

FACT SHEET 14th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues, Geneva, 2 and 3 December 2021

Fourteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues
2 and 3 December 2021

INFORMATION NOTE

Where, when and how the Forum will be held?

- The annual Forum on Minority Issues will be held on 2 and 3 December 2021 in a hybrid format: in Geneva (Room XX, Palais des Nations) and virtually through the Zoom platform.
- Due to physical distancing measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of participants in Room XX will be limited. The Secretariat may limit the number of accredited participants per delegation with access to the plenary room.
- The number of online participants in Zoom will be also limited. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to register as soon as possible to secure their participation.
- The Forum will be guided by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Dr. Fernand de Varennes and will be chaired by Dr. Victoria Donda from Argentina.

Who can participate in the Forum?

- The Forum is open to Member States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on minority issues, representatives of minorities and minority and non- governmental organizations.

What is the theme and structure of the Forum?

- This year the Forum's theme is "Conflict Prevention and the Protection of the Human Rights of Minorities". Read [the provisional agenda](#) for more details about the theme.

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- The panellists, three per session, will introduce the discussion through an online intervention, which shall not exceed 7 minutes.
- The Forum will be structured around four thematic panel discussions:
 1. Root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities
 2. Legal and institutional frameworks: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention.
 3. Focusing on the rights of minorities and effective prevention of conflicts.
 4. Towards a lasting peace: positive initiatives to better protect the rights of minorities to prevent conflicts
- After each panel, the floor will be open for oral interventions. Based on the number of participants seeking the floor the Chairperson will announce the duration of oral interventions at the beginning of each session. However, participants should be ready to limit their interventions to 2 minutes.

How to engage with the Forum?

- Accredited participants can engage with the Forum by making oral interventions. Interpretation will be provided in the six official UN languages and all interventions will have to adhere to the topic under discussion and contain concrete recommendations.
- Participants, as well as individuals and organizations who will not be able to participate in the Forum or who do not wish to take the floor, can contribute to the discussions by sending a written submission that includes proposal for recommendations at the following email address: ohchr-minorityforum@un.org
- The event can be followed via livestream at the UN Web TV. Link to the livestream will be provided at the webpage of the Forum a few days before the event.

How will the list of speakers' be collated?

- While registering for the Forum, participants will be asked to indicate the session where they would like to intervene.
- Registered participants will be able to take the floor once per agenda

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session. If time permits they could be given the floor for other sessions.

- The list of speakers will be finalised based on the number of those requesting the floor for each session.
- The Chairperson will seek to ensure regional, gender and institutional balance of interventions from the floor.

How to prepare for the Forum?

- Participants are encouraged to read the provisional agenda and other materials available at the [webpage of the event](#).
- All participants are encouraged to reflect upon key issues and recommendations in connection with the topics for each of the thematic sessions of the Forum.
- When preparing for an oral intervention, accredited participants are encouraged to ensure that they can deliver the intervention by speaking at a moderate pace; no more than 100 – 120 words per minute.
- Accredited participants must send their statements to the Secretariat at least one day in advance at ohchr-minorityforum@un.org.
- Online participants should follow special requirements when preparing for the Forum. Guide for online participants will be made public at the webpage of the event.

What is the outcome of the Forum on Minority Issues?

- During the Forum, participants will identify a number of recommendations to effectively address the issue of conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities.
- The recommendations will be compiled in a report that will be presented by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues to the 49th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2022.
- The Chair of the Forum will prepare a summary report of the discussions, which will be made available on the webpage of the Forum after its conclusion.

What accessibility measures are in place at the Forum?

- Interpretation in the International Sign Language will be provided

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during the Forum.

- Captioning in English, Spanish and French will be provided during the Forum.
- People with disabilities registering for the Forum are encouraged to fill in the “**Accessibility requirements**” segment of the registration. The Secretariat will try to accommodate the requests to the extent possible.

Where to address any additional questions on the Forum?

- Any questions or requests for information should be addressed to the Secretariat of the Forum on Minority Issues, Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at ohchr-minorityforum@un.org.
- The forum webpage will also include the provisional agenda, information related to registration for the Forum, invited expert speakers and list of speakers.