



### LAUNCH EVENT

#### Righting the Economy: Towards a People's Recovery from Economic and Environmental Crisis

This panel seeks to discuss how to build an enabling environment towards a rights-based economy by aligning both government economic policy to fulfil human rights and corporate conduct to respect human rights principles and agreements

**29<sup>th</sup> of May, from 12:45-2:00pm**

Main conference room of the CIDSE/ACT Alliance office  
rue Stevin 16, Brussels | [#RightingTheEconomy](#)

### Background

The economies we live in structure our daily experiences, opportunities and life outcomes, and represent systems that can profoundly affect our ability to enjoy our rights to decent work, to shelter, to adequate healthcare, political participation, a life free from violence and more (Latour 2005). However, until recently, human rights and economics were not often spoken about in the same breath (Osborne 2021). Slowly, this has started to shift. Increasingly, human rights actors, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), are calling for a shift towards a “rights-based” or “human rights economy”. Likewise, human rights monitoring mechanisms are building up a steady stream of recommendations and jurisprudence on economic policy. A call for a rights-based economy or a rights-based framing of the economy is in the continuum of previous attempts to rewrite the rules of the economy towards rights and social justice in mind within a democratic society, but with an explicit focus on human rights. This focus on human rights is largely missing in any mainstream economic literature. Traditionally, human rights has been seen by scholars and practitioners as components external to economies (De Witte 2009). Under this lens, human rights are perceived to be a tool that can be used to handle the distortions caused by neoliberalism (De Witte 2009), or worse that they are a key component or “handmaiden” of neoliberalism. Rarely, human rights have been seen as a fundamental axis and principled approach to (re)shape neoliberalism to avoid these distortions from taking place (Balakrishnan and Elson 2011).

### About the panel

This launch event seeks to explore some of the ideas presented by the recently launched ‘[Righting the Economy](#)’ book. The rights-based economy (RBE) or a human rights economy (HRE) is an emerging concept that seeks to inform both government policies related to economic policies, the budget and regulatory policies to create an enabling environment for economies that are aligned with human rights principles and commitments, such as the feminist and care economy, an ecological economy and food sovereignty among many other alternatives. The rights-based economy also seeks to ensure that government macroeconomic policies in areas such as tax policies, debt management, tackling illicit financial flows, and monetary policies among other areas are aligned and informed by the wider human rights commitments and treaties of government as duty bearers. This event aims to not only discuss the core concepts brought forward by the RBE book, but also to build on experiences from different regions, concerning a transformative and rights-based approach to economic policies.

### Objectives

The key objectives of this session are to:

- To discuss the concept of the rights-based economy (RBE)

- To discuss the duties of government in creating an enabling environment for the RBE
- To discuss corporate duties with respect to respect human rights in an RBE and specific approaches to ensuring the duty of care and due diligence
- To discuss cases of success in terms of imprinting a human rights lens to economic policy making and implementation

### Speakers

#### Keynote :

- Olivier De Schutter, Professor at UCLouvain and UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (confirmed)

#### Panellists :

- Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General, CIDSE (confirmed)
- Nele Meyer, Director, European Coalition for Corporate Justice (confirmed)
- Oliver Pearce, Chief of Policy, Christian Aid (confirmed)
- Maria José Romero, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Eurodad (confirmed)

#### Commentators :

- Jonathan Van Meerbeeck, Head of Sector - Human Rights, DG International Partnerships, INTPA G1, European Commission (Confirmed)
- Luisa Fondello, Senior International Cooperation Officer, Caritas / CONCORD EUROPE (Confirmed)

#### Moderator :

- Marianna Leite, Global Advocacy and Development Policy Manager, ACT Alliance (confirmed)

#### Reactions from Critical Friends :

- Cathrine Barklin, Dan Church Aid (confirmed)
- Elaine Neuenfeldt, Gender Justice Programme Manager, ACT Alliance (confirmed)

### Organizers

ACT Alliance, Financial Transparency Coalition and Eurodad

### Format

This will be an in-person panel with the possibility of hybrid participation. All panellists will be in-person while critical friends and participants will be either in-person or online. The panel will be recorded and the recording will be shared with participants afterwards.

### Practical Information

*A light lunch will be served for those attending in-person. We kindly ask those that aim to attend in-person to register until the 24<sup>th</sup> of May via email. For those that aim to join virtually, a Zoom link will be provided via email upon request.*

### Contact

Please send in-person attendance, confirmations and any logistical questions and/or suggestions to [acttrainee@actalliance.org](mailto:acttrainee@actalliance.org). For those joining online, we kindly ask you to [please register via the Zoom link](#).