

## In this issue:

International Seminar on treaties, agreements and constructive arrangements..... page 2

Congo: Expert meeting on follow-up to the Law N°5-2011 .... page 2

Role of the media in empowering indigenous rights.....page 3

SR on the rights of indigenous peoples ..... page 3

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations..... page 4

Vienna: Expert seminar on religious minorities .....page 4

Independent Expert on minority issues..... page 5

Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes.....page 5

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.....page 6

Special Procedures.....page 6

Treaty Bodies and UPR.....page 8

Forthcoming events.....page 9

## Geneva: 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism

### The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) held its fifth session from 9 to 13 July 2012 in Geneva.

Opened by the Director of Research and Right to Development, OHCHR, Ms. Marcia Kran, and the President of the Human Rights Council, it was also attended by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and hundreds of others, including representatives of indigenous peoples' organisations, nations and Parliaments.

The Expert Mechanism presented its work for the preceding year, which included:

- ◆ its follow-up report on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision making, with a focus on extractive industries;
- ◆ its study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples; and
- ◆ its survey of state responses to the questionnaire seeking the views of States on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies in order to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([link](#)).

The Expert Mechanism also held discussions on the upcoming 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The inaugural interactive dialogue between the Expert Mechanism, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur and participants, including states and indigenous peoples' representatives, proved to be especially lively and substantively rich.

The Expert Mechanism made a number of proposals to the Human Rights Council, which the Council will consider at its September 2012 session. Notably, the Expert Mechanism recommended that it be requested to study access to justice for indigenous peoples over the forthcoming year, "given the gravity of the issues facing indigenous peoples, including discrimination against indigenous peoples in criminal justice systems, particularly for indigenous women and youth. Over-representation of indigenous peoples in incarceration is a global concern. Good practices, particularly those associated with traditional justice systems, will be examined."

More information:

[www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/EMRIPIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/EMRIPIndex.aspx)



Members of the Expert Mechanism (left to right): Jose Carlos Morales Morales, Jannie Lasimbang, Wilton Littlechild, Danfred Tiitus.

# Seminar on Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements concluded between States and Indigenous Peoples

**A seminar entitled *Strengthening Partnership between Indigenous Peoples and States: treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements* took place in Geneva from 16 to 17 July.**

of experts who introduced various examples of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements from different regions of the world, demonstrating that this is not an issue that is relevant in only a limited number of contexts. They also made

Several members of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination also highlighted the critical role of UN Mechanisms in advancing the issue further and promoting implementation.

## **Building on previous seminars**

The seminar built on two seminars the Office organized in 2003 and 2006 to explore possible ways and means to follow up on the recommendations included in the Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations.

While these seminars considered the impact of the legacy of treaties on indigenous peoples, they also looked at how treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements can play a role in reconciling indigenous peoples and States.



The seminar was chaired by Hon. Justice Williams, former Chair of the Waitangi Tribunal in New Zealand, and benefited from the participation

a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the implementation of such treaties.

More information: Samia Slimane at [sslimane@ohchr.org](mailto:sslimane@ohchr.org) and : [seminar webpage](#)

## Implementing laws on indigenous peoples in Congo

**At the invitation of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Republic of Congo and within the framework of the recently launched UN-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership project in Congo, an Expert meeting was held in Brazzaville from 26 to 28 July.**

The participants discussed follow-up to the Law N°5-2011 on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Populations and the development of implementing decrees which have been prepared by the Government in response to key provisions of the Law.

The meeting brought together 42 officials from the different Ministries, focal points on indigenous issues from the UN Country Teams

(UNCTs), the Secretariat of the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice, as well as 24 indigenous representatives from eight provinces.

The participants examined seven implementing decrees to ensure that the drafts are in line with the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. OHCHR and UNCTs in Brazzaville, including UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, provided support and substantive expertise on the drafts.

Decrees were related to the following issues: use of traditional knowledge and benefit-sharing; protection of cultural heritage and sacred sites; special measures on access to education, health services

and protection of traditional medicine; procedures of consultation and participation in decision-making concerning development programmes; establishment and mandate of the Inter-ministerial Committee on the advances of the protection of indigenous populations; and citizenship.

