

Eighth Forum on Minority Issues

24 and 25 November 2015

"Minorities in the Criminal Justice System"

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 thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council in March 2016.

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.

Kindly note that there will be brief Q&A segment at the end of each agenda item, therefore participants are expected to intervene only on issues relating to the relevant agenda item and are invited to address specific questions to the presenters.

In order to allow for the largest possible substantive contributions and to enable a more interactive dialogue, participants will be 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). 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

You are strongly advised to send an electronic version of your oral presentation to the Secretariat of the Forum at minorityforum@ohchr.org. This would assist the work of conference service during the Plenary session, particularly by facilitating the work of the interpreters.

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

Webcast

Plenary sessions on 24 and 25 November in Room XX will be live streamed on UN Web TV (<http://webtv.un.org/>). The link will also be available at the Forum web page.