its biodiversity, are all part of the complex responsibilities of States. All of this is at the heart of Agenda 2030's promise to leave no one behind and reach those furthest behind first.

A Human Rights Economy places the economy at the service of human beings and not vice-versa: a systematic reprioritisation of macro-economic measures according to their contribution to the fulfilment of all human rights would not only be in line with our obligations under international human rights law: it would also make perfect economic sense.

Esteemed panellists,

We often hear scepticism vis-à-vis international efforts to promote civil and political rights. What recommendations would you make to the Office of the High Commissioner for delivering effective capacity building and technical assistance that advances all human rights, economic, social, and cultural, but also civil and political?

Thank you.

(246 words - 1m30s)