



SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Human Rights for “We the Peoples”: what should we expect from the UN Human Rights Council?

*In cooperation with the
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva, 29-31 July 2007*

Chair: Mr. Pang Sen, Chairman of the World Federation of United Nations Associations Executive Committee and Vice President and Director-General of UNA- China

Sunday 29 July, John Knox Center

27, chemin des Crêts de Prégny

13.00 – 16.00

Registration

16.30 – 17.30

Informal briefing: What expectations from Seminar?

Ms Daphné Romy, Director, WFUNA
Ms Cecilia Thompson, Seminar Coordinator

18.00 – 19.30

Welcoming Reception

Monday 30 July, Palais des Nations

Plenary Hall : room XII, Palais des Nations, ave de la Paix

8.00 - 9.00

Registration

9.00 – 9.30

Welcome statements and introduction to the seminar (room XII)

Ms Maggie Nicholson, Officer in Charge for the Operations, Programmes and Research Division, OHCHR, Geneva

Mr. Ricardo Espinosa, United Nations Liaison Officer to Non-Governmental Organisations, UNOG, Geneva

Ms Pera Wells, Secretary-General, World Federation of United Nations Associations

9.30 – 11.00

The first five sessions of the Human Rights Council – highlights, successes, challenges (room XII)

Facilitator:

Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan, Professor of Human Rights, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Lead discussant:

H.E. Mohammed Loulichki, Ambassador of Morocco, first facilitator of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism.

First respondent: Prof. Jan Wouters, President of UNA Flanders-Belgium, Director of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance

Second respondent: Mr. Chris Sidoti, Director, International Service for Human Rights, Geneva

Concluding comments: Mr. Markus Schmidt, Team Leader of the Petitions Team, OHCHR, Geneva

Question and answer session in plenary hall (room XII)

11.00 – 11.30 *Break*

11.30 - 13.00 **Working Group Discussions:** Participants will meet in 3 working groups to which they will have been assigned.

WG 1 (Room XII) Provide some suggestions as to how civil society (NGOs and NHRIs) can be more strategic and effective in order to enhance the Human Rights Council?
Facilitator: Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan

WG 2 (Room IX) How can civil society build on the successes achieved to date by the Council, and how can some of the challenges during this first year of the work of the Council be addressed? *Facilitator: Mr. Omar Hernandez*

WG 3 (Room VIII) How can civil society better monitor country situations and follow-up on the Council recommendations? *Facilitator: Prof. Jan Wouters,*

13.00 – 14.00 *LUNCH*

14.00 -14.30 **Plenary on the working group discussions(room XII)**

14.30 – 16.00 **The Special Procedures: mandates and modes of operation(room XII)**

Facilitator: Ms Mara Bustelo, Coordinator of the ESCR team, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR, Geneva

Lead discussant: Mr. Jean Ziegler, Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Switzerland

Commentary: Ms Yvonne Donders, Secretary-General, UNA – the Netherlands

Concluding Comments: Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan, Professor of Human Rights, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Question and answer session in plenary hall (room XII)

16.00 – 16.30 *Break*

16.30 – 18.00 **NGO roundtable dialogue at which NGO representatives consider their role and responsibilities for enhancing the effectiveness of the Human Rights Council (room XII)**

Facilitator: Ms Laura Dolci-Kanaan, NGO Liaison Officer, OHCHR, Geneva

How can the work of the Council be enhanced by the expertise of the United Nations Associations and their networks? (**Mr. Gregory Kovrizhenko, UNA-Russia, TBC**)

How can NGO participation in the work of the Council be more strategic? (**Ms Mariette Grange, External Relations Coordinator, International Council on Human Rights Policy**)

What role can National Human Rights Institutions play within the Council, and how can they work with civil society to achieve greater effectiveness? (**Ms Margaret Sekaggya, Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda**)

Question and answer session in plenary hall (room XII)

18.00 – 18.30 **The advancement of information and communication technologies: What implications for human rights? Net Dialogue and the forum on rights and responsibilities**

Presenter: Ms Mary Rundle, Research Fellow and Director, Net Dialogue (Harvard's Berkman Center, Stanford's Center for Internet and Society, and the Oxford Internet Institute)

18.30 **Conclusion of the first day**
(Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan, Professor of Human Rights, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva)

18.45 – 19.30 **Reception**

Tuesday 31 July, Palais des Nations

9.00 – 10.30 **The Universal Periodic Review Mechanism: What decisions for an effective mechanism? (room XII)**

Facilitator: **Mr. Pang Sen**, Chairman of the WFUNA Executive Committee and Vice President and Director-General of UNA-China

Lead discussant: **Mr. Eric Tistounet**, Secretary of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR, Geneva

Commentary: **Mr. Peter Splinter**, Representative of Amnesty International to the United Nations, Geneva

Concluding comments: **Mr. Yves Lador**, Consultant to international organizations, representative of Earth Justice, Geneva

Question and answer session in plenary hall (room XII)

10.30 – 11.00 **Break**

11.00 – 12.30 **The scope for collaboration, at national level, between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), United Nations Associations (UNAs) and NGOs around the work of the Human Rights Council**

- Facilitator: **Mr. Gianni Magazzeni**, Coordinator, National Institutions Unit, OHCHR, Geneva
- Lead discussant: **Mr. Chris Sidoti**, Director, International Service for Human Rights, Geneva
- Case study: **Mr. John Connor and Dr. Terence Duffy** : UNA Ireland's partnership with the Irish Human Rights Commission
- Commentary: **Ms Margaret Sekaggya**, Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda
- Concluding comments: **Mr. Cissa Wa Numbe**, Secretary-General, UNA – DRC

Question and answer session in plenary hall (room XII)

12.30 – 13.30 *LUNCH*

13.30 – 15.00 **Working group discussions on the above two topics**
Participants will meet in 3 working groups to which they will have been assigned.

WG 1 (Room XII) What kinds of information should civil society submit during the Universal Period Review mechanism's consultation process at national level, as well as in the form of any additional information? *Facilitator: Ms Claire Mahon*

WG 2 (Room IX) What mechanisms could be set up at national level in order for civil society to better monitor the human rights situation and implement the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review at national level? *Facilitator: Alain Dick*

WG 3 (Room VIII) What suggestions can be made for areas of collaboration between National Human Rights Institutions, United Nations Associations and NGOs in order to make the Human Rights Council more effective? *Facilitator: Mr. Cissa Wa Numbe.*

15.00 – 15.30 **Plenary feedback on working group discussions**

15.30 – 16.00 *Break*

16.00 – 17.00 **Towards an effective Human Rights Council – recommendations for action by UNAs, in collaboration with other members of civil society**
Facilitator: Ms Pera Wells, Secretary-General, World Federation of United Nations Associations

17.00 – 17.15 **Towards new partnerships:** Ms Daphné Romy, Director, World Federation of United Nations Associations

17.15 – 17.30 **Concluding remarks**

Mr. Wolfgang-Amadeus Bruehlhart, Head of the Human Rights Policy Section, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland.

Distribution of certificates