More information: Samia Slimane at [sslimane@ohchr.org](mailto:sslimane@ohchr.org)



# Media plays a vital role in empowering indigenous rights

**Commemorating the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August) the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Mr. James Anaya, stressed the vital role that media can play in the respect for, and the promotion and protection of, indigenous peoples' rights.**

The right of indigenous peoples to establish their own media in their own languages is a key right in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (article 16). The Expert Mechanism, in its 2012 study on indigenous peoples' languages and cultures, highlights that media can be

an essential tool for the revitalisation of indigenous languages, especially in the education of indigenous children.

The Special Rapporteur has similarly emphasized the importance of media for maintaining indigenous languages as well as for exercising and defending indigenous peoples' rights. Indigenous media can reduce the marginalisation and misinterpretation of indigenous voices, which has been detrimental to their attempts to secure an understanding of, and respect for, their rights within the broader societies in which they live.

Indigenous peoples are increasingly using the media and social networks

to raise awareness about and to defend rights that are threatened by a variety of activities, especially, in the experts' experience, activities related to extractive industries taking place in or near indigenous peoples' traditional territories.

Actions on the part of indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, and other advocates have increasingly helped to draw attention to the devastating impacts that many of these activities have had or could have on indigenous peoples.

Full statement ([link](#)).

## Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

### Country Assessments:

- ◆ From 12-17 August, the SR carried out a mission to El Salvador. In a statement released at the end of the mission, the SR called on the Government to adopt new measures to help recover ancestral indigenous cultures and establishment mechanisms for indigenous peoples' participation in State decision making. ([link](#))
- ◆ On 11 July, the SR released his report on the situation of indigenous peoples in Argentina. The report is the result of the country visit conducted from 27 November to 7 December 2011. ([link](#))

### Statements:

- ◆ On 22 August the SR issued a press release calling on the United States Government and authorities in the state of South Dakota to start consultations with indigenous people on a land sale that will affect a site sacred to them, known as Pe' Sla. ([link](#))
- ◆ On 9 August the SR issued a public statement calling on the Government of Colombia to advance in the process of dialogue recently initiated with indigenous authorities in the northern part of the Department of Cauca to address the military presence in

Nasa territory among other matters. He stressed the need for the process of dialogue to adhere to international standards regarding the rights indigenous peoples. ([link](#))

- ◆ On 23 May, the SR, together with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food urged South-East Asian states not to side-line the human rights of communities across the region who derive their livelihoods, traditions and ways of life directly from their natural environments. ([link](#))

### Thematic Studies:

- ◆ From 20 to 24 August, the SR travelled to Australia as part of his on-going study on the thematic issue of extractive industries affecting indigenous peoples. The SR participated in Melbourne in a roundtable discussion entitled "First Peoples and Extractive Industries: Good Practices." The Special Rapporteur also travelled to the city of Perth and the Pilbara region in Western Australia, where he learned about models for benefit-sharing and other arrangements under which mining affecting indigenous lands is taking place throughout the region.

- ◆ On 18 and 19 June, the SR was in Jokkmokk, Sweden, where he participated in a conference on mining and other natural resource extraction in the Sápmi, the Sami territory that traverses the northern parts of Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Russian Federation.

### Cases of allegations of HR violations

- ◆ Several communications sent by the SR and replies received from governments concerning cases of alleged human rights violations of indigenous peoples are included in the latest Joint Communications Report of Special Procedures Mandate Holders released on 15 June. Cases examined by the SR that are reflected in the report are from Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Panama, and Philippines.

### Coordination with UN mechanisms

- ◆ The SR participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. On 15 July, he also participated in a coordination session with members of EMRIP and the Permanent Forum on indigenous issues, organised by OHCHR.

SR website: [link](#)

## UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

**The UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations held two inter-sessional meetings in May and August and decided on the allocation of grants for sessions of the Human Rights Council, its UPR and human rights treaty bodies taking place between July to December 2012.**

The Board held two inter-sessional virtual meetings from 7 to 11 May and from 13 to 17 August. Three applications were received for the May inter-sessional meeting and the Board allocated two grants for the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples from Fiji and Belize in the 81<sup>st</sup> session of CERD.

For its August meeting, the Board

reviewed eight applications and allocated two grants for the participation of indigenous representatives in the 49<sup>th</sup> sessions of CESCR and CAT.

