

**Oral Statement**  
**Farewell Ceremony to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,**  
**Ms. Michelle Bachelet**

*30. August 2021*

Thank you, Mr. President,

Madam High Commissioner,

As the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, we like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude for your unwavering commitment and your tireless, constructive work and efforts you have performed as the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the past four years.

Despite the continuous widespread challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, local and international conflicts, and the triple planetary crisis (Climate Change, Air Pollution and Biodiversity Loss), you have continuously highlighted the need to put human rights at the centre of all efforts and ensure their respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment across the world.

We especially appreciate the progress and achievements accomplished in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, addressing the issues of inequalities, including gender inequality, food and water resources, as well as access to health care and education public services, and adequate housing conditions. Thanks to your efforts, economic, social and cultural rights have received increasing efforts and attention despite the threats and challenges that they have been facing in recent years.

You have laid the foundation to further strengthen these areas and rights and it is thus with hope and enthusiasm that we look forward to further engage with the Council and the next High Commissioner on topics related to ESC rights, especially the privatisation of public services such as health care and education, fiscal policies, and a gender-just green transition.

Madam High Commissioner, GI-ESCR would like to thank you once again and wish you success in your future endeavours.

Thank you.

**Contact:**

**Juliette Wyss**, UNOG Focal Point & Climate Change Fellow, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, [juliette@gi-escr.org](mailto:juliette@gi-escr.org)