**Purpose:**

The UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies Working Group on COVID-19 will facilitate a coherent treaty bodies’ voice on a crucial common challenge. The Working Group will help to develop a joint, cohesive and comprehensive response from the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights, as well as inform practical policies and measures adopted by States to prevent and contain the negative impacts of the pandemic and to guide recovery efforts to “build back better”, building on the guidance already elaborated by a number of treaty bodies. Also, the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies Working Group on COVID-19 will have in mind the monitoring mandate of Human Rights Treaty Bodies under their respective Conventions; the different areas of work of each Committee; and the similarities and differences in the monitoring tools of each body.

The UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies Working Group on COVID-19 will carry out, among others, the following activities:

Follow the impact of COVID-19 on human rights and exchange ideas on a human rights based approach for consideration by individual treaty bodies;

Promote joint and/or separate action or guidance, through suggestions to be considered by individual treaty bodies , regarding specific issues emerging in the context of COVID-19;

Update the toolbox of treaty bodies’ jurisprudence on related matters to COVID-19 in collaboration with HRTB teams and suggest innovative means of communicating such regular updates to relevant stakeholders;

Initiate joint webinars and other on-line updates and discussions among treaty body experts to clarify aspects of treaty law as they relate to COIVID-19 developments and enhance the visibility and the added value of treaty body guidance.