2020 Annual Conference of the GHRP
Connectivity between regional and
global human rights mechanisms

*DRAFT*

CONCEPT NOTE

PLENARY PANEL 1

COVID-19 responses by global and
regional human rights systems

Maison de la Paix (Pétale 5), Thursday 15 October 2020, 9:45 – 11:15
The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many activities to transition to an online setting and/or to review their working methods. Human rights mechanisms, both at the global and regional level, were not exempted from this transition. This session will focus on how the mechanisms of the global human rights system - Human Rights Council, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies – and regional systems responded to the COVID crisis in order to strengthen human rights protection. It will also take the right to food as an example of the impact that COVID-19 is having on the exercise and realization of human rights. Questions to be addressed include: What were the changes in work modalities put in place and what lessons can be learned from the use of digital communications during the crisis, for example on-line sessions? What was the role played by the regional systems? How can the mechanisms monitor post-pandemic recovery programs to ensure they combat inequalities that were made evident during the crisis? How can they contribute to "building back better"? How can human rights mechanisms inform the SDG process, given that e.g. goal-2 pledges to end hunger? Over 800 million people are facing hunger every day, and COVID-19 is exacerbating the existing insecurities and weaknesses of the food systems. How can human rights mechanisms hold states accountable in this situation for the realization of the Right to Food?

PANELISTS
[to be announced soon]

PARTNERS
[to be announced soon]