

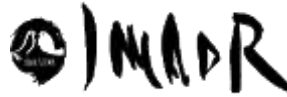


Hosted by Mexico, in cooperation with:

Centre  
de recherche  
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Human Rights  
Research  
and  
Education  
Centre



Institute  
on Race,  
Equality  
and Human  
Rights



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## Programme of Work

(DRAFT – subject to change)

### **Day 1 – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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

#### **Opening Session**

09:00-10:00 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

08:00-09:00 (New York, UTC -4)

07:00-08:00 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

*Welcoming remarks (5 minutes)*

**Anna-Mária Bíró**, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute

*Opening Remarks (45 minutes)*

**Martha Delgado Peralta**, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights 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 Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Rules and Guide to Proceedings (5 minutes)*

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

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

**High-Level State Panel**

*10:00-11:00 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)*

*09:00-10:00 (New York, UTC -4)*

*08:00-09:00 (Mexico City, UTC -5)*

*Moderator:* **Gay McDougall**, former Vice Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and former UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities

*Panel:* **Cristopher Ballinas Valdes**, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

**Ariel Eckbland**, 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

*Questions and Answers*

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

**Break**

**16:15-17:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

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

*11:15-12:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)*

*10:15-11:45 (New York, UTC -4)*

*09:15-10:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)*

*Moderator:* **Carlos Quesada**, Director, International Institute on Race, Equality, and Human Rights

*Experts:* **Lottie Cunningham**, President, Contact Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua

**Ralph R. Premdas**, Professor of Public Policy, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.

**Marino Córdoba**, Legal Representative, Asociacion Nacional de Afrocolombianos Desplazados (AFRODES)

*Interactive dialogue*

**17:45-18:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

**Break**

**18:00-19:30 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

*13:00-14:30 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)*

*12:00-13:30 (New York, UTC -4)*

*11:00-12:30 (Mexico City, UTC -5)*

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

*Moderator:* **Jose Antonio Guevara Bermúdez**, Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala

*Experts:* **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

*Interactive dialogue*

**Day 2 – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**14:00-15:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

*09:00-10:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)*

*08:00-09:45 (New York, UTC -4)*

*07:00-08:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)*

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

*Moderator:* **Lecia Brooks**, Southern Poverty Law Centre

*Experts:* **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

*Interactive dialogue*

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

**Break**

**16:00-17:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

*11:00-12:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)*

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

10:00-11:45 (New York, UTC -4)  
09:00-10:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

**Moderator:** **Meredith Preston McGhie**, Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

**Experts:** **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 (Video presentation)

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

*Interactive dialogue*

**17:45-18:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

**Break**

**18:45-19:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

**Presentation of Recommendations**

13:45-14:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

12:45-13:45 (New York, UTC -4)

11:45-12:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

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 Varennes**, 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:** **Anna-Mária Bíró**, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute

**19:45-20:15 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

**Concluding remarks**

14:45-15:15 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

13:45-14:15 (New York, UTC -4)

12:45-13:15 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

**Fernand de Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

*Working language of the regional forum is English. Interpretation will be provided in French, Portuguese, Spanish and Mexican sign language.*