

FACT SHEET

10TH SESSION OF THE FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES

1- What is the Forum on Minority Issues?

- The Forum is a 2-day meeting convened in Geneva from 30 November – 1 December 2017
- Participants, which include Member States, minority representatives, civil society, national and regional organizations, as well as Intergovernmental organizations discuss and identify a number of **action-oriented recommendations on a specific topic of relevance for minorities**.
- The Forum is guided by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues.
- The Forum is a **platform for dialogue, cooperation and networking** between all participants. It provides an opportunity to discuss in a multilateral international setting good practices and issues related to the selected topic and how it affects minorities.
- The Forum **prepares recommendations** that are presented by the Special Rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

2- Topic of the 10th session of the Minority Forum:

- This year, the Forum will focus on “**Minority youth: towards diverse and inclusive societies**”.
- The Forum particularly welcomes the participation of young people belonging to an ethnic, racial, religious, or linguistic minority, who wish to make their voice heard at the UN, and learn how to use international human rights tools to make a difference for their community.



3- Registration the Forum on Minority Issues:

- All participants are required to register for the Forum using an online registration system. Registrations will be open from 30th August up until 22nd November 2017. No application will be accepted after this date. The link for registration is: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/15567/>
- Please note that unless specifically discussed and permitted by the Secretariat, a maximum of two participants per organization will be registered.
- Participants will need to create a profile and complete the online registration before receiving confirmation of their registration by the Forum Secretariat. Any issues arising during the registering process can be addressed to FMI-registration@ohchr.org
- Confirmed participants will receive a QR code by email. The **QR code** needs to be scanned by UN Security upon arrival in order to issue a **badge of accreditation** to the UN premises.
- Some participants may need a visa to be able to travel to Switzerland
- Further logistical advice can be found on the page of the 10th session: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Minority/Pages/Session10.aspx>
- Please note that Forum participants will need to plan and fund their travels to Geneva. Participants are also responsible for organizing their own visas if necessary.

4- How to prepare for the Forum?

- The goal of the Forum is to identify gaps, share good practices and formulate proposals to bring about positive change for youth and society as a whole. The quality of the discussion and of the outcome recommendations will depend on the quality of your interventions.
- Participants are encouraged to actively prepare for the Forum by reading the **provisional agenda** on the topic of the Forum, the **provisional program of work**, and other material which will be made available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Minority/Pages/Session10.aspx>
- Participating organizations should consider sending **young delegates** to participate to the Forum.
- All participants are encouraged to reflect upon key issues **or recommendations** in connection with the topics for each of the thematic sessions.
- Participants are also encouraged to attend a **preparatory briefing on Wednesday 29 November from 10:00 until 13:00** in Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, during which the Special Rapporteur and the Chairperson of the 10th



session of the Forum will welcome all participants and explain the rules of procedure.

5- How to engage with the Forum?

- Held over a period of two days, the Forum is structured around 4 **panel discussions**, each of which will be moderated by an expert/moderator. The moderator will guide the discussion and help with the formulation of **specific recommendations**.
- The moderator, for each session, will introduce the topic and the panelists and guide a discussion with the panelists before giving the opportunity to participants to take the floor.
- Participants, who wish to take the floor under one of the respective item, are invited to do so by raising their hand/name plate. **Please note that only participants duly registered for the event will be given the floor.**
- Oral interventions will have to adhere strictly to the given topic. Participants will be expected to answer to specific questions asked by the moderator. The moderator will seek to ensure regional, gender and institutional balance of interventions from the floor.
- Participants, as well as individuals and organizations who will not be able to attend the Forum in person, also have the possibility to contribute more substantially by sending a **written submission** that includes proposal for recommendations at the following email address: minorityforum@ohchr.org
- The session will be webcasted and streamed live on UNTV: <http://webtv.un.org/>.

6- Side Events

- Participants may organize **side events** to further contribute to discussions **relating to the theme of the Forum on Minority Issues**, particularly with a view to sharing information on strategies, activities and best practices at country level.
- NGO side-events are **public meetings** and may therefore be attended by all NGOs, Permanent Mission Representatives, UN Staff and other persons with access to Palais des Nations.
- Availability of rooms for side events is limited. Please contact the Secretariat (minorityforum@ohchr.org) with detailed information about the planned side event (purpose, programme, speakers, sponsors etc). All requests must be made **before October 27th 2017**.



- NGOs hosting a parallel event are responsible for its content and for the conduct of participants at the event.

7- What is the outcome of the Forum on Minority Issues?

- Forum participants will, during the course of the Forum, identify a number of **action-oriented recommendations** with the view of empowering minority youth to be agents of change for inclusive and diverse societies.
- The recommendations will be compiled in a report which will be presented by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2018
- The Chair of the Forum also will prepare a Chair's Summary which will be made available on the 10th session's webpage after the Forum.

8- More information on the preparatory public briefing:

- The preparatory briefing will take place on **Wednesday 29 November from 10:00 until 13:00 in Room XXIV** of Palais des Nations.
- The briefing is open to all and will provide guidance for participants to ensure a harmonious and successful discussion during the Forum.
- In the time remaining after the presentation of the rules of procedures for the Forum, civil society organizations may take the **opportunity to share with the Special Rapporteur information on situations which do not fall within this year's thematic focus** of "Minority Youth: towards inclusive and diverse societies".