

## **Program of Work**

### **THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER**

#### **10:00-10:30 Item 1: Opening Meeting**

1. Statement by the President of the Human Rights Council H.E Mr. Vojislav Šuc
2. Video Statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet
3. Statement by the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Dr. Fernand de Varennes
4. Remarks by the Chair of the Forum Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye

#### **11:00-13:00 Item 2: Root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities: preventing statelessness through a human rights approach**

The session will discuss the impact of statelessness on a person's ability to enjoy fully human rights and fundamental freedoms and to have access to remedy for human rights violations.

This session will also provide an opportunity to explore the interconnections between prevention of statelessness through the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to minorities, particularly through the prohibition and elimination of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion and language and combating multiple vulnerabilities associated with statelessness.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Mr. John Packer** (Canada), Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution in the Faculty of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa

- **Mr. Amal de Chickera (Sri Lanka)**, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion
- **Ms. Diana Gichengo (Kenya)**, Identity and Inclusion Programme Manager at Kenya Human Rights Commission
- **Olena Vaidalovych (Ukraine)**, Charitable Organization "Roma Women Fund "Chiricli"

#### **Interactive Dialogue**

***11<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 29 and 30 November 2018***

---

**13:00-15:00 Lunch break and side events in rooms XXI, XXIII, XXIV**

**15:00-18:00 Item 3: Statelessness resulting from conflicts, forced population movements and migration affecting minorities: main challenges and possible solutions**

The session will discuss the impact of conflicts and their consequences in terms of statelessness of persons belonging to minorities, as a result of, inter alia, forced displacement, population transfers and forced migration.

Consideration will also be given to examples illustrating measures to adopt fair statelessness determination procedures in order to ensure that individuals enjoy their human rights during border crossing, until they acquire a nationality.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Mr. Joshua Castellino** (India), Executive Director of Minority Rights Group International (MRG).

- **Ms. Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh**, Deputy Director of the Division of International Protection, UNHCR
- **Ms. Wai Wai Nu** (Myanmar), Director of Women's Peace Network
- **Mr. P. P. Sivapragasam** (Sri Lanka), President of Human Development Organization

**Interactive Dialogue**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30**

**10:00-13:00 Item 4: Ensuring the right to a nationality for persons belonging to minorities through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship for stateless minorities**

The session will address the challenges faced by persons belonging to minorities, including nomadic and other non-traditional minorities and minorities living in isolated border areas, in obtaining or demonstrating citizenship. It will also provide an opportunity to identify examples of effective measures for the elimination of laws and practices that arbitrarily deny or deprive persons of their nationality on the basis of discriminatory grounds such as race, ethnicity, religion and language.

## ***11<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 29 and 30 November 2018***

---

During the session, participants will share views on effective ways to ensure access to the documentation needed to prove nationality or entitlement to nationality for all, without discrimination.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Mr. Amal de Chickera** (Sri Lanka/), Co-Founder and Co-Director of Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion

- **Ms. Elizabete Krivcova** (Latvia), Board Member of Latvian Non-Citizen's Congress
- **Mr. Khalid Hussain** (Bangladesh), Chief Executive at Council of Minorities
- **Beneco Enecia** (Dominican Republic), Director of the Center for Sustainable Development (CEDES0)

### **Interactive Dialogue**

**13:00-15:00 Lunch break and side events in rooms XXI, XXIII, XXIV**

### **15:00-17:45 Item 5: Minority women and children affected by statelessness: advancing gender equality in nationality laws**

This session will discuss the impact of statelessness on children, including in terms of access to primary education and health-care services, and on women in terms of accessing sexual and reproductive health services and rights.

The session will also discuss the impact of advancing gender equality in laws such as citizenship laws and the potential impact on preventing or eliminating the statelessness of persons belonging to minorities.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Ms. Anastasia Crickley** (Ireland), Vice-President of International Association for Community Development, Former Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- **Benyam Dawit Mezmur** (Ethiopia), Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Ms. Noro Ravaozanany** (Madagascar), President of Focus Development Association

***11<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 29 and 30 November 2018***

---

- **Ms. Nina Murray** (United Kingdom), Head of Policy and Research at European Network on Statelessness

**Interactive Dialogue**

**17:45-18:00 Item 6: Concluding remarks**

Concluding remarks by **Mr. Fernand de Varennes**, Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Concluding remarks by **Ms Rita Izsák-Ndiaye**, Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues

***Session closes***