High Level Panel on Human Rights and Trade

**Type:** Conference

**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Date:** 27 Sep 2010

**Duration of event:** 1 Days

**Programme Area:** Peace Security and Diplomacy, Multilateral Diplomacy

**Specific Target Audience:** No

**Website:** http://www.unitar.org/mdp

**Price:** No Fee

**Event Focal Point Email:** diplomacy@unitar.org

**Event Focal Point Contact Number:**

**BACKGROUND**

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Trade Organization’s predecessor, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) both rose from the ashes of World War II. They were established to attain the same ends: to ensure human freedoms and ultimately a more peaceful international order. Today, the two constitute pillars of trade and human rights, respectively. Their interrelation is often contested, but neither are mutually exclusive concepts. They can, and they do, work together to ensure the fulfillment of human rights standards in relation to a range of issues such as the right to food, water, education, and civil and political rights. All such rights are influenced by regulated trade relations for which the WTO works.

Due to this relationship between trade and human rights, diplomats must be able to distinguish the similarities and differences between their roles in guaranteeing human rights standards. Through a better understanding of their relationship, the diplomat will be more capable of responding to emerging multidimensional policy challenges.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The panel aims to address the bridge-building process between human rights and trade concerns and to engage in an interactive dialogue with Geneva-based diplomats. It will offer new perspectives on the topic and enable the diplomats to consider a more holistic view to respond to contemporary challenges in trade and human rights. Through the dialogue, diplomats will be able to discuss the key concepts of this relationship, share their thoughts and experience, and increase their awareness of how to promote human rights standards.
CONTENT AND STRUCTURE
The Panelists will be invited by UNITAR’s Executive Director to offer a short 10 minute presentation on the topic. Presentations will be made by both the Director General of the WTO, Mr. Pascal Lamy and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay as well as two Permanent Representatives accredited to the United Nations Offices at Geneva. Then, the representatives from academia and civil society seated next to the panelists will provide an insight and further develop specific points raised in the presentations. After that, the floor will be open to around 1 hour of interactive dialogue with the diplomatic community.

The Panel will consist and unfold as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panelist</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Navanethem Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
<td>Will provide an outlook on the link between human rights and trade</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization</td>
<td>Will provide an outlook on the topic through the lens of trade, and the mutual aims that trade and human rights try to ensure</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Director of UNITAR | · Will introduce the topic and moderate the panel  
· Will regulate the ensuing debate | 10 minutes |
| H.E. Ambassador Jean Feyder, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the UN Office in Geneva | National and regional perspectives of Human Rights and Trade | 10 minutes |
| H.E. Ambassador Abdul Hannan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Office in Geneva | National and regional perspectives of Human Rights and Trade | 10 minutes |
| Academia and Civil Society representatives  |                                                                 |          |
| Professor Nico Schrijver, Faculty of Law, Leiden University | · Will provide an insight and further develop specific points raised in the presentations | 7 minutes |
| Ms. Violette Ruppanner, Director of 3D (Trade, Human Rights and Equitable Economy) | · Will provide an insight and further develop specific points raised in the presentations | 7 minutes |

TARGETED AUDIENCE
The briefing is open to members of Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations. Delegates participating in the work of the World Trade Organization and the Human Rights Council will also be invited to this event.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The High Level Panel will be held from 14.00 to 16.00, in Room XII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Simultaneous interpretation into French and English shall be provided.

This event is organized by UNITAR in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and with the support of the International
Organization of la Francophonie (OIF).