

*Enhancing cooperation between United Nations and regional mechanisms
for the promotion and protection of human rights*
International Workshop Geneva, Switzerland – 12 to 14 December 2012

Palais des Nations – Room XIX

PROGRAMME

Day 1 (12 December 2012)

“Enhancing cooperation between United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms”

Objective: *Discussions will aim at identifying concrete means and tools of cooperation between United Nations (UN) and regional human rights mechanisms on three key areas identified during the international workshop on cooperation between international and regional human rights mechanisms held in Geneva in 2010 (A/HRC/15/56): sharing of information, possible joint activities, and follow up to recommendations of UN and regional human rights mechanisms.*

As recommended by the 2010 workshop and in accordance with Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 18/14, there will be an underlying theme of discussion for each of these areas of cooperation which will allow participants to hold targeted discussions and to produce practice-oriented recommendations.

The workshop will also take stock of developments related to cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanism, in particular since the 2010 workshop.

The discussions will help to ensure coherence, avoid gaps and overlaps, as well as strengthen complementarity and increase the impact of actions by UN and regional human rights mechanisms. In addition, the workshop will aim at identifying concrete commitments for both UN and regional human rights mechanisms.

09:00 – 10:00

Registration

10:00 – 10:30

Opening session

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

H.E. Laura Dupuy Lasserre, President of the Human Rights Council

H.E Bertrand de Crombrughe, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

“Tacking stock of progress in cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms”

Objective: *This session will allow participants to share experiences and best practices in relation to cooperation initiatives between UN and regional human rights mechanisms, including their added value and challenges encountered in their implementation. Discussions*

will also aim at identifying ways and means to replicate best practices in other mechanisms and/or areas of cooperation.

10:30 – 12:00 **Chair: Mexico**
Taking stock of developments in the cooperation activities between UN and regional human rights mechanisms, in particular after the 2010 international workshop

Panelists: Vladlen Stefanov (Chief OHCHR National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section); Ms. Wan-Hea Lee (Human Rights Treaties Division); Ms. Federica Donati (Special Procedures Branch); Mr. Med Kaggwa, African Commission of Human and Peoples’ Rights; Mr. Emilio Alvarez Icaza, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights; Mr. Daniele Cangemi, Council of Europe; Mr. Rafendi Djamin, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission Human Rights; and Ambassador Abdul Wahab, OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission

12:00- 13:00 **Discussion**

13:00 – 15:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 – 17:40 **Session 1**

“How to improve information sharing between UN and regional human rights mechanisms on the example of prevention of torture mandates and activities”

Objective: *This session will allow participants to share methods of work, best practices and lessons learned; information on strategy and planning, as well as jurisprudence and standards developed by each mechanism, so as to identify common priorities, challenges, synergies and possible complementarities. The role of NHRIs, NPMs and NGOs with regard to information sharing will also be discussed.*

In addition, this session will focus on issues raised at the regional consultations held in 2011 and 2012 with Inter-American, European, ASEAN and African regional human rights mechanisms: Should institutional channels be established in order to exchange information? If yes, what kind? How to implement them? What are the key areas of collaboration which will allow overcoming information sharing obstacles? How to better share UN and regional human rights mechanisms’ information on planning of visits, preparation of reports, actions on individual cases, methods of work, and good practices? What will be the role of the mechanisms’ secretariats in an enhanced cooperation?

15:00 – 15:45 **Chair: Belgium**
Information sharing between UN and regional human rights mechanisms

Panelists: Mr. Zbigniew Lasocik, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture; Mr Lətif HÜSEYNOV, President European Committee on Prevention of Torture; Mr. Med Kaggwa, African Commission of Human and Peoples’ Rights; Ms. María Claudia Pulido, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights; and Mr. Fernando Mariño, Committee against Torture

- 15:45 – 16:30 **Discussion**
- 16:30 – 17:00 **Chair: Mr. Gerald Staberock, OMCT**
The role of NHRIs, NPMs and NGOs in information sharing
- Panellists: Ms. Ruth Ssekindi, NHRI Uganda, Ms. Ofelia Titelbaum
NPM Costa Rica, Ms. Barbara Bernarth Association for Prevention of
Torture
- 17:00 – 17:40 **Discussion**
- 17:40 – 18:00 **Wrap-up of Day 1 including suggestions for Day 3 of the programme**
- Panelist: Mr. Mohamed Amin Al-Midani and Mr. Santiago Canton

Day 2 (13 December 2012)

