



Hosted by The Gambia in cooperation with:



Programme of Work

Day 1 – Tuesday 15th June 2021

10:00-11:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Opening Session

Welcoming remarks (5 minutes)

Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Opening Remarks (45 minutes)

Dawda A. Jallow, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Republic of the Gambia

Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Solomon Ayele Derso, Chair of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Ambassador Nassima Baghli, Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to UN and other international organizations in Geneva

H.E Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghzaeh, Head of the Social Affairs sector of the League of Arab States, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Rouaida El Hage, OHCHR Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa

Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Chair: Sean Waller, International Programme Coordinator, Tom Lantos Institute

Rules and Guide to Proceedings (5 minutes)

Sean Waller, International Programme Coordinator, Tom Lantos Institute, will set-out the process and explain the rules of proceedings for the forthcoming sessions.

11:00 – 11:15 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Technical Break

11:15-12:15 (Geneva, UTC +2)

High-Level State Panel

Moderator: **Hannah Forster**, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

Panel: **Bafou Jeng**, Senior State Counsel and Coordinator of the Human and Child Rights Units of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of the Gambia

H.E. Dr. Turki Abdulla Al-Mahmoud, Acting Head of Human Rights Department, MOFA, Qatar

12:15-12:30 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Technical Break

12:30-14:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Thematic Session 1: Substantive root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities

Moderator: **Naji Moulay Lahsen**, Executive Director, CIDH

Experts: **Seenaa Jimjimo**, Executive Director, Oromo Legacy Leadership & Advocacy Association (OLLAA)

Hedi Sarkar, Program Manager, Alliance of Iraqi Minorities Network

Laura Anyola Tufon, Coordinator, Justice and Peace Commission

Interactive dialogue

14:00-15:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Break

15:00-16:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Thematic Session 2: Normative framework: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention

Moderator: **Tahani Irfan Ruhi**, journalist, lecturer, trainer, human rights defender

Experts: **Aoife Hegarty**, Focal point on minority issues, OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

Solomon Ayele Dersso, Chair of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Judge Jamila Mohamed, Chairperson, Kenya National Committee on the Prevention of Genocide

Beza Dessaegn Assistant Professor, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Interactive dialogue

Day 2 – Wednesday 16th June 2021

10:00-11:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Thematic Session 3: Obstacles to implementing the rights of minorities and early effective conflict prevention

Moderator: **Fateh Azzam**, Executive Committee member, Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies, Boston and Member, Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (NHRI), Ramallah

Experts: **Geoffrey Sabiiti**, Africa Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Coordinator, Minority Rights Group International

Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana

Amina Amharech, Member of the ILC Global Council, Representing the EMENA Region

Interactive dialogue

11:45-12:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Break

12:45-14:30 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Thematic Session 4: Ways forward towards addressing gaps in human rights mechanisms to protect minorities and prevent conflicts

Moderator: **Frank Okyere** Head, Peace Support Operations Program at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

Experts: **Hon. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu**, Vice Chairperson, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Basma M. M . Habib, High Commission for Human Right in Iraq

Wale Adeboye, Director, West Africa Responsibility to Protect Coalition

Aya Manaa, former OHCHR Minority Fellow

Interactive dialogue

14:30-16:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Lunch Break

16:00-17:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

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 Vareennes**, 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.

Chair: **Evelin Verhás**, Head of Programmes, Tom Lantos Institute

17:00-17:30 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Concluding remarks

Fernand de Vareennes, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.