

The Human Rights Council after the Review tangible changes or business as usual?

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Menschenrechte, German Institute for Human Rights
Room II&III, World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney, Geneva, 6-7 October 2011

Thursday, 6 October 2011

9:30 Arrival at the World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney; Registration

10:00 Welcome and Introduction, **Mr. Matthes Buhbe**, *Director, FES Geneva / Forum Human Rights*; **Mr. Wolfgang S. Heinz**, *German Institute for Human Rights /HRC Advisory Committee*

Setting the stage What changes were brought by the review? Have NGOs' suggestions been adopted? Which areas of work are most affected?

10:30 **Mr. Edward McMahon**, *University of Vermont (USA)/ Member of the Advisory Committee of UPR-Info*

Presentation of main changes of the review: the Universal Periodic Review

Country situations and thematic issues after the review: What kind of procedures and actors do we need to better address human rights violations within the Human Rights Council's (HRC) given structures?

Theme I *This session will discuss the HRC's generally reluctant attitude towards dealing with human rights violations in a specific country. It will evaluate some already developed additional mechanisms exemplified alongside the recent responses to the crisis in the Middle East. It shall also explore the role of the Security Council (SC) and the interaction between HRC and SC on recent country situations as Libya and Syria.*

11:00 Chair **Mr. Matthes Buhbe**, Director FES Geneva

Panelists

Mr. Mamdouh Aker, *Commissioner General, Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights, (Palestine / Ramallah)*

Mr. Christian Strohal, *Ambassador of Austria to the UN in Geneva*

Ms. Joanna Weschler, *Deputy Executive Director & Director of Research, Security Council Report (New York)*

Ms. Joëlle Hivonnet, *Head of Section "Human Rights, Humanitarian and social Affairs" Permanent Mission of the European Union (Geneva)*

Mr. Peter Splinter, *Resident Representative, Amnesty International (Geneva)*

13:00 Lunch

Theme II How to make best use of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

There are some new elements as to the role of NHRIs, an extended session time for the WG; a changed focus for the assessment, the request for an interim follow up. How do we transmit these additional mechanisms into an impacting tool?

14:00 Chair

Mr. Theodor Rathgeber, German Forum Human Rights (Germany)

Panelists

Mr. Bob Last, Permanent Mission of the UK (Geneva)

Mr. Subhas Gujadhur, Permanent Mission of Mauritius (Geneva)

Mr. Roland Chauville, Director of UPR-Info (Geneva)

Mr. Jeremy Smith, Director, Geneva office, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (Geneva)

Ms. Katharina Rose, Geneva representative, International Coordination of National Human Rights Institutions (Geneva)

15:30 Coffee Break

Theme III The role of parliaments and parliamentarians in the UPR

This session will focus on increasing the impact of the UPR outcome and recommendations at the national level considering additional institutional actors and their interaction with NGOs, NHRIs and the media.

16:00 Chair

Ms. Herta Däubler-Gmelin, former federal Minister of Justice of Germany

Panelists

Mr. Christoph Strässer, Member of Parliament (Germany)

Ms. Lucia Nader, Director, Conectas Human Rights (Brazil)

Mr. Ghassan Moukheiber, Member of Parliament (Lebanon)

Ms. Marianne Lilliebjerg, Interim Director, International Advocacy, Amnesty International (London / UK)

Friday, 7 October

Theme IV How to better involve UNHRC sub-organs

This session will focus on the work and procedure of such organs as well as the interaction with actors as governments, NGOs, NHRIs and academic institutions.

9:30 Chair
Mr. Wolfgang S. Heinz, *German Institute for Human Rights/HRC Advisory Committee*

Panelists

Mr. Jimmy Q. Kereseke, *Representative Luru Land Conference of Tribal Communities (Solomon Islands)*

Mr. Famark Hlawngching, *Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (Thailand)*

Mr. Carlos Villán Durán, *President, Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law (Spain)*

11:00 Coffee Break

Conclusions *This session will sum up with special emphasis on policy recommendations and NGO strategy.*

11:30 Chair
Ms. Florence Simbiri Jaoko, *Chair, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights*

Panelists

Ms. Sherine Xavier, *Executive Director, Home for Human Rights (Sri Lanka)*

Mr. Wolfgang S. Heinz, *German Institute for Human Rights / HRC Advisory Committee (Germany)*

Ms. Anke Konrad, *Deputy Head of Human Rights Division, Federal Foreign Office (Germany)*

Mr. Michael Anthony, *Asian Legal Resource Center (Hongkong / New Zealand)*

13:00 End of the Meeting / Lunch / Departure of participants

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