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New staff in the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit

On 5 January 2009, Mr. Antti Korkeakivi took up the post of the Co-ordinator of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit. Mr. Korkeakivi comes to OHCHR from the Council of Europe, where he headed the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

On 1 February 2009, Ms. Michèle Buteau

joined the Minorities team, having previously worked in the OHCHR's Anti-Discrimination Unit, among other things, servicing the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Ms. Ilona Alexander will be on maternity leave from mid-March until end of August 2009 and Ms. Oyuna Umuralieva (formerly from the OHCHR's Universal Periodic Review team) has joined the Minorities team as Ilona's maternity replacement as of 1 March 2009. Prior to her employment with the OHCHR, Ms. Umuralieva has, for example, worked for the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities as well as for OSCE Missions in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Minority Fellowship Programmes 2009 and 2010

The 2009 *Arabic-speaking* fellowship is planned to take place from 26 October to 20 November 2009, to coincide with the next session of the Forum on Minority Issues (see below). More information and application deadline for the 2009 programme will be announced on our website soon.

The 2009 *English-speaking* fellowship will take place at the OHCHR office in Geneva from **1 April to 17 July 2009**.

The candidates selected for the 2009 English-speaking programme are:

- Ms. Angie Cruickshank Lambert (Afrodescendant, Costa Rica)

- Ms. Samah Hadid (Lebanese Muslim, Australia)
- Mr. Sabir Michael (Christian, Pakistan)
- Mr. Abdilahi Jama (Gabooye, Somaliland)
- Mr. Oktam Gaziev (Uzbekh, Kyrgyzstan)

As our fellowship is becoming more and more established, we are changing our selection procedures in order to give a greater voice to minority representatives in selecting the fellows. All applications for the 2010 fellowship will thus be pre-screened by the 2009 fellows who will draw-up a long-list of 15 candidates. The final selection will be made based on phone interviews and the decisions of an advisory board. In order to facilitate the pre-selection by the 2009 fellows, **the application deadline for the 2010 fellowship is thus set to be Monday 15 June 2009** (for the fellowship dates of approximately April-June 2010). The call for applications and the application form are posted on our website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/fellowprog.htm>.

Contact person: Oyuna Umuralieva
oumuralieva@ohchr.org.

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Independent Expert on Minority Issues

During the 10th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2009, Ms. Gay McDougall, the Independent Expert on Minority Issues, will present her annual report as well as the findings of her country visits to Guyana (28 July-1 August 2008) and Greece (8-16 September 2008) and hold her interactive dialogue. She will also report on the inaugural session of the Forum on Minority Issues. Ms. McDougall continues a dialogue with Bangladesh, Colombia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Surinam, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey, to whom she has made requests for future visit. A positive response has already been received from the Government of Kazakhstan for a country visit in 2009.

Contact person for more information: Graham Fox gfox@ohchr.org.

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Forum on Minority Issues

On 17 March 2009, the Human Rights Council will hear reports of its subsidiary bodies such as the Social Forum, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Forum on Minority Issues. The Independent Expert will report on the thematic recommendations of the inaugural session of the Forum (15-16 December 2008) regarding "Minorities and the Right to Education." The Chairperson's summary of the discussions of the Forum is posted on the Forum's website, along with other information:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/minority/forum.htm>.

The second session of the Forum is planned for **12-13 November 2009**.

Contact person for more information: Sylvie Saddier-Calame ssaddier-calame@ohchr.org

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Call for applications for the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery - new deadline 31 March 2009

The United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established in 1991 with the purpose of providing humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities.

NGOs can request a maximum amount of 15,000 United States dollars per grant from the Fund. Projects undertaken with previous Trust Fund grants include medical and psychological aid, food, shelter, and vocational

training to victims of trafficking for sexual and economic exploitation, support to rehabilitation centres for sexually and physically abused street children and a project to identify and release bonded labourers in the carpet industry and stone quarries. Other projects have provided victims with the means to generate sustainable sources of income, such as sewing machines, hairdressing equipment, or farming tools.

