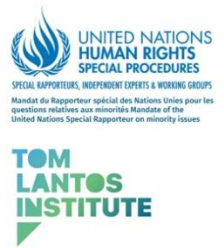


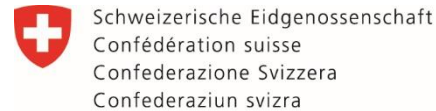
European Regional Forum on conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities

12-13 October, 2021 | ONLINE MEETING



Supported by

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
European and International
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Programme of Work (draft and subject to change)

****The times indicated refer to Geneva/Central European Summer Time (CEST or GMT +02:00)**

Day 1 Tuesday 12th October 2021

09:00-10:00 Opening Session

Welcoming remarks

Anna-Mária Bíró, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute

Opening Remarks

Ambassador Helmut Tichy, Legal Adviser of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria

Kairat Abdrakhmanov, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ryszard Komenda, Regional Representative, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for the Central Asia

Armands Pupols, Political Affairs and Human Rights Officer, UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Paulo David, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Rules and Guide to Proceedings

Anna-Mária Bíró, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute, will set-out the process and explain the rules of proceedings for the forthcoming sessions.

10:00-10:15 **Technical Break**

10:15-11:15 **High-Level State Panel**

Chair: **Mô Bleeker**, Special Envoy, Head of the task force for Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Panel: **H.E. Tatiana Molcean**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

H.E. Martin Frick, Director of the Office for Foreign Affairs, Principality of Liechtenstein

11:15-11:30 **Technical Break**

11:30-13:00 **Thematic Session 1: Substantive root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities**

Moderator: **Neil Clarke**, Head of Legal Programmes and EU Advocacy, Minority Rights Group International

Experts: **Jonathan Cohen**, Executive Director, Conciliation Resources

Karena Avedissian, Fellow, Royal Society of Arts

Interactive dialogue

13:00-14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00-15:30 **Thematic Session 2: Normative framework: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention**

Moderator: **Erzsébet Sándor-Szalay**, Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudswoman for the Rights of National Minorities

Experts: **Francesco Palermo**, Comparative Public Law, University of Verona and Director of the Institute for Comparative Federalism, Eurac Research

Nurcan Kaya, human rights lawyer and researcher

Urko Aiartza Azurtza, Senior Advisor, European Institute of Peace

Irina Vlah, Governor of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova

Interactive dialogue

Day 2 Wednesday 13th October 2021

09:00-10:30 **Thematic Session 3: Obstacles to implementing the rights of minorities and early effective conflict prevention**

Moderator: **Vello Pettai**, Director, European Centre for Minority Issues

Experts: **André Fazi**, Lecturer in political science, University of Corsica
Salpy Eskidjian, Executive Director of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process
Damir Kapidžić, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo
Amalur Alvarez, Researcher, Eusko Ikaskuntza

Interactive dialogue

10:30-11:30 **Break**

11:30 – 13:00 **Thematic Session 4: Ways forward towards addressing gaps in human rights mechanisms to protect minorities and prevent conflicts**

Moderator: **Anina Ciuciu**, Director, La Voix des Roms

Experts: **Marina Elbakidze**, Project Coordinator, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development
Sardorbek Abdukhalilov, former OHCHR Minority Fellow and lawyer, Spavedlivost Human Rights Organization
Petra Roter, Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana
Vincze Loránt, President, president of the Federal Union of European Nationalities

Interactive dialogue

13:00-14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30-15:30 **Presentation of Recommendations**

In this session, the proposed recommendations developed during the four thematic sessions will be made available to participants to consider.

The session will be introduced by **Fernand de Varennnes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, following which **Marcus Oda**, Programme Manager at the Tom Lantos Institute, will present the list of recommendations.

Participants can make any final comments on specific recommendations using the Zoom chat function.

Moderator:

15:30-16:00 **Concluding remarks**

Fernand de Varennnes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Russian and Romani