



*The Group of Friends of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR, including Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Senegal, Spain, Slovakia, Portugal and Uruguay; the International NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights cordially invite you to a parallel event to the 22nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council on*

## **PROTECTING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS: THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE ICESCR**

*Wednesday 13 March 2013 - Room VIII, Palais des Nations,  
From 1:15pm to 3pm*

On 5 February, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights gained its 10th ratification, enabling its entry into force on 5 May 2013. For the first time, individuals whose economic, social and cultural rights have been violated will have access to an international remedy at the universal level. Building on this momentum, in the year marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, this event will highlight the importance of OP-ICESCR to the full realization of human rights and the need to achieve widespread ratification of the OP-ICESCR to ensure access to justice for all.

### **With interventions by**

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang - *Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque- *UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation*

Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre - *Permanent Representative of Uruguay*

Ambassador Fedor Rosocha - *Permanent Representative of Slovakia*

Ambassador Alberto Pedro D'Alotto - *Permanent Representative of Argentina*

Ambassador Nicolas Niemtchinow - *Permanent Representative of France*

Ms. Ivahanna Larrosa - *Coordinator of the International NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR*

### **Moderated by**

Ambassador Graça Andresen Guimarães - *Permanent Representative of Portugal*

The event will be held in English - Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided

*For more information, please contact Ana Brito ([hr2@missionportugal.ch](mailto:hr2@missionportugal.ch))  
or Ivahanna Larrosa ([ilarrosa@escr-net.org](mailto:ilarrosa@escr-net.org))*