

Seventh Forum on Minority Issues

25 and 26 November 2014

"Preventing and addressing violence and atrocities targeted against minorities"

Substantive Preparation Note

The purpose of the Forum on Minority Issues is to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and to gather the analysis and comments from a broad array of participants on the challenges faced by minorities and States in creating fully inclusive societies.

The Forum will seek to provide concrete and tangible outcomes in the form of thematic recommendations of practical value to all stakeholders. Therefore, the set of draft recommendations available on the Forum's website shall constitute the basis for discussions during the two-day session. We hope that through your respective interventions and observations you and other participants will contribute to the elaboration of the final recommendations.

Given that the nature of this Forum is to be a platform for dialogue, the meeting will not seek to negotiate the provisions of, or formally adopt the recommendations as a body. Rather, and as called for in resolution 19/23, the thematic recommendations will be presented to the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2015.

Format and interventions

The meeting will follow the format of previous sessions of the Forum. A limited number of presenters will be asked to introduce each agenda item. Discussions under each agenda item will then be open to all participants according to requests to be placed on the speakers' list.

In order to allow for the largest possible substantive contributions and to enable a more interactive dialogue, participants are kindly requested to limit their interventions **to no more than 3 minutes** and to base those on the draft recommendations which are intended to guide the Forum discussions with the objective of further strengthening and developing their content (please refer to the relevant documentation posted on the website). In this respect, participants are asked to focus on the identification of:

- concrete scenarios where minority rights violations lead to violence, with a special focus on how gross and persistent inequalities, including intersecting forms of discrimination, enhance the vulnerability of minorities to violence and atrocity crimes;

- positive examples of minority rights implementation frameworks and adequate, appropriate and timely inclusive measures as a means to effectively prevent violence and atrocity crimes against minorities;
- particular challenges faced by all stakeholders in responding to violence against minorities after it has broken out and concrete measures for immediate operational security response;
- concrete initiatives to address immediate, medium and long-term post-violence scenarios and to build and ensure a stable and lasting peace, including through the effective implementation of minority rights in post-violence and conflict situations.

Kindly note that all speakers are expected to intervene only on issues relating to the relevant agenda item. While we understand that it is important to address minority rights situations in their proper context and that your presentations are likely to be based on country examples, the Forum should not be considered as an opportunity simply to attack the practices or policies of a certain State. It would be preferable if your presentation were balanced and also reflect positive actions by States and possible solutions to challenges, as well as general considerations relating to the particular thematic issue.

Please note that abusive or disrespectful language or derogatory and inflammatory remarks by any participant will not be tolerated during the Forum. All participants should ensure that a sense of respect and tolerance permeates the discussion.

Electronic version of presentations

While submission of written contributions is not required prior to the Forum, you are invited to send us an electronic version of your oral presentation. This would assist the work of the interpreters and will be posted on the Forum's website following the conclusion of the session.

The electronic version of presentations will be posted on the website only with the express permission from intervening participants.