



Intellectual Property v. Human Rights?

Tackling the Negative Impacts of Intellectual Property Systems – A Human Rights Approach

Thursday 13th March, 1.45 - 3 pm, Room XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Current trends in Intellectual Property policy worldwide are truly alarming. They have caused medicine scarcity and increased prices for essential drugs, they make textbooks inaccessible, they determine what crops will be planted, and have permitted ‘biopiracy’ – the patenting of traditional knowledge by large corporations.

These trends can – and must – be reversed. Human Rights defenders have an important role to play in this important task.

This panel discussion will present how Intellectual Property trends affect human rights, such as the right to food or the right to education. Speakers will show how the involvement of the human rights community was key in limiting adverse effects on access to medicines.

Finally, panelists will indicate entry points and opportunities for human rights advocates to challenge the current trends in intellectual property policy-making to work towards a system that is more consistent with human rights.

Speakers include:

Philippe Cullet, Director, International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC)

Eddan Katz, International Affairs Director, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and Senior Fellow, Yale Information Society Project, Yale Law School

Dalinyebo Shabalala, Director, Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development Project Center for International Environmental Law

Alejandro Neyra, First Secretary, Mission of Peru to the UN

Ibrahim Salama, Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Chair: **Caroline Dommen**, Director, 3D → Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy

Organised by the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC) and 3D → Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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