

# Freedom of Religion or Belief: Towards an Agenda for Implementation



**8 March 2017**  
**1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.**  
**Palais des Nations - Room XXIII**

The fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief remains challenged in many parts of the world. Violations or abuses of freedom of religion or belief, committed both by state and non-state actors, are widespread and complex and affect people in all parts of the world, highlighting the need for an agenda for implementation. Crucial to the protection and advancement of the right to freedom of religion or belief is an understanding of the persisting challenges, implementation gaps and emerging trends.

This panel will offer the opportunity to take stock of the progress made to advance the enjoyment of the freedom of religion or belief and to identify a way forward. The panel will also encourage discussion among various international, regional and national stakeholders on the recommendations provided in the Special Rapporteur's latest report in relation to the guiding framework for the implementation of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

*A light lunch will be served prior to the event.*

## WELCOME



Ambassador **Peter Sørensen**  
Head of EU Delegation to the UN in  
Geneva



Ambassador **Olaph Terribile**  
Permanent Representative of Malta  
to the UN in Geneva

## PANELLISTS



**Ahmed Shaheed**  
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief



**Ján Figel'**  
EU Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of  
religion or belief outside the EU



**Elizabeth O'Casey**  
Director of Advocacy at the International Humanist  
and Ethical Union (IHEU)