Applications for project grants have to be submitted by **31 March 2009** for analysis by the secretariat of the Fund. Admissible applications are examined by the Board of Trustees at its annual session in September 2009. Application forms and guidelines can be obtained from Melanie Clerc, mclerc@ohchr.org, Tel: +41 22 928 9737, Fax: +41 22 928 9010. More information is available on the website of the Fund: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/about/funds/slavery>.

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Seminar on the prevention of genocide

The above seminar was organized on 21 January 2009 in Palais des Nations in Geneva, in line with Human Rights Council Resolution 7/25. Its main objectives were to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to discuss preventive strategies, initiatives and mechanisms that currently exist within the United Nations Human Rights System, as well as the role of member States, regional bodies and other entities in the prevention. The seminar brought together States, relevant United Nations entities and other international and regional organizations, civil society, and academic and research bodies. OHCHR will prepare and publish a paper on the outcome of the seminar, as requested by Resolution 7/25.

For more information see:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/events/RuleofLaw/>.

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Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

In 2006 the General Assembly (GA) decided that the Human Rights Council (HRC) shall "undertake a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments..." (GA resolution 60/251).

The third session of the UPR Working Group was held from **1 to 12 December 2008** and considered the following 16 countries: **Botswana, Bahamas, Burundi, Luxembourg, Barbados, Montenegro, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Liechtenstein, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan and Tuvalu**. In March 2009, the HRC will meet in the plenary session and adopt the outcome of the UPR; a one-hour meeting is devoted to each of the above-listed State under Review (SuR). At the HRC plenary session, the SuR, HRC Member States, Observers including UN entities, as well as stakeholders, including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, have the opportunity to make interventions.

The fourth session of the UPR WG took place from **2 to 13 February 2009** and considered the following 16 countries: **Cameroon, Djibouti, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Bangladesh, China, Jordan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Russian Federation and Azerbaijan**.

The fifth session of the UPR WG is scheduled to take place from **4 to 15 May 2009** and will consider the following 16 countries: **Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen and Afghanistan, Uruguay, Belize, Chile, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Slovakia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The deadlines for the submission of

stakeholders' input for these sessions have passed.

The sixth session of the UPR WG is scheduled to take place from **30 November to 11 December 2009**. Submissions from NGOs are invited by the following deadlines:

- **13 April 2009** for submissions on **Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia;** and
- **20 April 2009** for submissions on **Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Norway, Portugal and Albania.**

NGOs are invited to contribute information for consideration and possible inclusion by OHCHR in a summary of stakeholders' input for the UPR WG sessions. Please note that the page limit for submissions is 5 pages when submitted by individual stakeholders, and 10 pages when submitted by large coalitions of stakeholders. More detailed reports may be attached for reference only. This information will be available on-line for others to access. A note of information and guidelines for relevant stakeholders on the UPR is available at

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBODIES/UPR/Documents/TechnicalGuideEN.pdf>.

Submissions should be sent to OHCHR at the following email address:
UPRsubmissions@ohchr.org.

All available UPR documentation is posted at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR>.

Contact for further details: OHCHR Civil Society Unit, tel: + 41 22 917 96 56; fax: + 41 22 917 90 11; email: civilsocietyunit@ohchr.org.

Durban Follow-up

The 8th session of the *Working Group of Experts on People of African descent* took place at the Palais des Nations from **12 to 16**

January 2009. The Coordinator for the Durban Review Conference, Mr. Ibrahim Salama, delivered the opening address. He welcomed the four new members of the Working Group: Monorama Biswas (Bangladesh), Mirjana Najcevska (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Ralston Nettleford (Jamaica) and Maya Sahli (Algeria). The Coordinator paid tribute to the work of the former members of the Working Group and in particular the Chairman Ambassador Peter Lesa Kasanda. The session then focused on an assessment of the work of the Working Group since its creation. Besides developing its programme of work for the future, including its meetings, country visits and participation in the Durban Review process, it also devoted a day to an analysis of the situation of children of African descent.

