

In this issue:

SR on the rights of
indigenous peoples page 2

Expert Seminar on Indigenous
Peoples' Languages..... page 2

Report on communications by
Special Procedures.....page 2

HRC panel: Implementation of the
UN Minorities Declaration.. page 3

Celebrating 20 years of the UN
Minorities Declaration..... page 3

Independent Expert on minority
issues..... page 4

OHCHR Indigenous and Minori-
ties Fellowship.....page 4

UN Voluntary Fund for Indige-
nous Populations..... page 4

UN High Commissioner for
Human Rights.....page 5

Special Procedures.....page 5

Treaty Bodies and UPR.....page 7

Universal HR Index.....page 7

Forthcoming events.....page 8

UN Network to work on the protection of minorities

The UN Secretary General's Policy Committee endorsed the establishment of a UN Network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities in March 2012.

The network will be coordinated by OHCHR with the main aim of enhancing dialogue and cooperation between relevant UN departments, Agencies, Programmes and Funds. It is envisaged that the network will contribute to building coherent and contextualised UN action and messages on racial discrimination and minority issues, both globally and in specific regions, and provide support for strong Secretary-General engagement on these issues.

The first tasks of the network include the development of a guidance note for the UN system on how to address racial discrimination and protection of minorities in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other key standards, drawing also from effective practices.

In addition to developing guidance, members of the network will also work together to raise awareness on and promote the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (UN Minorities Declaration).

This task is closely tied to the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Minorities Declaration, which we will celebrate on 18 December 2012.

The network will review the content of relevant training initiatives established within the UN Secretariat and elaborate proposals on how they could better incorporate issues concerning racial discrimination and national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

In addition to OHCHR, the network brings together such UN entities as OCHA, Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNODC, DESA, DPKO, UNEP, UNITAR, DPA, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, DPI, WFP and UNAOC. The network is facilitated by the appointment of focal points, who coordinate their actions with respect to the contributions to the guidance note, awareness raising materials and other initiatives of the network, as they are developed.

The first (video) meeting of the network took place on 14 May 2012.

Special 20th anniversary website: www.ohchr.org/minorityrights2012.

Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Country Assessments:

- ◆ Between 23 and 28 March, the SR carried out a visit to Costa Rica. In a statement following the visit, the SR recognized as an important step a meeting between indigenous peoples and the Government regarding the Diquís hydroelectric project. ([link](#))
- ◆ Between 23 April and 4 May, the SR carried out a visit to the United States. In a statement following the visit, the SR highlighted that the history of oppression indigenous peoples have faced in the USA translates into present day disadvantage for indigenous peoples in the country. He called for stronger action to address serious issues affecting indigenous peoples in the USA. ([link](#))

Statements:

- ◆ On 7 February, the SR issued a press release calling for dialogue due to the situation of tension and violence following indigenous protests in Panama. ([link](#))
- ◆ On 28 February, the SR joined a press release warning that Phulbari open-pit coal mine in Bangladesh threatens funda-

mental rights. ([link](#))

- ◆ On 19 March, the SR joined an open appeal of 22 Special Procedures mandate holders to world Governments to incorporate human rights norms and principles in the Rio +20 sustainable development conference's goals. ([link](#))

Promotion of good practices:

- ◆ From 18 to 20 January, the SR was in New York, where he discussed measures for combating violence against indigenous women and girls at the UN Permanent Forum-sponsored "International expert group meeting on combating violence against indigenous women and girls: Article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".
- ◆ On 22 and 23 January, the SR participated in a brainstorming session in Copenhagen, Denmark, in preparation for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
- ◆ On 9 February, the SR delivered a keynote speech at a conference "Indigenous peoples, corporations, and the environment," organized by the Work-

ing Group of Indigenous Peoples of the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional BEAR.

