**Enhancing cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights**

**UN Human Rights Office workshop to bring together UN officials, regional human rights mechanisms, human rights defenders and civil society**

**4-5 October, Palais des Nations**

GENEVA (29 September 2016) – Representatives from regional human rights organisations are due to attend a two-day workshop in Geneva on 4 and 5 October in Geneva on enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional and country-based groups devoted to protecting and promoting human rights.

The meeting, organised by the UN Human Rights Office, will take place in Room XIX at the Palais des Nations. Among those due to attend include the presidents of the American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, the African Court of Human Rights, and the Arab Human Rights Committee, as well as senior officials from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, ASEAN’s Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the Council of Europe, OSCE/ODIHR, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Representatives from the national human rights institutions of Qatar, Costa Rica, Maldives, Serbia, Uganda and Cameroon are also due to attend.

Among the issues likely to be addressed are the challenges faced by human rights defenders, including reprisals and death threats; and restrictions on freedom of assembly and association.

The focus of the discussions will be to explore ways of enhancing cooperation between the UN, the regional human rights mechanisms, human rights defenders and civil society groups.

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