



Americas Regional Forum on
conflict prevention and
the protection of the
human rights of minorities
27 -28 April, 2021 | ONLINE MEETING



Statements

The views and/or opinions expressed in the contributions listed below are those of the contributing organizations and do not reflect in any way the views and/or opinions of the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, the Tom Lantos Institute or cooperating organizations. Neither are they responsible for the content of the organizations' views and/or opinions. The use and posting of the contributions do not provide any legal and/or other status to the contributing organizations or association with the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, the Tom Lantos Institute or cooperating organizations.

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

Session 1: Opening Remarks

Cristopher Ballinas Valdes	Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
Antonia Urrejola Noguera	President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Magdalena Talamas	Director of the Department for the Promotion of Peace at the Organization of American States
Guillermo Fernandez-Maldonado	Representative in Mexico of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Luis Felipe López-Calva	Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme
Fernand de Vareennes,	United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Chair: Anna-Mária Bíró,	Director, Tom Lantos Institute

High-Level State Panel

Speakers

Gay McDougall (moderator)	former Vice Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and former UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities
Cristopher Ballinas Valdes	Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Ariel Eckblad	U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, United States of America
Victoria Donda	President of the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, Argentina
H.E. Ambassador Catalina Devandas Aguilar	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Esequiel Roque do Espírito Santo	Deputy National Secretary of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, Brazil

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

Carlos Quesada (moderator)	Director, International Institute on Race, Equality, and Human Rights
Lottie Cunningham,	President, Contact Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua
Marino Córdoba	Legal Representative, Asociacion Nacional de Afrocolombianos Desplazados (AFRODES)

List of participants who took the floor

1. Caribe Afirmativo
2. Zor - Association for the rights of the Roma people
3. International Association Maylê Sara Kalí
4. Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República de Costa Rica
5. Jorge Nedich
6. Gustavo Ribeiro
7. Indigenous Women's Alliance for Human Rights and Social Development
8. Jairo Rodriguez Davis
9. Fernando Rueda Germán

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

Invited Speakers

Jose Antonio Guevara Bermúdez (moderator)	Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala
John Packer	Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa
María Luisa Acosta	Coordinator, El Centro de Asistencia Legal Para Pueblos Indígenas (CALPI)
Alejandro Fuentes	Senior Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

List of participants who took the floor

1. Ilex Acción Jurídica
2. Fernando Rueda Germán
3. International Association Maylê Sara Kalí
4. Amanda Camilo
5. Jorge Nedich

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

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

Invited Speakers

Lecia Brooks (moderator)	Southern Poverty Law Centre
Maria Eugenia Carbone	Director of the Latin American Program and Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, Auschwitz Institute
Carlos Alberto Sarti	Director, Fundación Propaz
Mirna Cuentas	Conflict Prevention and Dialogue Specialist, Governance and Peacebuilding, Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme

Yadira Pinilla

Senior Advisor in the Secretariat for Integral Development,
Organization of American States

List of participants who took the floor

1. International Association Maylé Sara Kalí
2. Romanipe
3. Fernando Rueda Germán
4. Zor - Association for the rights of the Roma people

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

Invited Speakers

**Meredith Preston
McGhie**

Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

Alain-G. Gagnon

Canada Research Chair in Quebec and Canadian Studies, University of Quebec in Montreal

**Althea Middleton-
Detzner**

Director, PeaceTechLab

**Victor Madrigal-
Borloz**

UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity

Hurst Hannum

Professor Emeritus of International Law, The Fletcher School at Tufts University

List of participants who took the floor

1. National Coordination of Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communities
2. Lottie Cunningham
3. Romanipe
4. International Association Maylé Sara Kalí
5. Fernando Rueda Germán
6. Union of BC Indian Chiefs
7. Observatorio de Mujeres Gitanas

Presentation of Recommendations

Fernand de Varennes	UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Marcus Oda	Programme Manager, Tom Lantos Institute
Anna-Mária Bíró (Chair)	Director, Tom Lantos Institute

Concluding Remarks

Fernand de Varennes	UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
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