With the expansion of the mandate of the Fund to cover meetings of the Human Rights Council (including UPR) and of human rights treaty bodies, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations reviewed and adapted its working methods to respond to the new challenges this expansion entails.

### **Fund's new work modalities**

In addition to its annual sessions (February), the Board now holds inter-sessional virtual meetings to decide on grants allocation for the

participation of indigenous peoples' organisations and communities in sessions of these human rights mechanisms that take place all year long.

**Three calls for applications will be issued on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September as well as on 1<sup>st</sup> December** for applications to attend meetings in 2013, including the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

More information: [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/IPeoplesFund/Pages/IPeoplesFundIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/IPeoplesFund/Pages/IPeoplesFundIndex.aspx)

## Experts discuss rights of religious minorities in Vienna

**OHCHR organised, in cooperation with the Government of Austria, an expert seminar on the rights of religious minorities, which took place in Vienna, Austria on 22 and 23 May.**

The seminar entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of international, regional and national human rights mechanisms in protecting and promoting the rights of religious minorities" was first in a series of consultations commemorating the [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

Over 60 experts on minority rights and/or freedom of religion or belief issues – including the Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief - Government representatives, and representatives of national human rights institutions and the civil society discussed how

to enhance the effectiveness of human rights mechanisms at all levels in order to protect the rights of religious minorities.

The seminar offered a unique opportunity to examine the contribution of minority rights standards and mechanisms for the protection of religious minorities, motivating participants to highlight several areas of concern, discuss how to overcome the identified challenges, and share good practices on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities.

Trends in hostility, discriminatory attitudes, even violence directed toward religious minorities in all parts of the world, as demonstrated by the [Global Restrictions on Religion](#) study, were addressed, as was the inter-connectedness between minority rights and other human rights standards pertaining to religious minorities.

Experts noted that rights of persons belonging to religious minorities have been approached largely from the point of view of non-discrimination and freedom of religion. The seminar participants discussed in depth whether and how bringing minority rights standards further to the fore when tackling discrimination and human rights violations faced by religious minorities could advance their protection.

The final report of the expert seminar will be shared with the UN Forum on minority issues at its [5<sup>th</sup> session](#), along with the reports on other anniversary activities, conducted in 2012.

### **More information:**

Seminar concept note ([link](#))  
Seminar agenda ([link](#)).

## Independent Expert on minority issues

**The Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Rita Izsák, continued to speak up for the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.**

### Statements

On 8 April, the Independent Expert joined the statement “Let’s not accept another lost generation of Roma” published on the occasion of International Roma Day by a group of seven UN human rights experts.

The statement stresses that “We should not accept yet another lost generation of Roma girls and boys whose only expectations are lives of poverty, discrimination and exclusion and whose futures are dictated by negative stereotypes which commonly go unchallenged.”

The Independent Expert particularly highlighted the fact that “It is hard for Roma to shake off those negative labels and for wider society to see beyond them,” as she called on

States to intensify their efforts and “identify, share and put into practice what is known to be working for the inclusion and integration of Roma communities.” ([full statement](#))

On 2 August, the Independent Expert and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Mutuma Ruteere, called out to all countries (particularly those with Roma communities), to mark Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day with a “commitment to confronting modern-day hatred, violence and discrimination against Roma and finding real solutions to their persistent exclusion,” ([full statement](#))

On 29 August, the Independent Expert was one of the UN human rights experts urging the French Government to ensure that its policies and practices regarding the dismantling of Roma settlements and the expulsion of migrant Roma conform in all respects to European

and international human rights standards.

The Independent Expert characterised reports on a number of evictions and expulsions in August including in the cities of Lille, Lyon and Paris as “disturbing, especially because it is not the first time that Roma are collectively expelled from France. The Roma are European Union citizens and Europe’s most marginalized minority. Regrettably, these acts demonstrate that they do not always enjoy the same right of free movement and settlement, and continue to experience discriminatory treatment.” ([full statement](#))

### Meetings

The Independent Expert also participated in the Vienna expert meeting on religious minorities (see page 4) and facilitated a National Workshop for Grassroots Roma Women Activists in Hungary.

