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## Programme of Work

**Day 1 – Tuesday 15th June 2021**

**10:00-11:00 (Geneva, UTC +2) Opening Session**

*Welcoming remarks (5 minutes)*

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

*Opening Remarks (45 minutes)*

**Dawda A. Jallow,** Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Republic of the Gambia

**Alice Wairimu Nderitu**, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

**Solomon Ayele Dersso**, Chair of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

**Ambassador Nassima Baghli**, Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to UN and other international organizations in Geneva

**Roueida El Hage**, OHCHR Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa

**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.

**11:00 – 11:15 (Geneva, UTC +2) Technical Break**

**11:15-12:15 (Geneva, UTC +2) High-Level State Panel**

*Moderator:* **Hannah Forster**, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

*Panel:* **Bafou Jeng**, Senior State Counsel and Coordinator of the Human and Child Rights Units of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of the Gambia

**H.E. Dr. Turki Abdulla Al-Mahmoud,** Acting Head of Human Rights Department, MOFA, Qatar

**12:15-12:30 (Geneva, UTC +2) Technical Break**

**12:30-14:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

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

*Moderator:* **Naji Moulay Lahsen,** Executive Director, CIDH

*Experts:* **Seenaa Jimjimo,** Executive Director, Oromo Legacy Leadership & Advocacy Association (OLLAA)

**Hedi Sarkar,** Program Manager, Alliance of Iraqi Minorities Network

 **Laura Anyola Tufon,** Coordinator, Justice and Peace Commission

*Interactive dialogue*

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

**15:00-16:30 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

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

*Moderator:*

*Experts:* **Aoife Hegarty,** Focal point on minority issues, OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

**Solomon Ayele Dersso**, Chair of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

**Judge Jamila Mohamed**, Chairperson, Kenya National Committee on the Prevention of Genocide

**Beza Dessalegn** Assistant Professor, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

*Interactive dialogue*

**Day 2 – Wednesday 16th June 2021**

**10:00-11:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

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

*Moderator:* **Fateh Azzam**, Executive Committee member, Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies, Boston and Member, Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (NHRI), Ramallah

*Experts:* **Geofrey Sabiiti**, Africa Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Coordinator, Minority Rights Group International

**Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana

**Amina Amharech,** Council Representative & EMENA Steering Committee Member, International Land Coalition

*Interactive dialogue*

**11:45-12:45 (Geneva, UTC +2) Break**

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

**12:45-14:15 (Geneva, UTC +2)**

*Moderator:* **Frank Okyere** Head, Peace Support Operations Program at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

*Experts:* **Hon. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu**, Vice Chairperson, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

**Wale Adeboye**, Director, West Africa Responsibility to Protect Coalition

**Aya Manaa**, former OHCHR Minority Fellow

*Interactive dialogue*

**14:15-16:00 (Geneva, UTC +2) Lunch Break**

**16:00-17:00 (Geneva, UTC +2) Presentation of Recommendations**

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.

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

**17:00-17:30 (Geneva, UTC +2) Concluding remarks**

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

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.*