



# General Assembly

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**Human Rights Council**  
**Forum on Minority Issues**  
Fifth session  
Geneva, 27-28 November 2012

## **Provisional agenda and annotations thereto**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: 20 years on
3. Perspectives from young minority rights advocates on the Declaration
4. Practical use of the Declaration: identification of good practices and positive measures
5. Challenges and problems encountered in the practical implementation of the Declaration
6. Consideration of future opportunities and initiatives for raising awareness of the Declaration, and ensuring its practical implementation
7. Concluding remarks

## **1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

### **Venue**

1. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 and 19/23, the fifth session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held in Geneva on 27 and 28 November 2012.
2. The Forum will have before it the provisional agenda contained in the present document to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex I.

### **Opening meeting**

3. At the current session, the President of the Human Rights Council will deliver an opening statement. Statements will then be made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues and the Independent Expert on minority issues.

### **Documentation**

4. A list of documents for the session is provided in annex II. In addition to normal distribution, official documents for the session will be made available on the Human Rights Council website ([www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Minority/Pages/Session5.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Minority/Pages/Session5.aspx)).

### **Discussions**

5. At the current session, participants will have an opportunity to make brief presentations and comments based on the draft recommendations that they will have before them. After the presentations, given at the beginning of each agenda item, there will be an open discussion to which all participants will be invited to contribute, based on a sign-up sheet.

## **2. The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: 20 years on**

6. Under the agenda item, identified experts and eminent persons in the field of minority issues, including those involved in drafting the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, will reflect upon this key document and how it has lived up to the expectations 20 years since its adoption in 1992. Issues for consideration will include the global situation of minorities today, the progress made, remaining and new challenges and the role of the Declaration in addressing them.

### **3. Perspectives from young minority rights advocates on the Declaration**

7. Under the agenda item, selected young minority advocates will be invited to share their views on what the Declaration means to them and their lives in diverse and multicultural societies. They will discuss whether the Declaration is still relevant and meaningful to their context, as well as creative ideas to help to raise awareness of the Declaration and ensure its implementation in their own societies and globally.

### **4. Practical use of the Declaration: identification of good practices and positive measures**

8. The agenda item will focus on national laws, policies and practices that have been developed to foster the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and their impact on the full enjoyment of their rights by minorities. Successful awareness-raising activities and projects developed by various stakeholders will also be presented. Governments will be invited to describe their political, economic, social and cultural policies designed to support and promote equal rights and opportunities for persons belonging to minorities. Minorities will discuss the role that they can and should play in raising awareness of the Declaration and in ensuring its implementation at different levels. They will also share their positive grass-roots experiences as individuals and members of a minority group.

### **5. Challenges and problems encountered in the practical implementation of the Declaration**

9. Under the agenda item, participants will identify and discuss any challenges and problems that have been encountered and persist in implementing the Declaration on Minority Rights in practice, and by different stakeholders at all levels.

### **6. Consideration of future opportunities, initiatives and further possibilities for raising awareness of the Declaration, and ensuring its practical implementation**

10. Under the agenda item, the discussion will focus on improving the draft recommendations that participants have before them. The objective will be to formulate practical policies, actions or programmes to ensure better, more systematic implementation of the Declaration and the principles therein, in addition to ensuring its widespread dissemination. Possible ways to tackle the challenges identified at the previous session will also be discussed.

### **7. Concluding remarks**

11. The Chairperson of the Forum and the Independent Expert on minority issues will share their concluding remarks, including forward-looking proposals for next steps, with Forum participants.

## Annex I

### Schedule of work

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*Tuesday, 27 November 2012*

*10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

*3 p.m. – 6 p.m.*

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- Opening of the Forum on Minority Issues
- Welcome and opening remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council
  - Remarks by the Independent Expert on minority issues
  - Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
  - Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues

Practical use of the Declaration: identification of good practices and positive measures

The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: 20 years on

Perspectives from young minority advocates on the Declaration

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*Wednesday, 28 November 2012*

*10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

*3 p.m. – 6 p.m.*

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Challenges and problems encountered in the practical implementation of the Declaration

Consideration of future opportunities and initiatives for raising awareness of the Declaration, and ensuring its practical implementation

Concluding remarks

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## Annex II

### Documents before the Forum on Minority Issues at its fifth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
A/HRC/FMI/2012/1	Provisional agenda and annotations thereto; note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/FMI/2012/2	Note by the Independent Expert on minority issues, Rita Izsák, on implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: identifying positive practices and opportunities
A/HRC/FMI/2012/3	Draft recommendations on implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: identifying positive practices and opportunities

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