- ◆ On 13 February, the SR welcomed the World Radio Day, established by a resolution during the 36th General Conference of UNESCO in 2011. The SR emphasized the importance of community radio for the world's indigenous peoples.
- ◆ From 5 to 9 March, the SR made a series of presentations in Lima, Peru and Brasilia, Brazil, in which he stressed the need for greater measures to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to set their own priorities for development.
- ◆ From 10 to 12 April the SR was in Madrid, Spain where he met with representatives of the Government of Spain, members of Congress, Spanish business enterprises, and NGOs concerning the impact of Spanish-based transnational companies on the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

Special Rapporteur website: [link](#)

Seminar: Indigenous Peoples' Languages

Brunel University Law School and OHCHR co-hosted an expert seminar on indigenous peoples' languages and cultures at Brunel University, London, in March 2012.

The expert seminar was designed to maximise contributions to the study by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on indigenous peoples' languages and cultures, which will be presented in draft at the fifth session of the Expert Mechanism in July and then in its final form to the Human Rights Council in September.

Programme of the seminar: [link](#)

OHCHR: Report on communications by Special Procedures

OHCHR released the Joint Communications Report of Special Procedures Mandate Holders for communications sent between from 1 June 2011 and 30 November 2011, and replies received from Governments between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012.

The report contains several letters sent by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples James Anaya and replies received from governments concerning

cases of alleged violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples.

Cases examined by the Special Rapporteur reflected in the report are from Israel, Thailand, Malaysia, Peru, United States of America, Mexico, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Finland, Canada, Guatemala, Chile, Costa Rica, China, France, and Brazil.

The report was published as document A/HRC/19/44. ([link](#)).

HRC panel: Implementation of the Minorities Declaration

At the 19th session of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organised a panel discussion with a particular focus on the implementation of the UN Minorities Declaration, as well as on achievements, best practices and challenges in this regard.

The UN Human Rights Office was requested to organise the panel discussion through the Human Rights Council resolution 18/3 of 29 September 2011 ([link](#)), which specifically noted that the panel will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Minorities Declaration.

The panel was chaired by H.E. Christian Strohal, Permanent Representative of Austria and the vice-President of the Human Rights Council. The opening statement was delivered by Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, who stressed the importance of the Declaration with regard to the protection of minorities and called for its full implementation.

The discussion was moderated by Mr. Mark Lattimer, Executive Director of Minority Rights Group International, and the panel consisted of Ms. Rita Izsák, the United Nations Inde-

pendent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Soyata Maiga, a Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, Professor Joshua Castellino, Head of the Law Department at Middlesex University in the United Kingdom, and Mr. Pastor Elias Murillo Martinez, a Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

All four panelists recognized that the UN Minorities Declaration could benefit from increased visibility and that the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the declaration provides a great opportunity to draw additional attention to its provisions and inspire dialogue on minority rights in all regions. In many countries some of the principles of the Declaration have been incorporated into constitutions, legislations, policies and practice. However, reality shows that much more needs to be done to ensure that persons belonging to minority groups are well integrated and able to take part fully in all aspects of society without hindrance based on their identity.

States were therefore encouraged to examine their own performance on

minority rights and assess the extent to which they are truly fulfilling their commitments under the Declaration. The role of education in raising awareness of minorities regarding their rights was also pointed out, as was the role of National Human Rights Institutions.

At the panel, the Independent Expert reiterated the obligation of governments and sometimes the international community under international law to act rapidly and robustly to protect the physical existence of minorities when it is threatened. She also stressed that threats to identity, if left unchallenged, are immensely damaging to minority communities and also to inter-community relations and they can lead to tensions and even conflict.

Discussion

During the discussion, approximately 25 States as well as a number of NGOs made interventions on both good practices and challenges to the implementation of the Minorities Declaration.

The full report of the panel will be made available on the website: www.ohchr.org/minorityrights2012

Celebrating 20 years of the UN Minorities Declaration

UN Human Rights office is organising, throughout 2012, a number of activities commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Minorities Declaration we celebrate this year.

To showcase these activities and further raise the awareness of the UN Minorities declaration, the Office has designed a special website as well as a visual identity.

www.ohchr.org/minorityrights2012

The website is an entry point for accessing various information as well as the different elements of the visual identity, which are ready for download and use, after getting permission from the Office.

