

the **right** to be **responsible** for every human



What if

in face of the urgent but complex challenges we need to tackle today, we would understand human rights as providing 'the right to be responsible' for every human? Would this way of looking at social justice and at fair and effective governance provide a way to meaningfully discuss rights and responsibilities for authorities, institutions, private sector actors and individual citizens?

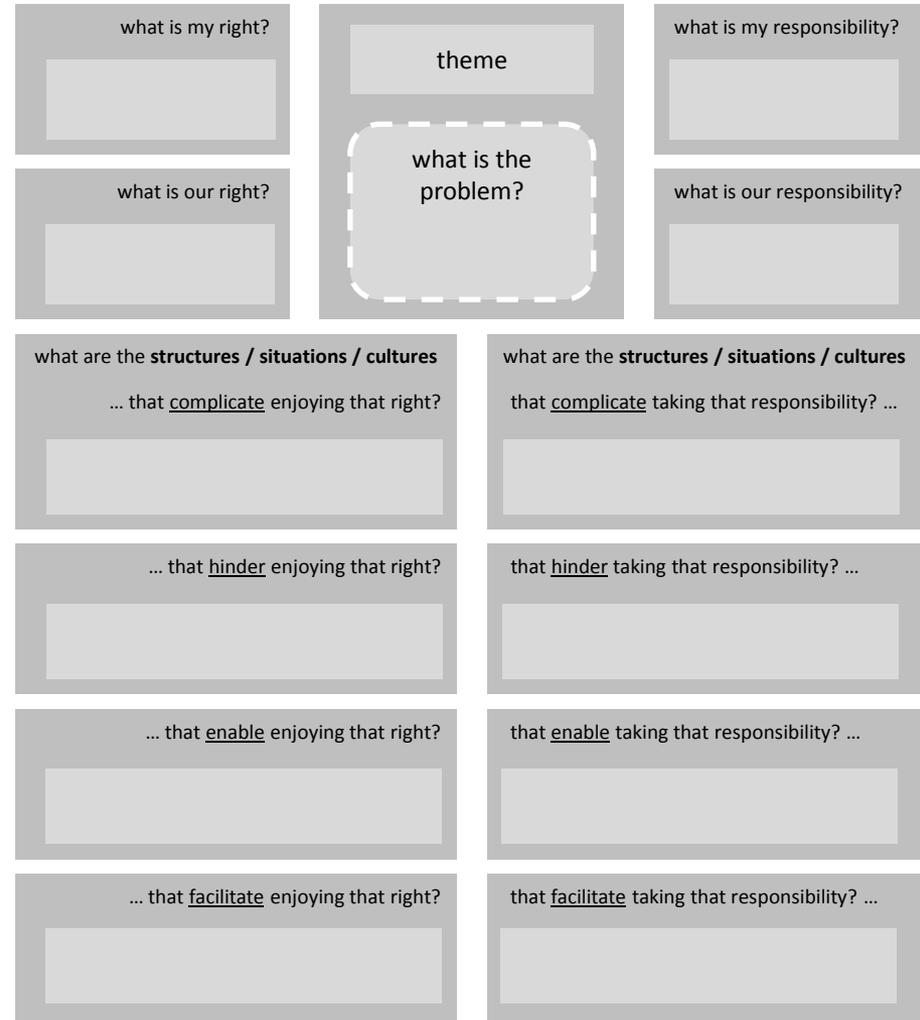
Join us for a conversation on

The human rights principle for sustainable development governance

when: World Social Forum 2013, 27 March 2013, 13h00 – 15h30,
where: Room TD4 at the University Campus El Manar, Tunis

The event, seen as 'an exercise in global ethics – thinking' will try to map and discuss rights and responsibilities relevant to specific themes of sustainable development (food, water, energy, health, education, ...). The event is meant to be an open conversation inspired by your views on the issues, whatever your background or interest is. Without wanting to guide the conversation into a specific direction (all directions are open), we will propose to make use of the 'rights and responsibilities matrix' presented here ↗).

We look forward to meeting you.



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Making sense of rights and responsibilities

Sustainable development is impossible without a continuous respect and care for the implementation of human rights. However, in considering the relation between the challenge of implementing human rights on the one hand and the challenge of implementing sustainable development on the other hand, we need to recognise that a full implementation of human rights would not automatically lead to sustainable development. Making sense of complex problems under the banner of sustainable development is also making sense of complexity and uncertainty and of different value-based views on these problems and their solutions.

There are serious problems of social and environmental injustice to tackle now, but even if we would all have the best intentions, reality shows that 'good intentions don't always add up'. In other words: there is no single objective path for sustainable development. Sustainable development relies as much on human individual and collective rights as it relies on human individual and collective responsibilities. In this respect, there will always remain a vague line between what should be 'enforced' in the interest of human rights, human equality and human solidarity on the one hand and what should be 'left open' to contingent dynamics relying on the power of individuals and communities to employ creativity, commitment and solidarity on the other hand ...

The human rights principle for sustainable development governance

Based on the previous rationale, the project 'The Possibility of Global Governance' proposes the human rights principle for sustainable development governance. That principle sounds as follows:

Added to the 3 fields of human rights that concern a fair socio-economic organisation of our society, being

1. the equal right to aid and access to justice of those in need today
2. the equal right to have access to and to participate in the socio-economic dynamic and to deliberate adverse effects of that socio-economic dynamic
3. the equal right of those of the future to govern their own needs,

sustainable development governance implies **the equal right for every human to contribute to making sense of what is at stake**. This right can be fulfilled through the implementation of a 3-fold concept of distributive justice:

1. a sharing of effort in intellectual capacity building ('nobody can do it alone')
[> implying pluralist basic and advanced education and inclusive and transdisciplinary research as policy supportive knowledge generation]
2. a sharing of deliberative space ('nobody should do it alone')
[> implying inclusive, deliberative multi-level decision making]
3. a sharing of freedoms of collective choice ('even all together, our deliberative power is limited')
[> implying global governance as a continuing process of engagement]

Connected to the 3 rights-fields that concern fair socio-economic organisation listed above, this right enables what is essential for human well-being and what makes sustainable development governance possible: the right to be responsible for every human.