



Leaving no one behind:

Addressing statelessness and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable groups through the Sustainable Development Goals

When: **Thursday, 21 March 2019, 13:00-14:30**

Where: **The International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), room 15**

Sandwiches and light drinks will be served at 12:30 in front of the room 15 CICG

Note about the side-event

The side-event “Leaving no one behind: Addressing statelessness and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable groups through the Sustainable Development Goals” is organized by the Issue-Based Coalition on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience (IBC LMPDR). It will take place on 21 March 2019 in the margins of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development that follows up on and reviews the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UNECE region.

Objectives of the side-event

The objectives of this side event are to sensitize key stakeholders to the phenomenon of statelessness in the context of the 2030 Agenda and finding new ways of responding and collaborating to achieve progress on statelessness through inputs and advice from European and Central Asian UNECE Member States. The side-event will also raise awareness on the #IBelong Campaign and the High-Level Segment on Statelessness that will be convened on 7 October 2019.

Programme

Moderator: **Melanie Khanna**, Senior Legal Coordinator (Statelessness), UNHCR Department of International Protection

Collective Thinking and Collective Action: Addressing Statelessness in the ECA Region

George Bouma, Team Leader, Sustainable Development, UNDP

Leave No One Behind: Strengthening minority rights through the Sustainable Development Goals

Joshua Castellino, Executive Director of the Minority Rights Group International

OSCE-UNHCR joint efforts to address statelessness in the OSCE region to ensure that everyone has the right to a nationality

Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, First Deputy Director at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Practice of the Kyrgyz Republic in reduction of statelessness and reform in civil registration system within the framework of SDG 16.9

Muhabat Pratova, Director of the Department for registration of population and civil acts, State Registration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic





Who can attend this session:

- Member States
- UN entities
- Civil Society
- Academia
- Other stakeholders

Note that registration for the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is required. For more details please consult <https://www.unece.org/rfsd2019.html>

Leaving no one behind

By adopting the 2030 Agenda, Member States have committed to leave no one behind in their implementation of the SDGs. Within countries, all people, regardless of their backgrounds, have the rights and responsibilities to fulfil their potential in life, and lead a dignified life in a healthy environment. Those often left behind include refugees, migrants, people living in poverty, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, including amongst host communities. The principle also clearly applies to the millions of ‘stateless’ people who often live invisibly on the lowest rungs of society, including in terms of economic prosperity, political participation and social inclusion. Stateless people are not recognised as citizens of any country and as such often remain unseen and unheard. While statelessness can be linked to displacement, most stateless persons around the world are so-called in situ stateless populations, who have lived in the only country they have ever known for decades or generations without acquiring a nationality. Stateless persons are often not allowed to go to school, see a doctor, get a job, open a bank account, travel, buy a house or even get married. Denial of these rights impacts not only the individuals concerned but also society as a whole, in particular because excluding an entire sector of the population can lead to social tensions and significantly impair economic and social development. People are left behind when they lack the choices and opportunities to participate in and benefit from development progress. Stateless persons can thus be considered ‘left behind’, as they are forced to endure disadvantages or deprivations that limit their choices and opportunities relative to others in society. Addressing statelessness therefore enhances the resilience of both vulnerable groups as well as society as a whole.

The #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024

In light of the increasing global recognition of the need to put an end to statelessness, the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024 was launched by UNHCR in 2014. The framework to achieve the objectives of the #IBelong Campaign is set out in a Global Action Plan, which establishes 10 practical Actions to be undertaken by States with the assistance of UNHCR and other stakeholders, many of which relate to the right to a nationality, identity and birth registration. A global High-Level Segment on Statelessness will be convened on 7 October 2019 to mark the midpoint of this 10-year Campaign and to review the achievements to-date and what remains to be done to end statelessness by 2024.

About Issue-Based Coalition on Large Movement of People, Displacement and Resilience

The IBC on Large Movement of People, Displacement and Resilience serves as a platform to provide coherent UN support at the country level towards SDGs nationalization inclusive of key issues related to large displacement of refugees, migrants and resilience. The IBC is chaired by UNHCR and UNDP; other members include UNICEF, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNOPS, IOM and UN Environment.

