**Regional consultation on draft guidelines on the effective implementation   
of the right to participate in public affairs**

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** **(ESCAP)  
Bangkok**

**2 and 3 October 2017**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

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| **Monday, 2 October 2017** |

**Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.00pm**

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| **9.30am- 9.45am** | **Welcome, introduction and opening remarks**  Opening remarks by Ms. Katia Chirizzi, Regional Office for South-East Asia, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  Opening remarks by Ms. Nathalie Prouvez, Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) |
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| **9.45am-10.45am** | **Session 1: The right to participate in public affairs: Scope, content, and related guidance at the international, regional and national levels**  Moderator**:** Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)  **Introductory remarks by Mr. Miloon Kothari (India),** President of UPR Info and Former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing  ***Discussion*** |
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| **10.45am-11.00am Coffee break** | |
| **11.00am- 12.00pm** | **Session 2: Ensuring an enabling environment for the effective exercise of the right to participate in public affairs: pre-requisites**  **This session will discuss the normative and institutional frameworks that enable the enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs. It will also focus on the inter-linkages between the right to participate and other human rights, the implementation of which constitutes a pre-requisite for the full enjoyment of the right to participate, including the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.**  Moderator: Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity)  **Introductory remarks by:**   * **Mr. Ahmed Tholal (Maldives),** Senior Project Coordinator, Transparency International Maldives and former Deputy Chair, National Human Rights Commission * **Ms. Sor Rattanamanee Polkla (Thailand),** Co-founder, Community Resources Centre   ***Discussion*** |
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| **12.00pm-2.00pm Lunch break** | |

**Afternoon session: 2.00pm -5.00pm**

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| **2.00pm- 3.15pm** | **Session 3: Enjoyment of the equal right to participate in public affairs by all: overcoming challenges, creating opportunities and sharing good practices**    Moderator: Ms. Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)  **This session will discuss the impact of discrimination on the full, effective and equal enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs by all, as well as good national practices with regard to enhancing the right to participate of various marginalized groups. All discussions will include challenges from a gender perspective.**  **Introductory remarks by:**   * **Ms. Shreen Saroor (Sri Lanka)**, Founder, Mannar Women’s Development Federation * **Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand),** UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity   ***Discussion*** |
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| **3.15pm-3.30pm Coffee break** | |
| **3.30pm- 5.00pm** | **Session 3 (continued): Enjoyment of the equal right to participate in public affairs by all: overcoming challenges, creating opportunities and sharing good practices.**  Moderator: Mr Hernán Vales (OHCHR)    **Introductory remarks by:**   * **Ms. Patricia Wattimena (Indonesia),** Advocacy Coordinator, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact – Thailand * **Mr. Ramesh Nathan Vedana Jagam (India),** General Secretary, National Dalit Movement For Justice-NDMJ (NCDHR)  *Discussion* |
| **5.00pm Closing** | |

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| **Tuesday, 3 October 2017** |

**Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.00pm**

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| **9.30am- 10.45am** | **Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms**  Moderator: Mr. Miloon Kothari, President of UPR Info and Former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing  **Enhancing the role of civil society in the formulation, monitoring and implementation of policies and legislation.**  **Introductory remarks by:**   * **Mr. Saroeun Soeung (Cambodia),** Executive Director of Cooperation Committee for Cambodia * **Mr. Ahmed Rifai (Indonesia)**, Kota Kita Foundation   *Discussion* |
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| **10.45am-11.00am Coffee break** | |
| **11.00am- 12.00pm** | **Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms (*continued) :***  Moderator: Mr. Hernán Vales (OHCHR)  **Good national and regional practices in relation to ensuring accountability and transparency of public decision-making institutions**.  **Introductory remarks by Mr. Kedar Khadka (Nepal),** President, Go Go Foundation  **Technology and social media: opportunities and challenges to strengthen equal and meaningful participation**  **Introductory remarks by Ms. Bernise Ang (Singapore)**,co-founder and Executive Director of Zeroth Labs, Behavioural & Complex Systems Analyst and Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum  *Discussion* |
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| **12:00pm-2.00 pm Lunch break** | |

**Afternoon session: 2:00pm-5.00pm**

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| **2.00pm- 3.00 pm** | **Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms (*continued) :***  Moderator: Mr. Miloon Kothari, President of UPR Info and Former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing  **Good local practices in relation to ensuring meaningful and effective participation in local government.**  **Introductory remarks by Mr. Yoon Jang-hyun** **(Republic of Korea)**, Mayor of Gwangju.  *Discussion* |
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| **3.00pm-3.15pm Coffee break** | |
| **3.15pm-**  **4.15pm** | **Session 5: The right to participate at the international level, including within international organizations**  Moderator: Ms. Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)  **Introductory remarks by:**   * **Ms. Urantsooj Gombosuren (Mongolia),** Chairperson – Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)   *Discussion* |
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| **4.15pm-5.00pm** | **Closing session by Ms. Nathalie Prouvez and Mr. Miloon Kothari**  ***Recap of discussions, final discussion and participants’ recommendations on Content of guidelines*** |
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