Commemorative event for the 30th Anniversary of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Geneva, Palais des Nations (Room XIX), 5 November 2010

Opening (10:00 – 10:30)

Introductory remarks:

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights followed by the video “Existence Denied”

H.E. Amb. Bente Angell-Hansen, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council

H.E. Amb. Jean-Baptiste Mattéi, Permanent Representative of France

H.E. Amb. Libère Bararunyeretse, Representative of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chair-Rapporteur of the WGEID

Panel I – The WGEID: stories and history (10:30 – 13:00)

10:30 – 12:15

- “The creation of the WGEID”, Mr. Theo van Boven, Honorary Professor of International Law, Maastricht University
- “The first years of operation”, Mr. Iain Guest, Executive Director, The Advocacy Project
- “The family/victim’s perspective”, Ms. Estela de Carlotto, President, Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo
- “Experience of a WGEID former member”, Mr. J’Bayo Adekanye, Professor of Political Science, Babcock University, former member of the WGEID
- “State response to disappearances over the last 30 years”, Louis Joinet, former Chair of the WGEID

12:15 – 13:00

Interactive Dialogue

Panel II – The WGEID: 30 years of evolution and the way forward (15:00 – 18:00)

15:00 – 16:45

- “WGEID’s contribution in defining enforced disappearances and developing an applicable legal regime”, Mr. Manfred Nowak, Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, former member of the WGEID
- “Reflections on the evolution of WGEID’s methods of work in implementing its humanitarian mandate”, Mr. Federico Andreu-Guzmán, Deputy Director of Litigation and Legal Protection, Colombian Commission of Jurists
- “The WGEID and the 1992 UN Declaration”, Ms. Mandira Sharma, Executive Director, Advocacy Forum – Nepal

- “State cooperation on missing and disappeared persons: best practices”, Ms. Kathryne Bomberger, Director General, International Commission on Missing Persons

- “The role of the NGOs regarding Enforced Disappearances: Cooperation with the WGEID”, Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, Lebanese Centre for Human Rights

- “Issues for the future work of the WGEID”, Ms. Gabriella Citroni, Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Milano-Bicocca

16:45 – 17:30
Interactive discussion

17:30 – 18:00
Conclusions and recommendations

18:00
Cocktail, next to room XIX