- 10:00 – 13:00 **Session 2**
- “Joint activities between the UN and regional human rights mechanisms on the example
of mandates and activities related to women’s rights”**
- Objective:** *This session will allow participants to discuss best practices and lessons learned with regard to joint activities, as well as to identify common priorities and challenges.*
- This session will also try to find answers to the following questions: When joint activities could be envisaged and when they would bring an added value? What would be the criteria for joint activities? How to identify priority areas for joint activities? How to make better use of existing resources? How to make better use of mechanisms’ secretariats?*
- Furthermore, discussions on possible initiatives will be held, including joint press releases; joint visits; joint capacity building activities; joint reports (including both thematic and country reports); joint publications; joint policy guidance and exchange of staff. The role of NHRIs, NPMs and NGOs will also be discussed.*
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Chair: Thailand**
Joint activities between UN and regional human rights mechanisms
- Panelists: Ms. Line Barreiro, UN Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women; Ms. Frances Raday, UN Working Group
on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice; Mr. Petro
Dumitiru, on behalf of the Unit - Violence Against Women and Domestic
Violence Council of Europe; Ms. Soyata Maiga, African Commission of
Human and Peoples’ Rights, Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, ASEAN
Commission on the Rights of Women and Children
- 11:00 – 11:45 **Discussion**
- Chair: Armenia**
- 11:45 - 12:15 **The role of NHRIs and NGOs in joint activities**

Panelists: Ms. Arimbi Heroepoetri, Indonesian Commission on Violence against Women; Ms. Faiza Jama Mohamed, Equality Now; Ms. Elizabeth Placido, Cladem; Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, YWCA

12:15 – 13:00 **Discussion**

13:00 – 15:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 – 17:45 **Session 3**

“How to improve follow up action to recommendations issued by UN and regional human rights mechanisms on the example of mandates and activities related to children’s rights”

Objective: *This session will allow participants to share best practices and lessons learned in relation to follow-up. Participants will identify common recommendations as well as main challenges in implementing each mechanism’s recommendations. A discussion on ways and means to overcome challenges in implementing recommendations through follow-up to each other’s recommendations will also be held. Specific examples will be given on successful engagement by regional mechanisms and the UN in the implementation of recommendations.*

In addition, this session will aim at identifying elements to respond to the following questions: How to improve complementarity of UN and regional human rights mechanisms to strengthen follow-up actions? How to better benefit from recommendations formulated by other mechanisms? How to develop a more strategic approach in the follow up to the recommendations from various mechanisms? Should institutional follow-up channels be established? Which ones? How to establish them? The role of NHRIs, NPMs and NGOs will also be discussed.

15:00 – 16:00 **Chair: Mexico**
Follow-up to decisions and recommendations of UN and regional human rights mechanisms

Panelists: Mr. Jean Zermatten , UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Mr. Christophe Peschoux, Universal Periodic Review; Regina Jensdottir Head of the Children's Rights Division Council of Europe; Mr. Carlos Gaio, Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Justice Fatsah Ouguergouz, African Court of Peoples’ and Human Rights; and Ms. Imma Guerras-Delgado, OHCHR Advisor on Child Rights, Ms. Fatema Sebaa, Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

16:00 – 16:45 **Discussion**

16:45 - 17:15 **Chair: Mr. Michael Ineichen, International Service for Human Rights**
The role of NHRIs and NGOs in follow up to decisions and recommendations of UN and regional human rights mechanisms

Panelists: Mr. Mykhailo Chaplyga, NHRI Ukraine; Ms. Lisa Myers, NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

- 17:15 – 17:45 **Discussion**
- 17:45 – 18:00 **Wrap-up of Day 2 including suggestions for Day 3 of the programme**
Panelists: Mr. Mohamed Amin Al-Midani and Mr. Santiago Canton

Day 3 (14 December 2012)

“A way forward on cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms”

Objective: *This session is aimed at defining a way forward on cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanism, using the thematic discussions as a tool to develop specific and succinct proposals of cooperation on three areas: sharing of information, possible joint activities, and follow up to recommendations. Participants will adopt recommendations on these issues at the end of the workshop which will be contained in the report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council in 2013.*

- 10:00 – 10:20 **Chair: Mr. Ibrahim Salama, Director OHCHR Human Rights Treaty Bodies Division**
Way forward on information sharing between UN and regional human rights mechanisms
Panelists: Mr. Paulo David OHCHR - HRTD, and International Service of Human Rights
- 10: 20 – 10:50 **Discussion**
Chair: Ms. Mara Bustelo, OHCHR Special Procedures Branch
- 10:50 – 11:10 **Way forward on joint activities between UN and regional human rights mechanisms**
Panelists: Ms. Federica Donati, OHCHR - SPB, Ms. Soyata Maiga, African Commission on Peoples’ and Human Rights and Ms. Hannah Forster, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights studies
- 11:10 – 11:40 **Discussion**
Chair: Mr. Gianni Magazzeni, Chief OHCHR Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Way forward on follow-up to decisions and recommendations of UN and regional human rights mechanisms**
Panelists: Ms. María Clara Martin, OHCHR- FOTCD, Ms. Dinah Shelton, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and Ms. Alejandra Vicente, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- 12:00- 12:30 **Discussion**

12:30 – 13:00

**Mr. Gianni Magazzeni, OiC OHCHR Field Operations and
Technical Cooperation Division
Conclusions and closing**