

Minority Rights Protection in the UN System: Looking back and looking ahead – A Forum for the Future

25 November 2015

13 :00 – 15 :00

Room XXIII Palais des Nations

The year 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the former Working Group on Minorities, the first dedicated United Nations forum to focus exclusively on minority rights. In 2007, the Working Group was replaced by the Forum on Minority Issues, to provide an enhanced platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders on the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities.

This event will reflect on progress made over the past two decades as well as on remaining challenges to better promote and protect the rights of minorities within the UN system. It will also provide a valuable opportunity to discuss how existing UN mechanisms, including the Forum on Minority Issues, may enhance their functioning, structure and practice in order to advance minority rights within and outside the United Nations.

Panelists:

- * Mr **Gerhard Doujak**, Head of the Human Rights Department at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- * Mr. **Asbjørn Eide** – former Chair and member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
- * Mr. **Antti Korkeakivi** – Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- * Mr. **Mark Lattimer** – Executive Director of Minority Rights Groups International
- * Ms Kamaleswary **Letchumanan**, OHCHR Minority Fellow
- * Ms. **Gay McDougall** – Former Independent Expert on minority issues, and member-elect of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Moderator: Ms. **Rita Izsák** – Special Rapporteur on minority issues