Under specific headings, the anniversary website offers access to statements, speeches, news releases and editorial pieces on minority issues; to awareness raising materials promoting the importance of the Declaration in protecting the rights of minorities and its implementation; feature stories on people belonging to minorities and the work of the UN human rights system to protect their rights.

There is also a calendar of relevant meetings and events marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Minorities Declaration and a resources page providing links to other web pages of organizations working on the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The section of the website currently offers a special anniversary logo (see below) in two colour versions, and it will soon also offer posters in all UN languages (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian, Chinese).

These designs are available for all to download and use in publications or information materials on the rights of persons belonging to minorities (subject to permission from the Office).



Independent Expert on minority issues

At the Human Rights Council

The Independent Expert on minority issues (IE) presented her first report to the Human Rights Council (HRC) during its 19th session (A/HRC/19/56). The HRC also held an interactive dialogue with the IE. ([more information](#))

The IE report contains information on the Forum on Minority Issues following its fourth session, which took place in November 2011 and focused on “Guaranteeing the rights of minority women and girls.” The IE also highlights the fact that 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Minorities Declaration. ([full report](#))

The IE also participated in the Human Rights Council panel discussion “Implementation of the Declaration: achievements, best practices and challenges,” where she stated that she is particularly con-

cerned about the situation of religious minorities in all regions, and that she will therefore address the rights and security of religious minorities as a thematic priority in 2012-2014 (see also page 3).

Statements:

On 22 February, the IE encouraged the Government of Latvia to ensure its protection of the rights of the Russian speaking minority and engage in a process of meaningful dialogue following a referendum on 18 February which rejected a proposal to recognize Russian as a second official State language. ([full statement](#))

On 2 March, the IE in joined two other UN human rights experts in urging the Government of Pakistan to respond decisively to end sectarian violence and improve the security of religious minorities. ([full statement](#))

On 19 March, the IE joined 21 other UN human rights experts in calling on States to incorporate universally agreed international human rights norms and standards with strong accountability mechanisms into the UN Rio+20 sustainable development conference’s goals. ([full statement](#))

On 20 March, the IE and the Special Rapporteur on racial discrimination called for an intensified struggle against racism. ([full statement](#))

On 5 April, the IE joined the statement on the occasion of International Roma Day, saying that we should not accept another lost generation of Roma. ([full statement](#))

More info: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/IEExpert/Pages/IEminorityissuesIndex.aspx>

OHCHR Fellowship Programmes

Indigenous Fellowship

The 2012 OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme will take place in Geneva between 11 June and 13 July 2012.

English and French linguistic component of the 2012 programme will take place in Geneva from 11 June to 13 July 2012. Participants of the Spanish and Russian programme, which also have regional components, will start their programme in Geneva on 18 June 2012.

The office is continuing the senior indigenous fellowship programme, within which, in 2012, Mr Jesse McCormick from the Anishnaabe Nation in Canada will gain experience through working with OHCHR.

The deadline to apply for the 2013 Spanish and Russian programme is 31 May 2012.

More information: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/fellowship.htm>

Minorities Fellowship

The 2012 OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme will take place in Geneva from 29 October to 30 November.

The calls for applications for the 2012 OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme - Arabic linguistic component is currently open. **The deadline for applications is 31 May 2012.** ([application form](#)).

The call for applications for the 2012 OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme - English linguistic component has been closed and the selection process is on-going.

The office is also continuing the senior minorities fellowship programme, within which, in 2012, Mr Eugene Mrad from Lebanon will benefit from the experience of working within OHCHR.

More information: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/Pages/Fellowship.aspx>

Voluntary Fund

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The 25th session of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations took place in Geneva from 6 to 10 February 2012. This was the first session the board held with its new composition: Mr. Kenneth Deer (Canada), Mr. Shankar Limbu (Nepal), Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorrough (United States of America), Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara (Nigeria) and Ms. Joenia Batista de Carvalho (Brazil).

