

# Fifth session of the Forum on Minority Issues

## PROGRAMME OF WORK

27 November 2012

### Morning Session

10:00 - 13:00

#### I. 10:00-11:00 Opening meeting

Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues, **Ms. Soyata Maiga**

Video-message from the **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

Statement by the President of the Human Rights Council, **H.E. Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre**

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

Remarks by the Independent Expert on Minority Issues, **Ms. Rita Izsák**

#### II. 11:00 -11:30 The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: 20 years on

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.

##### Presentations by:

- **Mr Patrick Thornberry, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, presenting on “Some Controversies in the Drafting of the Declaration: A Personal Recollection”**
- **Mr Asbjorn Eide, former Chairman of the United Nations Working Group on Minorities, presenting on “The Declaration and its Commentary”**
- **Ms. Gay McDougall, former Independent Expert on minority issues, presenting on “The First Mandate: Experiences and Lessons Learned”**

#### III. 11:30 – 12:00 Perspectives from young minority rights advocates on the Declaration

Selected young minority rights advocates will 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.

##### Presentations by OHCHR Minority Fellows:

- **Issa Al-Hewetat, presenting on “Minorities and the right to education”**
- **Mabruka Sebit and Rasha Qass, presenting on “Minorities and Effective Political Participation”**
- **Iurie Caldarari and Kandya Gissela Obezo Casseres, presenting on “Minorities and Effective Participation in Economic Life”**
- **Irada Beldjebel and Jugal Kishore Ranajit, presenting on “Religious Minorities”**

12:00 – 13:00 Open discussion

**Afternoon Session**  
**15:00 – 18:00**

*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.*

**IV. 15:00-18:00: Practical use of the Declaration: identification of good practices and positive measures**

This 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.

**Presentations by:**

- **Mr Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section-OHCHR, presenting an “Overview of activities conducted to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on Minority Rights by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and way forward”**
- **Ms. Lotta Sylwander, Representative of UNICEF in Viet Nam, presenting on “UNICEF’s Ethnic Minority Strategy and Mother Tongue Bilingual Education programme”**
- **Mr Alexey Kozhemyakov, Head of National Minorities and Antidiscrimination Department of the Council of Europe, presenting on “The work of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities”**
- **Mr Heiner Bielefeldt, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, presenting on “The rights of religious minorities”**

**Discussion**

**16:30 – 18:00**

- **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, presenting on “The work of the HCNM to implement the Declaration in practice”**
- **Ms. Lydia Saleshando, presenting on “National Reforms on Minority Issues in Botswana: Implementing the Declaration”**
- **Ms. Anna Rothery Fox, presenting on “Liverpool-A case study on minorities and effective political participation”**
- **Ms. Belma Podrug, presenting on “Minority Issues on the Rise: A Canadian Prairie Perspective”**
- **Mr Carl Soderbergh, Director of Policy and Communications with Minority Rights Group International, presenting on their “Compilation of Good Practices in relation to the implementation of the Declaration”**

**Discussion**

28 November 2012

## **Morning Session**

**10:00 – 13:00**

### **V. 10:00-13:00: Challenges and problems encountered in the practical implementation of the Declaration**

Under this 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.

#### **Presentations by:**

- **Ms. Leydi Pérez Venté, presenting on the “*Reality of ethnic rights in Afro black people facing the Declaration on the rights of minorities, 20 years later*”**
- **Mr Melakou Tegegn, presenting on “*Minorities and the African context*”**
- **Ms. Carla Amina Baghajati, presenting on “*Raising awareness for minority rights – How to pave a way from a regulatory framework to broad public support (with special attention to the situation of Muslims in Austria/Europe)*”**
- **Mr Jafar Al-Shayeb, presenting on “*Challenges facing Implementation of the Declaration: Regional Perspectives*”**

#### **Discussion**

#### **Presentations by:**

- **Mr Martin Chungong, Deputy Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union presenting on “*Challenges faced by the IPU in its efforts aimed at implementing the Declaration*”**
- **Ms. Zola Kondur, presenting on “*The challenges faced by the Roma communities in effective participation in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life*”**
- **Mr Jakob Finci, presenting on “*Implementation of ECfHR Grand Chamber Judgment dated 22 December 2009 in Case Sejdic & Finci v Bosnia and Herzegovina*”**
- **Ms. Punam Sijapati, presenting on “*The challenges faced by Dalit women in Nepal*”**

#### **Discussion**

## **Lunch Break**

## **Afternoon Session**

**15:00 – 18:00**

### **VI. 15:00-17:45: Consideration of future opportunities, initiatives and further possibilities for raising awareness of the Declaration, and ensuring its practical implementation**

Under this 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.

**Presentations by:**

- **International Chief Littlechild, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** presenting on *“Good practices in the work of the Expert Mechanism”*
- **Ms. Dwi Rubiyanti**, presenting on *“Confronting Fundamentalism, Raising Awareness on Minority Rights in Indonesia”*
- **Ms. Atidal Sliman**, presenting on *“Awareness-raising to cultural, social, economic and political rights among Arab Bedouin minority women, men and children in the unrecognised villages”*

**Discussion**

**Presentations by:**

- **Mr Endeko Charles Endeko**, presenting on *“Minority political participation: the situation of the Hadzabe in Tanzania”*
- **Ms. Risha Syed**, presenting on *“Moving forward: a way ahead”*

**Discussion**

**VIII. 17:45-18:00 Concluding remarks**

**Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues and the Independent Expert on minority issues**

*Session Closes*