

**GENEVA
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Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

 **Maastricht University**



Annual Conference of the GHRP – Connectivity of Human Rights Mechanisms

CONCEPT NOTE - Panel 1

Treaty Bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and the WTO Trade Policy Mechanisms: Comparison of Mechanisms

Maison de la Paix (Pétale 5), Monday 3 June 2019,
9:45 – 11:15

In the field of international human rights, a multitude of different, yet partially overlapping instruments to monitor state compliance with international obligations exists. A prominent place is occupied by the relatively recent United Nations (UN) Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a global mechanism for the periodic review of states' human rights performance. The UPR operates in parallel to the long-established system of UN human rights treaty bodies, committees of independent experts in charge of assessing states' implementation of the nine major UN human rights treaties. The simultaneous existence of these human rights reviewing procedures may lead to mutual reinforcement, but possibly also to duplications and contradictions in their output. To what extent are UPR and Treaty Bodies reinforcing or hindering each other's work? Under what conditions do states take their recommendations seriously? Do states respond differently to recommendations by UPR and Treaty Bodies, and if so why? To address this first set of questions, this panel identifies synergies and possible conflicts between these two mechanisms, discussing ways in which UPR and Treaty Bodies can operate in a complementary manner.

Additionally, moving beyond the human rights field, this panel positions the UPR within the broader framework of peer reviews among states as increasingly employed instruments of global governance. What characteristics make a peer review successful? What lessons can be learnt by comparing peer reviews operating in different contexts? To answer these questions, this panel compares the functioning of the UPR to that of other peer reviews at the global level, including the Trade Policy Review Mechanism of the World Trade Organization and the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) of the UN Convention against Corruption.

SPEAKERS

- **Valentina Carraro**, Postdoctoral Researcher at Maastricht University and Rubicon Research Fellow at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights
- **Eric Tistounet**, Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Antonia Diakantoni**, Counsellor, Trade Policies Review Division, World Trade Organization

MODERATOR

- **Mona M'Bikay**, Executive Director, UPR Info

PARTNERS

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