The experts reviewed the applications for project grants to be disbursed in 2012 and reviewed Fund policies. The Board also held its annual meeting with donors on 9 February 2012. Representatives of 25 States attended the meeting at which the Board members thanked Argentina, Australia, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, the Holy See, Mexico, Norway, Spain and Turkey for their contributions in 2011.

More information: [website of the Fund](#)

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HC), was vocal in defence, promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' and minority rights at the beginning of 2012.

On 12 January, she urged Nigerian national, local, religious and opinion leaders to make a bold and concerted effort to halt the spiralling sectarian violence. ([full statement](#))

On 2 March, the Human Rights Council held an interactive dialogue with the HC on her annual report. The HC mentioned that indigenous peoples continue to lose their traditional lands and religious minorities were increasingly targeted in sectarian violence. She also highlighted that the UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership was launched in early 2011 to advance the implementation of rights of indigenous peoples, including to participate in decision-making processes. She also highlighted the anniversary of the UN Minorities Declaration we celebrate in 2012. ([full statement](#))

From 11 to 15 March, the HC visited Guatemala. At the end of her mission, she stressed that although indigenous peoples constitute the majority of the population, they con-

tinue to be subject to exclusion and denial of their human rights. She expressed particular concern at the impact of economic investment projects on the rights of indigenous peoples. ([full statement](#))

She also issued a statement on 20 March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in which she reminded that the relationship between racism and conflict is a deep-rooted and well-established. "A number of studies have shown that one of the earliest indicators of potential violence is the chronic disregard of minority rights." ([full statement](#)).

On 5 April, the HC condemned inflammatory statements by the Governor of South Kordofan State in Sudan, Ahmed Haroun, and said that "witnesses who have visited the Nuba mountain region, mainly inhabited by the Nuba people, have been reporting the burning of villages and killing of civilians in an apparent scorched earth policy." ([full statement](#))

On 18 April, the HC urged UN Member States to ensure that human rights are thoroughly integrated in the discussions and in any final outcome of the Rio+20 negoti-

ations. "Public and private sector actors must exercise due diligence, including by conducting human rights impact assessments. They must take particular care to prevent and remedy any negative impact on the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants..." ([full statement](#))

Deputy High Commissioner Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, addressed on 13 March the panel commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Minorities Declaration during the 19th session of the Human Rights Council. ([full statement](#))



Navi Pillay meeting indigenous women in Guatemala.

Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

Israel and the OPT: Concerns about adequate housing

After her mission to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (30 January to 12 February), the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Ms. Raquel Rolnik, stated that "the Israeli authorities have had an impressive record of providing adequate housing for waves of Jewish immigrants and refugees, but today these policies have failed to respond to the needs of minorities and the socially disadvantaged."

Palestinian minorities living inside Israel and Palestinians living under military occupation are affected by on-going threats against their right to housing. ([full statement](#))

Cyprus: Very complex situation of religious minorities

The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, noted at the conclusion of his visit to Cyprus from 29 March to 5 April that the situation of religious minorities has improved in the last years.

The situation of members of the Greek Orthodox minority in the north has improved, owing to the opening of the crossing points between south and north. Moreover, restrictions on holding religious services in churches - although still existing - have been relaxed. However the expert stressed that "some religious communities such as An-

glicans, Protestants, Buddhists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Baha'is and others generally receive little attention. Acquiring land for new cemeteries or using the municipal burying grounds has proved to be difficult for some religious minorities."

"The situation of freedom of religion or belief in Cyprus is very complex," Mr. Bielefeldt said, noting however that "virtually everyone I have spoken with agreed that the current political tensions in Cyprus are not in reality rooted in religious differences." Rather, political tensions may have an impact on freedom of religion or belief and on the relationship between various religious communities. ([full statement](#))

Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council cont.

Marshall Islands: Effective redress needed

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste, Mr. Calin Georgescu, warned that the communities affected by nuclear testing over sixty years ago in the Marshall Islands are “yet to find durable solutions to the dislocation to their indigenous ways of life.”

Mr. Georgescu, who visited the country between 26 and 30 March, urged the country’s government, as well as the United States of America and the international community, to find effective redress to the affected population from Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrik.

