

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Forum on Minority Issues
Fourth Session
Room XX Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Tuesday, 29 November 2011

Morning Session
10:00 - 13:00

I. 10: 00-10:30 Opening meeting

Opening statement by the President of the Human Rights Council
H.E. Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre

Video message by the Independent Expert on Minority Issues
Ms. Rita Izsák

Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues
Ms. Graciela Dixon

In the following sessions there will be brief presentations on each issue under discussion. All participants will then have an opportunity to comment, based on a sign-up sheet, on the draft recommendations before them.

II. 10:30 -11:00 International and regional human rights frameworks and recent global initiatives relating to minority women's rights

This session will provide participants with a brief overview of existing international standards and principles and recent global initiatives relating to the rights of minority women with a view to set the framework for the ensuing discussions.

Presentations by:

- Anastasia Crickley (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)
- Soyata Maiga (ACPHR Special Rapporteur on women's rights in Africa)
- Leonardo Reales Jimenez (Colombia)
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III. 11:00 – 13:00 Minority women and girls and the right to education

Under this agenda item, the discussion will identify the essential requirements for an effective education strategy for minority women and girls; remaining barriers and measures aimed at guaranteeing their equal access to quality education and training.

Presentations by:

- Maya Sahli (Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent)
- Kirsi Madi (UNICEF)
- Farah Naqvi (India)
- Beata Bislím Olahova (Slovakia)
- Hannan Elsaneh (Israel)
- Maria Joyce (Ireland)

Discussion

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

15:00 – 18:00

IV. 15:00-18:00 Minority women and effective political participation

Under this agenda item, the discussion will identify the conditions required to guarantee the effective political participation of minority women, as well as remaining obstacles, concrete steps and existing measures aimed at increasing the political participation of minority women.

Presentations by:

- Mercedes Barquet (Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice)
- Sonu Rani Das (Bangladesh)
- Renu Sijapati (Nepal)
- Sherine Xavier (Sri Lanka)
- Kareen Jabre (Inter-Parliamentary Union)
- Anastasia Chukhman (Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

Discussion

Wednesday, 30 November

Morning Session

10:00 – 13:00

V. 10:00-13:00 Minority women and effective participation in economic, social and cultural life

Under this agenda item, the discussion will identify existing challenges faced by minority women and good practices to ensure their access to work, labour markets, sustainable livelihood activities generally undertaken by men, social security, culturally and gender-sensitive health care and childcare facilities, housing, land, property and inheritance.

Presentations by:

- Pramila Patten (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)
- Heisoo Shin (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- Atieno Jennipher Kere (Kenya)
- Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf (Somalia)
- Aleksandra Bojadjeva (FYROM)
- Jocelyne Stevens (Canada)
- Sonia Pie (Dominican Republic)
- Maria Vicenta Andrade Chalán (UN Women)

Discussion

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

15:00 – 18:00

Statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay

VI. 15:15-17:30 National practices and experiences: positive measures/affirmative action and role models

Under this agenda item governments are invited to describe their national laws and their political, economic, social and cultural policies and practices designed to support and promote equal rights and opportunities for minority women. Minority women will discuss their role in policy and decision-making in the public and private spheres and share their positive grass-roots experiences, including as role models who have achieved success in the arts, science, culture and sports. Discussions will also focus on measures to enhance the mainstreaming of women's rights in minority groups' discourses and how

women's organizations are integrating the rights of minorities in their overall work and activities.

Presentations by:

- Shaista Gohir (UK)
- Angie Cruickshank (Costa Rica)
- Libérate Nicayenzi (Burundi)
- Mucha-Shim Quiling Arquiza (The Phillipines)
- Marilyn Pasco Gonzalez (Colombia)
- Nagwa Musa Konda (Sudan)

Discussion

VII. 17:30-17:45 Concrete steps aimed at guaranteeing the rights of minority women

Under this agenda item, discussion will focus on improving the draft recommendations with a view to formulate practical policies, actions or programmes that would ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of minority women and generate a greater degree of participation in private and public life at the national, regional and local levels.

Discussion

VIII. 17:45-18:00 Concluding remarks

Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues

Session Closes