Modalities for panel discussions

Panel discussions will start and end punctually at the times indicated in the annotated provisional agenda of the Forum (available at www.ohchr.org/democracyforum).

Brief presentations introducing the topics on the agenda under consideration will be delivered by panellists, followed by a moderated open discussion, to which all participants are invited to contribute.

Session moderators will be responsible for ensuring participation from the floor and for facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Participants wishing to speak from the floor, should raise their hand or country plate (for State delegations). If given the floor, participants should clearly indicate their name and organization and keep their comments limited to 2 minutes.

Participants are also requested not to read from pre-prepared written statements, documents or published texts in order to stimulate dynamic discussions. Written submissions may be sent to the Forum Secretariat for online posting (to democracyforum@ohchr.org, indicating “Written submission” in the subject line).

Session moderators will use their discretion in managing interventions from the floor in order to enable different stakeholders to participate in the dialogue and to ensure a balanced debate, pertinent to the topic of the respective session. In line with the nature of the Forum all stakeholders, including States, representatives of international and regional organisations and non-governmental organizations participate on an equal footing.

Constructive and respectful dialogue

All participants are requested to show consideration for the mandate of the Forum to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
All participants are encouraged to contribute to the Forum’s spirit of constructive, multi-stakeholder dialogue.

*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.*

**Seating arrangements**

There will be free seating in room XVII. Participants are advised to be in the room at least 15 minutes before the start of the Forum.

**Languages**

Interpretation will be available in room XVII in all six UN official languages during the duration of the Forum.

**Webcast**

There will be live streaming of Forum sessions. The link to UN WebTV will be available via the Forum web page [www.ohchr.org/democracyforum](http://www.ohchr.org/democracyforum).