



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Forum on Minority Issues

Third session

Geneva, 14–15 December 2010

Provisional agenda and annotations thereto*

Note by the Secretariat

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Overview of the legal framework and recent global initiatives: international and regional human rights frameworks and core principles on the rights of minorities to effective participation in economic life
3. Sustainable livelihoods
4. Work and social security
5. Discrimination and positive measures/affirmative action
6. Meaningful and effective participation in economic and development policy-making
7. Concrete steps to advance and build the capacity of minorities to participate effectively in economic life
8. Concluding remarks

* Late submission.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Venue

1. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/15, the third session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held in Geneva on 14 and 15 December 2010.
2. The Forum will have before it the provisional agenda contained in the present document to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex I.

Opening meeting

3. The Forum may wish to consider the following scenario with regard to the structure of the opening meeting. The President of the Human Rights Council would open the session and make a statement. Statements would then be made by the independent expert on minority issues, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues.

Documentation

4. A list of documents for the session is provided in annex II. In addition to normal distribution, official documents for the session will be made available on the Human Rights Council website at the address <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/minority/forum.htm>.

2. Overview of the legal framework and recent global initiatives: international and regional human rights frameworks and core principles on the rights of minorities to effective participation in economic life

5. At the sessions, participants will have an opportunity to make brief presentations and comments based on the draft recommendations that they will have before them. After the presentations, there will be an open discussion to which all participants will be invited to contribute.
6. Participants in the sessions will be provided with a brief overview of existing international and regional standards and principles, as well as recent global initiatives, with a view to set the framework for ensuing discussions.

3. Sustainable livelihoods

7. Issues for presentation and discussion could include housing, land and property issues central to both economic and social/cultural life of many minorities, access to farming inputs for food security and agricultural markets for income generation, and guaranteeing the protection of land and property rights, which includes addressing issues relating to involuntary migration and evictions.

4. Work and social security

8. Issues for presentation and discussion could include good practices to ensure the right of minorities to work as well as the obstacles they face in the fulfilment of that right, in law and in practice (for example, discriminatory legislation, language requirements to work with the public service, lack of a regulatory framework for employment in the agriculture and domestic service sectors, and regulations on street vending and other aspects of the informal sector). Issues for discussion could also include ensuring qualification for employment (such as through vocational training); equal access (non-discrimination) and opportunities for employment; and ensuring access to social security for minorities and considering programmes such as micro-insurance schemes.

5. Discrimination and positive measures/affirmative action

8. The use of special measures is a fundamental component of the realization of the right to equality. The first step preceding such positive measures must be a review of current systems and the immediate cessation of any discriminatory practice. Positive measures may include training and recruitment initiatives or quotas in public- or private-sector employment to promote access to labour markets for minorities. Issues for discussion could include addressing systematic, historic and institutionalized discrimination, non-discrimination during recruitment, and access to labour markets.

6. Meaningful and effective participation in economic and development policy-making

9. Issues for presentation and discussion could include the barriers that minority populations face when seeking to enjoy their right to participate in decision-making processes regarding economic matters, including representation in Government bodies responsible for policy development and decision-making; consultation in the creation and monitoring of policies (such as poverty reduction strategy papers and the Millennium Development Goals); and consultation in national budget allocation. Governments will be invited to describe steps taken to guarantee the inclusion of minorities and minority issues in the development and implementation of their national policies. Minorities will be invited to discuss the role that minority policymakers should play in formulating and implementing laws and policies to support and promote equal rights and opportunities in the public sector.

7. Concrete steps to advance and build the capacity of minorities to participate effectively in economic life

10. Issues for presentation and discussion could focus on the draft recommendations that participants will have before them. The objective would be to formulate practical policies, actions or programmes that would generate a greater degree of minority participation in economic life at the national, regional and local levels.

8. Concluding remarks

11. The Chairperson of the Forum and the independent expert on minority issues will share their concluding remarks, including forward-looking proposals for next steps, with Forum participants.

Annex I

Schedule of work

Tuesday, 14 December 2010

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Opening of the Forum on Minority Issues Sustainable livelihoods (*continued*)

- Welcoming and opening remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council
- Remarks by the independent expert on minority issues
- Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues

Overview of the legal framework and recent global initiatives: international and regional human rights frameworks and core principles on the rights of minorities to effective participation in economic life

Sustainable livelihoods

Wednesday, 15 December 2010

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Discrimination and positive measures/affirmative action Meaningful and effective participation in economic and development policymaking (*continued*)

Meaningful and effective participation in economic and development policymaking Concrete steps to advance and build the capacity of minorities to participate effectively in economic life

Concluding remarks

Annex II

Documents before the Forum on Minority Issues at its third session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
A/HRC/FMI/2010/1	Provisional agenda and annotations thereto; note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/FMI/2010/2	Note by the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall, on minorities and effective participation in economic life
A/HRC/FMI/2010/3	Draft recommendations on minorities and effective participation in economic life
