



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO
NATIONAL OR ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

26 November 2012

**Dialogue on the role of the UN in advancing protection of minorities and
combatting racial discrimination**

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXII¹

DRAFT AGENDA

Chair: Ambassador **Christian Strohal**, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council

10:00 Opening remarks, **Ms Mona Rishmawi**, Chief, Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, OHCHR

10:10 Minority rights and minority participation in the UN system, an NGO perspective, **Mr Mark Lattimer**, Director, Minority Rights Group International

10:20 Role of the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues and the Forum on Minority Issues in advancing minority rights and combatting racial discrimination, **Ms Rita Izsák**, UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues

10:30 Cooperation with regional actors

Ms Ize Brands Kehris, Director, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ms Soyata Maiga, Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and Chair of the 5th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues

10:45 Discussion

11:00 Introduction to the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, **Mr Antti Korkeakivi**, Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR

Current work and vision of individual UN entities, Members of the UN Network, including representatives of ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and other UN entities

Minorities' experiences and expectations for UN, four minority representatives from different regions

12:00 Discussion and proposals for further action

13:00 Closing

¹ Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.