

PROGRAMME OF WORK

THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER

10:00-10:45 **Item 1. Opening meeting**

- Statement by the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, **Amb. Valentin Zellweger** (Switzerland)
- Statement by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, **Dr. Fernand de Varennnes** (Canada)
- Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues, **Mr. Tarik Kurdi** (Republic of the Sudan)

Keynote addresses by

- **Amb. Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (Italy)
- **Ms. Saskia Schellekens**, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.

10:45 -13:00 **Item 2. Inclusive education to empower minority youth**

The discussion will be introduced by young experts with experience on issues of discrimination and diversity within formal education systems as well as within wider youth-led awareness raising initiatives. This session will address access to quality and inclusive education and discuss the challenges faced in adapting education system to ethnically diverse societies. The session will reflect on the longer-term benefits of higher education free from discrimination and of study environments that accommodate diversity. It will look at good practices regarding access to education that is respectful of minority identities and the promotion of minority youth participation in student life. Finally the session will explore the role of human rights education from a young age for both majority and minority youth in order to further awareness and understanding of minority rights.



Panel discussion moderated by **Ms. Saskia Schellekens**, Special advisor to the UN Envoy on Youth:

- **Ms. Nouha Grine**, President of the Amazigh Culture Club and Youth Programme Officer at the Ministry of Youth and Sport (Tunisia)
- **Dr. Elzbieta Kuzborska**, Association of Polish Academics in Lithuania (Poland)
- **Ms. Wooki Park-Kim**, Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan (HURAK) (Japan)

Interactive Dialogue

13:00 **Lunch break and side events in rooms XXII, XXIII, XXIV and XXVII**

15:00--18:00 **Item 3. Participation of minority youth in public life**

The session will be introduced by three young minority activists with experience in mobilising young people to fight stereotypes and defend the rights of their community or change unfair aspects of society as a whole. This session will identify and discuss key factors that can help minority youth being better included in public and political life. Participants will examine how encouraging the participation of minority youth in public life can lead to more cohesion and to the normalization of diversity in society more broadly. This session will also consider the role of policies and programmes that are inclusive of the identities of minority youth. The session will explore how the specific needs and aspirations of young minority people can be better taken into account by national institutions when developing policies targeted at youth and minority youth.

Panel discussion moderated by **Mr. Henrik Villadsen**, Director of the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE.

- **Ms. Anina Ciuciu**, Rromni, French and Romania student-lawyer, co-founder of "May 16 Movement" (France)
- **Ms. Jessica Reeves**, Chief Operation Officer, Voto Latino (United States of America)
- **Mr. Mina Thabet**, Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedom, Co-founder of the Maspero Youth Union (Egypt)

Interactive Dialogue



FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

10:00 – 10:15 Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**

10:15-13:00 **Item 4. Minority Youth and the media in the digital age: acceptance and opportunity**

Three young experts will introduce the panel discussion, speaking of their experience launching minority-led media, seeking to foster inter-ethnic solidarity via digital platforms, and mobilizing youth to engage in their struggle for human rights, in particular minority rights. This panel discussion will examine the challenges and opportunities offered by digital media technologies for minority youth, and young women in particular, to exercise and defend their rights. Participants will be encouraged to consider how digital space can be used by various national and international institutions to challenge the dominant narratives in the traditional mainstream media and give a new voice to minority youth in the media landscape. This session will explore how digital media is, or could be, used to efficiently disseminate information about minority rights and issues; to promote awareness and acceptance of diversity in society; and to solicit and analyze minority youth's concerns and views, while respecting their right to privacy.

Panel discussion moderated by **Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye**, former Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and member elect to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Hungary).

- **Ms. Marina Shupac**, journalist and OHCHR Moldova Minority Fellow Coordinator (Moldova)
- **Mr. Jonathan Jackson**, Co-founder of Blavity.com (United States of America)
- **Ms. Anju**, leader of the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar March (India)

Interactive Dialogue

13:00 **Lunch break and Side Events in rooms XXII, XXIII, XXIV and XXVII**



15:00 – 17:45 Item 5. Minority youth: agents of change for peace and stability

The session will debate the role of young minority men and women as valuable innovators and agents of change, whose contributions should be seen as an essential part of building peaceful communities. Through the experience of three youth from minority groups, the session will consider the creative and effective role played by minority youth in faith-based peacebuilding initiatives, using dialogue, building relationships, reconciliation and forgiveness, focusing on commonalities while respecting differences. This panel discussion will address the need for meaningful minority youth involvement — including young minority women — at all levels of peacebuilding, conflict prevention and countering of violence and violent extremism. It will also reflect on the benefits of minority youth ownership and leadership in peace and conflict prevention processes. Minority youth involvement can also support democratic governance and transition, which respects and acknowledges the rich tapestry of a State's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. The session will also discuss how implementing minority rights can help to prevent conflicts and counter violent extremism, including among youth.

Panel discussion moderated by **Prof. John Packer**, expert on minority rights and conflict prevention

- **Ms. Wai Wai Nu**, Director and founder of the Women Peace Network (Myanmar)
- **Ms. Francia Marquez**, Afro Colombian leader and human rights defender (Colombia)
- **Mr. Nfor Hanson Nchanji**, Founder of Cameroon News Agency (Cameroon)

Interactive Dialogue

17:45-18:00 Item 6. Concluding remarks

- Concluding remarks by **Dr. Fernand de Vareennes**, Special Rapporteur on minority issues.
- Concluding remarks by **Mr. Tarik Kurdi**, Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues.

Session Closes