“The affected communities are searching for solutions, but are yet to feel that they have been restored to a position that is any way equivalent to the life they and their families lived before this dislocation,” said the Special Rapporteur. ([full statement](#))

UN expert examines food systems in emerging countries

The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Olivier De Schutter, warned: “food systems of emerging countries are at a major crossroads. Millions of people have been lifted out of poverty, yet whole communities have been left behind.”

His statement was made after he presented his reports on China, Mexico and South Africa to the Human Rights Council at its 19th session. The special rapporteur urged emerging economies to protect the rights of land users, especially minority and vulnerable groups, and to establish in law the right to food, so it can be rapidly translated into national strategies and institutions.

He also advised supporting small-holder agriculture in the face of mega-development projects, and stopping soil and water degradation through a massive shift to agroecological practices. ([full statement and access to all three reports](#))

Russia: More proactive policy towards minorities needed

The Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed, conducted her first mission to the Russian Federation from 15 to 26 April.

The recognition by the Russian Federation of its multi-ethnic and multi-confessional character is reflected in important constitutional provisions, including in the area of education and language. However, the Special Rapporteur is concerned at the uneven application of these provisions and that many minorities lack support from the federal and regional authorities in this regard. The production and publication of textbooks in minority or indigenous languages proves to be difficult, she stresses in her preliminary conclusions after the mission.

The Special Rapporteur specifically encouraged authorities to adopt a more proactive policy towards minorities and especially the Roma community, which remains highly

India: Decision upholding the right to education for all hailed

The Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Kishore Singh, hailed the decision by the Indian Supreme Court to uphold the constitutional validity of the provisions in the 2009 Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act. The Act mandates that 25% of places in private and public schools are reserved for socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

“Exclusion and poverty remain the most important obstacles to the realization of the right to education in all regions of the world,” Mr. Singh said. “India’s Supreme Court decision establishing that both public and private education institutions should respond to the needs of those who are economically deprived is an important step towards ensure better education opportunities for all, in line with India’s constitutional and international obligations. This judgment should inspire other countries.” ([full statement](#))

stigmatized and isolated. She recommended that measures be taken at the federal and regional levels to ensure a higher visibility of the history and contribution of all the peoples of the Russian Federation, including minorities, migrants, and indigenous peoples.

During her 12-day mission, the special rapporteur visited Moscow, St. Petersburg, Altai Krai and Tatarstan, where she met with Government officials at the federal and regional level, as well as representatives of public institutions and academic and research institutes in the field of cultural policies, cultural heritage and cultural rights. She also held talks with representatives of minorities, indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations.

The special rapporteur called on the country to respond to the desire of all persons to participate effectively in cultural life and access cultural heritage, while noting a number of initiatives promoting cultural rights. ([full statement](#); [preliminary conclusions](#))

Myanmar: A positive impact on the human rights situation

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana, said the recent wave of reforms has already had a positive impact on the country and its people, but warned there are on-going and serious human rights concerns that remain to be addressed, and cannot be ignored in the rush to reform and to move forward.

“Ending discrimination and guaranteeing respect for the rights of ethnic minorities is essential for national reconciliation and for Myanmar’s long-term political and social stability. Positive developments should not be based on the mere discretion of the authorities, but rather on a democratic institutional approach that allows transparency, predictability and continuity to reforms. There is also a real risk of backtracking on the progress achieved to date.” ([full statement](#))

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

CERD held its 80th Session from 13 February to 9 March 2012 in Geneva. Minority issues were raised in the concluding observations of Italy, Portugal and Turkmenistan; indigenous issues were raised for Mexico. Both Minority and indigenous issues were raised in the concluding observations of Canada, Israel and Vietnam. ([session website](#))

Human Rights Committee (HRC)

HRC held its 104th session from 12 to 30 March in New York. Minorities were explicitly mentioned in the committee's concluding observations of Cape Verde, Yemen and Turkmenistan. In the lists of issues under discussion, minorities or indigenous issues were mentioned for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal and Turkey. ([session website](#))

