

Treaty body strengthening

Informal technical consultation for States parties Sion, Switzerland, 12 – 13 May 2011

Provisional programme

Thursday 12 May 2011

8:00 – Meeting point at Avenue de la Paix between number 9 and 11 (100 m from Place des Nations on the right hand side in the direction of WMO and WTO)

8:15 - Departure from Geneva by bus

9:45 - Arrival at the International Child Rights Institute, Sion

10:15 – Opening Session

Chaired by Ms. Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Video message by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
- Key note address by Ms. Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Opening statement by Mr. Jürg Lindenmann, Vice Director of the Directorate of International Law, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Historical perspective on reform proposals of the treaty body system by Mr. Jean Zermatten, Director of the International Institute for Children’s Rights and Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Current and future challenges of the treaty body system by Ms. Yanghee Lee, Chairperson of the Meeting of Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies
- Short video on the treaty body system

11:15 - Strengthening the preparation of States parties’ reports

Moderator: Mr. Anwar Kemal (Chairperson of CERD)

Panellists:

- Ms. Zonke Zanele Majodina (Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee)
- Mr. Fernando Bielza Díaz-Caneja (Deputy Director, Human Rights Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain)

- Mr. Christoph Spenlé (Chief of the Human Rights Section, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs)
- Mr. Junichiro Otani (First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations)

Discussions will focus on 1) experiences 2) expectations 3) suggestions and will cover, inter alia, the following points:

- How to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination for the preparation of treaty body reports?
- How to improve national consultations during the preparation of States parties' reports (using also UPR experience)?
- How to attain more focused States parties' reports?
- How to ensure that States parties' periodic reports provide systematic information on the implementation of previous recommendations?
- Are there alternatives to standard reporting procedures (such as including lists of issues prior to reporting)?

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 - Strengthening the preparation of States parties' reports (continued)

16:00 - Coffee/tea break

16:30 - Enhancing the constructive dialogue between Treaty Bodies and States parties

Moderator: Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri (Chairperson of CMW)

Panellist: Ms. Dubravka Simonovic (Chairperson of the CEDAW Optional Protocol Working Group)

Discussions will focus on 1) experiences 2) expectations 3) suggestions and will cover, inter alia, the following points:

- How to maximize the quality of the dialogue between treaty bodies and States parties?
- How to enhance the visibility of the dialogue?
- Can alternatives to a face-to-face dialogue be sought?

18:30 - End of programme Day 1 and departure by bus from meeting venue to the hotels

19:40 – Departure by bus from hotels to dinner venue

20:00 – Dinner (Caves Giroud, Route de Nendaz 1, Sion)

22:30 – Departure by bus from dinner venue to the hotels

Friday 13 May 2011

8:30 – Departure from the hotels to the meeting venue

9:00 - Wrap-up of Day 1 (Treaty Body Chair)

9:15 - Implementation of treaty bodies' outputs and impact on the protection of rights holders

Moderator: Mr. Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Chairperson of CESCR)

Panellists:

- Mr. Zdenek Hajek (Vice-Chairperson of SPT)
- H.E. Gerard Corr (Permanent Representative of Ireland)
- Mr. Christian Guillermet-Fernandez (Deputy Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations)
- Mr. Pitso Montwedi (Councillor, Human Rights, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, South Africa)

Discussions will focus on 1) experiences 2) expectations 3) suggestions and will cover, inter alia, the following points:

- How to improve dissemination of treaty bodies' outputs, including with regard to concluding observations and decisions/views on individual communications?
- How to bring treaty bodies closer to the implementation level?
- How to reinforce implementation of treaty bodies' jurisprudence and recommendations at domestic level?
- How to ensure a coordinated process for the implementation of recommendations and jurisprudence at country level by the various treaty bodies?
- How to ensure an integrated implementation of all recommendations emanating from the main international human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, special procedures and UPR)?

11:00 - Coffee/tea break

11:30 - Implementation of treaty bodies' outputs and impact on the protection of rights holders (continued)

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 - Independence and expertise of treaty body members

Moderator: Mr. Ronald McCallum (Chairperson of CRPD)

Panellists:

- Ms. Yanghee Lee (Chairperson of CRC)
- Mr. Bob Last (Senior Human Rights Advisor, Permanent Mission of United Kingdom to the United Nations)
- Mr. Jens Faerkel (Minister Counsellor, Human Rights Unit, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Denmark)

Discussions will focus on 1) experiences 2) expectations 3) suggestions and will, inter alia, cover the following points:

- How to better clarify nomination requirements?
- How to maintain and increase expertise?
- How to improve national nomination processes?
- How to guarantee the independence of experts?

16:00 - Coffee/tea break

16:15 - Resourcing the treaty body system

Moderator: Mr. Claudio Grossman (Chairperson of CAT)

Presentations by:

- Ms. Shivona Tavares Walsh (Chief, Documents Management Section, CPCS, DCM)
- Ms. Kira Kruglikova (Executive Officer, Division of Conference Management)
- Mr. Eldon Pearce (Chief, Finance and Budget Section, PSMS, OHCHR)

- How to maximize existing resources?
- How to ensure sufficient minimum resources to match recent increase of treaty bodies and related work?

17:30 - Closing ceremony: summary of the main points discussed

18:00 - Departure to Geneva by bus

20:00 – Estimated arrival in Geneva