**More information:** Independent Experts’ website ([link](#))

## OHCHR Fellowship Programmes

### Indigenous Fellowship

**The 2012 OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme took place in Geneva from 11 June to 13 July bringing together 23 indigenous fellows from 17 countries.**

The French and English speaking groups started the Programme on 11 June; the Russian and Spanish speaking groups joined the Programme on 18 June, directly after their regional components in Moscow and Bilbao, respectively.

Throughout the fellowship, 29 speakers from the UN Secretariat, UN agencies/programmes or organizations, as well as from NGOs took part. The training sessions were simultaneously interpreted in four languages. The multi-lingual programme was welcomed and further recommended by the fellows.

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

### Minorities Fellowship

**The 2012 OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme will take place in Geneva from 29 October to 30 November, bringing together ten minority rights advocates.**

Participants of the 2012 Minorities Fellowship Programme - English component are:

- ◆ Mr. Iurie Caldarari, Moldova
- ◆ Ms. Shirley Oyiakah Ndagha, Cameroon
- ◆ Ms. Kandya Gisella Obezo Caseres, Colombia
- ◆ Mr. Jugal Kishore Ranajit, India
- ◆ Ms. Mabruka Abdulmajid Sebit, Kenya

Participants of the 2012 Minorities Fellowship Programme - Arabic component are:

- ◆ Mr. Naaman Kaed Mohammad Yahya, Yemen
- ◆ Mr. Irad Beldjebel, Algeria
- ◆ Mr. Issa Hamad Salim Al-Hewetat, Jordan

- ◆ Mr. Samer Masouh, Syria
- ◆ Ms. Rasha Qass Yousef, Syria

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

### Senior Fellowship Positions

Mr. Jesse McCormick from the Anishnaabe Nation in Canada was selected as the 2012 Senior Indigenous Fellow and contributed to the work of IPMS from 16 April to 17 August 2012.

Mr. Eugene Mrad from Lebanon was selected as the 2012 Senior Minority Fellow and has benefited from work experience with IPMS from 16 April to 13 July 2012.

### National fellowship in Guatemala

Ms. Andrea Elizabeth Umul Tiguil will gain on-the-job training through a four month national fellowship with the OHCHR Country Office in Guatemala.

## UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HC), has been repeatedly bringing indigenous peoples' and minority rights to the fore in her statements and country visits.**

On 11 May, OHCHR urged the Government of Moldova to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, which has been under preparation in Moldova since 2008, thus honouring its commitment to adopt this long-overdue legislation in conformity with obligations under international human rights law. ([press briefing notes](#))

On 7 June, the HC made a statement during her mission to Pakistan, in which she expressed hope that the country will reform and update its school curricula and materials to better promote tolerance and human rights, especially with regard to religious and other minorities. ([full statement](#))

On 18 June, in the opening statement to the Human Rights Council 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session, the HC highlighted that we are marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Declaration on Minorities this year. She stressed that advancing minority rights and combatting discrimination must engage the entire UN system, and referred to a new UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which met for the first time in May. ([full statement](#))

On 20 June, the HC made a statement at the UNEP World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, in which she stressed that the rights of minorities, indigenous peoples, women, small farmers, those living in poverty, and vulnerable groups should all be respected in participatory processes. ([full statement](#))

On 22 June, the HC welcomed the final outcome of the United Nations

Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), noting that inclusion, *inter alia*, of the human rights of indigenous peoples and minorities in the final document can be seen as a success. ([full statement](#))

On 10 July, the HC made a statement during her mission to Kyrgyzstan, in which she said that discrimination, especially on ethnic, religious and gender grounds, remains a deeply problematic issue with ethnic and national minorities significantly underrepresented in the executive government and bureaucracy, law enforcement bodies and judiciary. ([full statement](#))

On 27 July, the HC raised serious concerns about ongoing human rights violations in Myanmar's Rakhine state after the violence between the Buddhist and Muslim communities there, urging a prompt, independent investigation. ([full statement](#))

## Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

### Minorities suffer lack of access to justice and due process in Somalia

The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Mr. Shamsul Bari, urged the Somali authorities and the international community to re-establish a legitimate justice system in Mogadishu and South Central Somalia.

"Re-establishing a legitimate justice system in Mogadishu and South Central Somalia presents a major challenge, but also an opportunity for the international community," the human rights expert noted. According to Mr. Bari, the harmonisation of customary law and Shari'a law with modern law and international human rights law presents another major challenge for the administration of justice in Somalia.