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW held its 51st session from 13 February to 2 March 2012 in Geneva. Indigenous issues were raised in the concluding observations of Brazil. Both minority and indigenous concerns were raised for Norway and Congo. ([session website](#))

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

CRC held its 59th session from 16 January to 3 February 2012 in Geneva. Minority and indigenous issues were brought to the fore in the concluding observations of Myanmar and Thailand. ([session website](#))

More information: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx

More information on the Treaty Body Strengthening Process necessitated by the growth of the treaty body system, which has doubled over the last decade: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/HRTD/index.htm>

Universal Periodic Review

First cycle concluded in 2011

With the 12th session of the working group, the Human Rights Council concluded the first cycle of the UPR review process. As the outcomes of the last two sessions of the first cycle were not available at the time of the publication of the last IPMS newsletter, we are publishing them below.

The 12th session took place from 3 to 14 October 2011. Minority issues were raised for Ireland, Iceland, Lithuania, Moldova, Syria, Swaziland, Thailand, Tajikistan, Timor Leste and Uganda. Indigenous concerns were raised for Venezuela.

The 11th session took place from 2 to 13 May 2011. Minority issues were raised for Belgium, Hungary, Somalia, Sudan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Both minority and indigenous concerns were raised for Denmark, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Suriname.

DEADLINES FOR THE CIVIL SOCIETY SUBMISSIONS, 15th UPR SESSION:

9 July 2012: Bahamas, Botswana, Burundi, France, Mali, Romania, Tonga

16 July 2012: Barbados, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, United Arab Emirates.

More information: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain

Universal HR Index

UN Human Rights Office launched, on 6 March, the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index database.

This electronic tool has been redesigned to compile recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review in addition to the treaty bodies and the special procedures mechanisms.

Universal Human Rights Index aims at raising awareness of the human rights recommendations coming from these mechanisms and at assisting States, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and United Nations partners with their implementation.

The Index allows the user to find out about human rights issues worldwide, and to see how the legal interpretation of international human rights law has evolved over the past years.

More: <http://uhri.ohchr.org/>

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND MINORITIES SECTION (IPMS)

Location/contacts:

OHCHR - IPMS
48 Avenue Giuseppe Motta
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 (0) 22 928 91 64
Fax: + 41 (0) 22 928 90 66
Web: www.ohchr.org

Mailing Address:

OHCHR - IPMS
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix, 8-14
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Relevant OHCHR e-mail Addresses:

Indigenous Fellowship:
fellowship@ohchr.org

Minorities Fellowship:
minorityfellowships@ohchr.org

**Voluntary Fund for Indigenous
Populations:**
IndigenousFunds@ohchr.org

**Voluntary Fund on Contempo-
rary Forms of Slavery:**
SlaveryFund@ohchr.org

**Expert Mechanism on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples:**
expertmechanism@ohchr.org

**Special Rapporteur (Indigenous
Peoples):**
indigenous@ohchr.org

**Independent Expert
(Minorities):**
minorityissues@ohchr.org

Forum on Minority Issues:
minorityforum@ohchr.org

30 April-18 May: 48th session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva ([link](#))

7-18 May: 11th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues , New York ([link](#))

7 May-1 June: 48th session of the Committee against Torture, Geneva ([link](#))

20 May - 15 June: 60th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child ([link](#))

21 May-4 June: 13th session of the UPR Working Group ([link](#))

22-23 May: Expert Seminar: “Enhancing the effectiveness of international, regional and national human rights mechanisms in protecting and promoting the rights of religious minorities,” Vienna. ([link](#))

18-22 June: 17th session of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Geneva ([link](#))

18 June - 6 July: 20th session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva ([link](#))

9-13 July: 5th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Geneva ([link](#))

9-13 July: 97th session of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Geneva ([link](#))

9-27 July: 105th session of the Human Rights Committee, Geneva ([link](#))

9-27 July: 52nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, New York ([link](#))

23-27 July: 4th session of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, New York ([link](#))

6-10 August: 9th session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee , Geneva ([link](#))

6-31 August: 81st session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ([link](#))