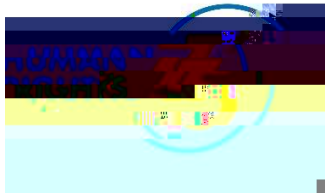


inequality is one of the most important drivers of violent conflict. Protecting the social, economic, and cultural rights of peoples and addressing discrimination in these contexts is not only required by the UDHR, but also crucial to preventing violent conflict. Such an emphasis would help reaffirm the universality of the human rights agenda.

A richer narrative on human rights should also squarely address the problem of declining trust between States and their populations, in all parts of the world. The Governments which originally approved the UDHR understood that human rights protect individual rights *and* promote systems of responsive and accountable governance necessary for viable communities. Thus, for example, the right to work protects individual choice but also fields of work from interference that may hamper their development. By ensuring that people can participate in the economic life of the country, the right to work creates a positive cycle, where populations contribute productively to the economy, pay taxes and enable the government to deliver the services that lead to the enjoyment of other rights, among other virtues. This positive, reinforcing cycle between government and those governed is clearly laid out in the Secretary-
contract in his Our Common Agenda report. At a time when governments face increasingly severe crises of legitimacy and confidence, and amidst decreasing trust and growing polarization in many parts of the world, it is important recalling that human rights stand as e when governments face



can act as euphemisms. For most people experiencing marginalization, reality manifests, cruelly and directly, as extreme poverty, discrimination in education, access to health care, abuses by governing authority, and an inability to meaningfully participate in politics



human rights presences in more than 100 countries worldwide. Indeed, a 2021 study for the UN General Assembly recognized the important role that human rights Special Procedures have played in preventing escalation into more widespread human rights violations.¹⁴ The information generated by HRC actors and ally fed into an early warning and action processes of the wider UN system.¹⁵ Improving the connective tissue between national human rights bodies (both official NHRIs and unofficial NGOs and CSOs more generally) and the architecture is a clear step that would improve multilateral conflict prevention.

While information gathering and analysis relevant to prevention has improved significantly through the establishment of structures such as the Regional Monthly Review and the existing UN Operations and Crisis Centre, (plus analytical tools such as the [Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes](#) developed by the Secretariat, and the [Early Warning and Urgent Procedures](#) initially developed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), what remains missing is a fuller framework that integrates the information and analyses from these sources as well as the lessons learned at the national level about prevention into a comprehensive *policy*



between different types of rights, framing issues of inequalities and political inclusion as human rights concerns may be seen by some as co-opting the development agenda