"Women, internally displaced persons and minorities suffer particularly from the lack of access to justice and due process," the expert stressed. ([full statement](#))

### Cambodia: Human rights needed at the heart of land concessions

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Mr. Surya P. Subedi, urged the country to act with more transparency when granting and managing economic and other land concessions, exercise more oversight over business enterprises involved with concessions, and make the process more inclusive.

Mr. Subedi placed particular importance on the situation of indigenous peoples. He acknowledged the Government for having established a specific legal framework on land tenure for indigenous peoples and welcomed the granting of the first three communal land titles to indigenous communities.

"Until these communities can secure their land titles, indigenous land should be protected and secured in accordance with the law," he said. ([full statement](#))

### Moldova: Call for coherent application of non-discrimination laws

The UN Working group on discrimination against women in law and in practice urged the Government of Moldova to implement coherently the country's non-discrimination legislation.

"We call on the Moldovan authorities to strengthen institutional and financial mechanisms to ensure coherent and effective implementation of the legal framework on equality between men and women," said Kamala Chandrakirana, who currently heads the expert group.

The working group also noted a major void in the national human rights mechanisms to address violations of women's rights, and stressed that women who face multiple forms of discrimination – such as members of religious minority groups or Roma women require an effective mechanism to monitor their situation. ([full statement](#))

## Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council cont.

### Expert addresses tensions between minorities in Myanmar

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana, warned that the escalating violence in the Rakhine state, that has been triggered by conflicts between Buddhist and Muslim communities, represents a serious threat to the country's future. It is critical that the Government intensify its efforts to defuse tension and restore security, the expert urged. ([full statement](#))

In another statement, the special rapporteur pointed out that Myanmar continues to grapple with serious human rights challenges. Welcoming the ceasefire agreements in the Kachin state, reached with ten ethnic armed groups, and the ongoing dialogue in this regard, the expert said that efforts towards finding a durable political solutions should address long-standing grievances and deep-rooted concerns amongst ethnic groups. ([full statement](#))

### SR on racism to undertake an official visit to Bolivia

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on racism, Mr. Mutuma Rutere, will carry out an official visit to Bolivia from 4 to 10 September, to gather first-hand information on the situation of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

"During my mission to Bolivia, I will pay special attention to the situation of indigenous populations, people of African descent, and other vulnerable groups," said the expert.

"I will consider the existing challenges to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in Bolivia," he said, "and seek to engage constructively with the Government on possible ways of ensuring successful realization of laws, policies and measures undertaken in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as to identify good practices." ([link](#))

### Three Special Rapporteurs condemn ongoing executions in Iran

The Special Rapporteurs on Iran, summary executions and torture condemned an execution of four members of the Ahwazi Arab minority in Ahwaz's Karoun Prison in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Following a reportedly unfair trial, they were sentenced to death and executed on or around 19 June 2012. "Given the lack of transparency in court proceedings, major concerns remain about due process and fairness of trials in cases involving the death penalty in Iran," said the independent human rights experts, recalling the execution of Abdul Rahman Heidarian, Abbas Heidarian, Taha Heidarian and Ali Sharif.

The four men were reportedly arrested in April 2011 during a protest in Khuzestan and convicted of Mosharebeh (enmity against God) and Fasad-fil Arz (corruption on earth). ([full statement](#))

### Destruction of tombs in Mali is a loss for us all

Two Special Rapporteurs strongly condemned grave violations of cultural rights and the right to freedom of religion and belief in the Northern part of Mali, through the destruction of sites of religious significance, including mausoleums in the World Heritage site of Timbuktu.

The Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed stressed that "The destruction of tombs of ancient Muslim saints in Timbuktu, a common heritage of humanity, is a loss for us all, but for the local population it also means the denial of their identity, their beliefs, their history and their dignity."

