

**PROHIBITION OF INCITEMENT TO NATIONAL, RACIAL OR
RELIGIOUS HATRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**

EXPERT SEMINAR FOR THE EUROPEAN REGION

**Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
at the Vienna International Center**

9 and 10 February 2011



INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. Background and objectives of the expert workshop

1. In follow-up to its 2008 Expert Seminar on the links between articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) with regard to freedom of expression and incitement to hatred, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will organize a series of expert workshops on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred which will explore legislative patterns, judicial practices and policies in this regard.

2. By grounding the debate around incitement to hatred in international human rights law, the objective of the series of expert workshops is to gain a better understanding of legislative patterns, judicial practices and policies in the different regions of the world with regard to the concept of incitement to national, racial, or

religious hatred, while ensuring full respect for freedom of expression as outlined in articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR; to arrive at a comprehensive assessment of the state of implementation of this prohibition of incitement in conformity with international human rights law; and to identify possible actions at all levels.

3. Four workshops will be held throughout 2011 starting with the event for the European region, held in Vienna from 9-10 February 2011. The following workshops will be for the African region (Nairobi, 6-7 April 2011), the Asia Pacific region (Bangkok, 6-7 July 2011) and the Americas region (Santiago, 12-13 October 2011).

II. Expert-driven nature of the event

4. Twelve experts have been invited by OHCHR to participate in the workshop and have been requested to prepare background papers on the topics of the seminar. These papers come in addition to a commissioned study regarding relevant legislation, examples of jurisprudence and different types of policies in the countries of the region.

5. Each session of the expert workshop will begin with the presentation of background papers prepared by the experts. Each expert will speak for 10 to 15 minutes after which a discussion among expert will ensue. Subsequently the floor will be given to observers to make comments and ask questions to the experts.

6. Member States, United Nations departments and programmes, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions are invited to participate in the expert workshop as observers. Expertise on the subject matter is highly recommended for those who may wish to attend the workshop as observer.

III. Provisional agenda for and outcome of the expert workshop

7. A provisional programme of work containing the themes and specific topics to be considered at the expert workshop is available at the following internet address: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/articles1920_iccpr/

8. The outcome of each expert workshop will be a report reflecting the discussions and suggestions made during each workshop and, as addendum, the expert papers prepared for that workshop.

IV. Date, time, venue, languages

9. The expert workshop will be held from 9 to 10 February 2011. The morning sessions will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. The afternoon sessions will start at 3:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The seminar will take place at the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Vienna International Centre (VIC), in conference room M3.

10. Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

11. The venue is easily accessible including to people with disabilities. Take the underground line U1 in the direction of Leopoldau until you reach Kaisermühlen/Vienna International Centre and then follow the signs to Gate 1 of the VIC, the main entrance. The VIC is also easy to reach by car via the A22 motorway or from the city centre via the Reichsbrücke. Participants coming by taxi are advised to leave the vehicle in the side lane (Nebenfahrbahn) of the Wagramer Strasse and subsequently register at Gate 1. An airport bus service operates to and from the Vienna International Airport, to the Vienna International Centre. Journey time is approximately 35 minutes.

Underground lines map



V. Visa requirements

12. Austria is a signatory to the Schengen agreement, which has implications for those requiring visas for Austria. As the documentation required for obtaining a Schengen visa may vary from one country to another, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Austrian representation in your country as soon as possible to inquire whether a visa is needed and, if so, which documentation is required. The time required for a Schengen visa to be processed may also vary from case to case. It is therefore important to take the necessary steps to apply for your visa at least 15 days in advance. Please note that one requirement for issuance of the Schengen visa is that travellers be insured for the duration of their stay in the Schengen zone.

VI. Registration

13. A registration form can be found on the above mentioned website (see under point 7). Participants are requested to register in advance, and at the latest by **Monday, 17 January 2011**. Please send the completed registration form to OHCHR on article20ICCP@ohchr.org. Delegations of States, international and non-governmental organizations and other organizations participating should have no more than three persons representing their organization and are expected to cover their own expenses related to their participation.

14. Please be advised of the following procedures to be respected for accessing the conference venue on the day of the event. Security regulations at the VIC require that all participants be registered in order to enter the VIC premises. Registration will take place in the Pass Office at Gate I on 9 February 2011, from 8.00 a.m. onwards. Participants in the expert workshop are invited to register as early as possible and are requested to complete registration formalities by 10:00 a.m. on 9 February 2011 in order to be on time for the opening meeting.

15. Upon registration, participants not already in possession of a VIC grounds pass will be issued VIC conference passes, in the appropriate categories, bearing their name and affiliation. The necessary photographs for the conference passes will be taken in the Pass Office at Gate I. For security reasons the display of conference/grounds passes is necessary for admittance to the VIC as well as to the conference premises.

16. All persons registered will receive a badge for the seminar. One is kindly requested to wear the meeting badge throughout the seminar for identification and security reasons.

VII. Documentation

17. The papers prepared by the experts as well as the background study commissioned by OHCHR will be available at the workshop. These documents will also be accessible ahead of the event on the following website: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/articles1920_iccp/ Written contributions by observers are also welcome. Since reproduction capacity will be limited, observers are requested to bring with them an appropriate number of copies of the documents that they wish to make available to the seminar.

VIII. Accommodation

18. Please note that all participants, including expert panelists, will need to directly make their own hotel reservations.

IX. Service available at the Vienna International Center

19. Postal services: A post office on the first floor of Building C provides all regular postal services, including cable, fax and telephone services, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cash transactions from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
20. Banks: Bank Austria-Creditanstalt has two branches on the first floor of Building C and at the entrance of Building D, providing full banking services. Their office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
21. Medical services: Medical attention is available from the clinic operated by the Joint Medical Services located at the VIC, Building F, 7th floor. Opening hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday to Friday; and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. On Thursday it is open from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. In case of emergency the Medical service is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., outside these hours, contact the Central Security Office, F0E21.
22. Catering services: A cafeteria, a restaurant and a bar are located in Building F on the entrance level. The restaurant is open from 11:30 to 14:30. The cafeteria is open from 7:30 to 10:00 and from 11:30 to 14:30. The coffee counter in the cafeteria is open from 7:30 to 15:30. During the session, the coffee corner on the ground and 1st floor of Building M will also be in operation from 9:00 to 16:00.
23. Travel services: American Express and Carlson WagonLit are at the disposal of participants requiring assistance with such matters as travel, sightseeing, car rental and excursions. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
24. Internet: An internet café is available at the ground floor of the M-building.

X. Inquiries

25. For further information, please contact:

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