

LOCALIZING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

8-10 OCTOBER 2025

GENEVA

This training course, specifically designed for staff of city and regional governments, will explore the means and mechanisms through which local and regional governments can interact with and integrate the recommendations of international human rights bodies in their concrete work at the local level. This training will be organized jointly with the Global Cities Hub, and be linked to the UN Forum of Mayors, held under the auspices of UNECE.



Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) are at the forefront of implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fulfilling human rights obligations for their residents, despite the fact that, oftentimes, these commitments are undertaken without local and regional level consultations.

Yet, despite their central role for ensuring the localization of the SDGs and the realization of human rights, many LRGs lack the necessary tools and knowledge to fully understand and implement these obligations and commitments, significantly curtailing their mandates as a fundamental level of government. Being the closest level to communities, LRGs are uniquely positioned to address inequalities, enhance access to essential public services, and promote inclusive, participatory decision-making.

Modern multilateralism offers invaluable opportunities for LRGs by providing access to practical tools and fostering both horizontal exchanges among peers and vertical collaborations with national governments and UN bodies. To this end, LRGs can take advantage of critical instruments and processes, such as contributing to Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), drafting their own Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs), and leveraging Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports.

By engaging with these mechanisms, LRGs can monitor SDG implementation, identify gaps, and adapt local policies accordingly. In this context, the intersection between human rights and the SDGs is fundamental—SDGs cannot be fully realized without the protection of human rights, and human rights mechanisms serve as essential tools for tracking progress of SDGs.

Beginning with the localization of the SDGs, the course will highlight their intrinsic connection to human rights and demonstrate how UN human rights mechanisms can offer concrete tools and entry points for realizing the SDGs at the local level, along with effective monitoring and reporting procedures. The training aims to empower representatives of city and regional governments with the tools to fulfil their governmental mandates and ensure the realization of SDGs and human rights at the local level.

This training will be organized jointly with the **Global Cities Hub**, and be linked to the **UN Forum of Mayors**, held under the auspices of **UNECE**.

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted in a participatory mode with a combination of illustrated lectures (using power points and short videos) and group exercises aimed at understanding how best to access the UN human rights system.

AUDIENCE

This training course, specifically designed for representatives of city and regional governments (mayors and/or high officials such as heads of international relations, cooperation etc), representative of city networks and LRGs oriented civil society, researchers and academia.

The language of instruction during the training is English. All candidates must possess a level of proficiency in English that enables them to actively participate in the training.

IN GENEVA

The course can be followed in person in Geneva.

APPLICATION DEADLINES AND FEE

Fee for on-site participation: **CHF 1,100** (There is a 30% discount for PhD and master students).

Deadlines:

Application end with visa: **31 August 2025**

Application end (no visa): **21 September 2025**

READ MORE AND APPLY

Full program details and registration at:
<https://bit.ly/3RJBkMy>