The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt said that "the destruction of the tombs is the deprivation of an immense wealth to local populations, all Malians and the global community." ([full statement](#))

## Treaty bodies

### Human Rights Committee (HRC)

HRC held its 105<sup>th</sup> session from 9 to 27 July in Geneva. Minority issues were raised in the concluding observations of Armenia and Lithuania. Both minority and indigenous issues were raised in the concluding observations of Kenya. ([session website](#))

### Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

CESCR held its 48<sup>th</sup> session from 30 April to 18 May in Geneva. Minority issues were raised for Slovakia; indigenous issues were raised for New Zealand. Both minority and indigenous issues were raised for Ethiopia and Peru. ([session website](#))

### Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

CERD held its 81<sup>st</sup> session from 6 to 31 August in Geneva. Minority issues were raised in the examination of Austria, Ecuador, Fiji, Tajikistan, and Thailand. Both minority and indigenous issues were raised for Finland. ([session website](#))

### Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW held its 52<sup>nd</sup> session from 9 to 27 July in New York. Minority issues were raised in the concluding observations for Bulgaria; indigenous issues were raised for Mexico. Both indigenous and minority issues were raised for Indonesia and New Zealand. ([session website](#))

### Committee against Torture (CAT)

CAT held its 48<sup>th</sup> session from 7 May to 1 June in Geneva. Minority issues were raised in the concluding observations for Albania, the Czech Republic, and Greece; indigenous issues were raised for Canada. ([session website](#))

### Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

CRC held its 60<sup>th</sup> session from 29 May to 15 June in Geneva. Minority issues were raised in the concluding observations for Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey; indigenous issues were raised for Australia. Both indigenous and minority issues were raised for Vietnam. Under OPSC, indigenous issues were raised for Australia and both indigenous and minority issues for Nepal. Under OPAC, indigenous issues were raised for Australia. ([session website](#))

More information: [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx)

More information on the Treaty Body Strengthening Process: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/HRTD/index.htm>

## Universal Periodic Review Process

**Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review started the second cycle of review with the 13<sup>th</sup> Working Group session, held from 21 May to 4 June in Geneva.**

In the 13<sup>th</sup> session minority issues were mentioned in the outcome of the review for Morocco, UK, Algeria, Poland, and the Netherlands. Both indigenous and minority issues feature in the outcome of the review for Ecuador, Tunisia, Indonesia, Finland, India, Brasil, Philippines, and South Africa

14<sup>th</sup> session will take place from 22 October to 5 November. States to be examined in this session are:

the Czech Republic, Argentina, Gabon, Ghana, Peru, Guatemala, Benin, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Pakistan, Zambia, Japan, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka. ([tentative timetable](#))

**Press release at the start of the second cycle reviews** ([link](#)).

Please note the **new modalities for NGOs** to register on the speakers' list for UPR reports' adoption ([link](#)).

More information: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

**DEADLINES FOR THE CIVIL SOCIETY SUBMISSIONS, 16<sup>th</sup> UPR SESSION:**

**2 October 2012:** Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu, Germany

**9 October 2012:** Djibouti, Canada, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Cuba



## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND MINORITIES SECTION (IPMS)

### Location/contacts:

OHCHR - IPMS  
48 Avenue Giuseppe Motta  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 (0) 22 917 92 20  
Fax: + 41 (0) 22 917 90 08  
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

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

**Special Rapporteur on the  
rights of indigenous peoples:**  
indigenous@ohchr.org

**Independent Expert on minority  
issues:**  
minorityissues@ohchr.org

**Forum on Minority Issues:**  
minorityforum@ohchr.org

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**10-14 September:** 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Migrant Workers, Geneva ([link](#))

**10-28 September:** 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council ([link](#))

**17-28 September:** 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Geneva ([link](#))

**17 September-5 October:** 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva ([link](#))

**25-26 September:** Regional consultation 'The role of the UN, and other human rights and development actors in advancing the participation of minorities in poverty reduction and development strategies in South East Asia', Bangkok, Thailand ([link](#))

**1-3 October:** 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Social Forum, Geneva ([link](#))

**15 October-2 November:** 106<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Committee, Geneva ([link](#))

**18-19 October:** Regional expert workshop 'Effective participation of persons belonging to minorities in law enforcement: Building an inclusive and responsive police force and judiciary', Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan ([link](#))

**22 October-5 November:** 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, Geneva ([link](#))

**29 October-9 November:** 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance, Geneva ([link](#))

**29 October-23 November:** 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee against Torture ([link](#))

**31 October-9 November:** 98<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Geneva ([link](#))

**12-30 November:** 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva ([link](#))

**27-28 November:** 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum on minority issues, Geneva ([link](#))