For more information see:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/african/4african.htm>

Durban Review Conference Preparatory Process

The *Inter-sessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (ISWG)* held informal open-ended consultations from **19-23 January and 16-19 February 2009** to continue and finalize the process of negotiations on and drafting of the outcome document. By the end of these consultations 84% of the draft outcome document has been reviewed. The latest unofficial version of the draft outcome document, may be found on the dedicated extranet, the details of which are the following:

Address: <http://portal.ohchr.org>
username: **hrc durban**
password: **ohchr123**

The next formal session of the ISWG will take place from **6-10 April 2009**, followed by a final session of the Preparatory Committee (**15-17 April 2009**). The Review Conference

itself will take place from **20 - 24 April 2009**.

On 23 February 2009, *Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Durban Review Conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and proposals for its enhancement* was issued. The report is available at:

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/H_C_contribution_20_February_2009_FINAL.pdf.

A new webpage dedicated to providing information and documentation in all official UN languages regarding the Durban Review Conference and the preparatory process is now accessible at:

<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/index.shtml>.

It includes information regarding, inter alia, the Preparatory Committee, its Intersessional Open-ended Working Group, information on accreditation procedure, room-booking for side events, and modalities on the list of speakers.

A Webcast service, containing the archives of past Preparatory Committee sessions, as well as live broadcast of the session in progress, is also available through:

www.un.org/durbanreview2009/webcast.

The OHCHR Anti-Discrimination Unit is now publishing an E-bulletin for NGOs on the Durban Review Conference. If your organization would like to be added to the mailing and/or for any other queries E-mail: adusecretariat@ohchr.org. The bulletins are also available at:

<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/bulletin.shtml>.

The deadline for applications for travel support for NGOs to attend the Durban Review Conference has passed. The list of selected NGOs is available at the OHCHR Extranet.

The deadline for receiving applications from new NGOs that wish to be accredited to the Durban Review Conference has also passed.

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Durban Review Conference Side Events

In order to provide an opportunity to review progress made in the combat against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since 2001 and to share best practices, side events will be held during the Review Conference, daily from 0900h-1800h from 20-24 April 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Those interested in organizing a side event should consult the Guidance Note on Side Events and complete the inscription form **no later than 14 April 2009**. The inscription form and Guidance Note are available at: www.un.org/durbanreview2009/updates.

The OHCHR will also host side events relating to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Information on these side events can be found at:

www.un.org/durbanreview2009/updates.

Any additional queries on side events should be sent by email to: reviewconferenceevent@ohchr.org or by fax to: + 41 22 928 9050.

The Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit is organizing two side events - one relates to minorities and the other indigenous peoples. The event on "*Durban commitments and minorities: policing in diverse societies*" is preliminarily scheduled for 23 April 2009. It will provide a forum for sharing information and raising awareness about effective measures to prevent racial discrimination against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in particular through the involvement of representatives from minority communities in all aspects of policing. Selected short films and video clips will be screened, followed by commentaries from invited experts and plenary discussions.

Panelists will likely include special procedures mandate-holders, treaty bodies experts, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, academics, civil society actors and police officers. The side event will also showcase the draft OHCHR 'Guidance and Good Practice on Diversity in Policing'.

Contact person for this side event: Michèle Buteau mbuteau@ohchr.org.

The IPMU side event on the rights of indigenous peoples is to take place on 21 April 2009, under the title: "The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - contributing to the realization of the Durban Declaration". It will gather members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as well as representatives of indigenous peoples. Together they will address the following key issues of the Durban review: the situation of racism and racial discrimination against indigenous peoples under national laws and policies; the contribution of international human rights mechanisms, in light of the new Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action and the assessment of the outcome of the Durban Review Conference in relation to the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples, in line with the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

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Treaty Bodies and country reviews

12 to 30 January 2009 - CRC

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** held its 50th session from 12 to 30 January 2009, during which it considered State reports of the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Moldova, Netherlands and Republic of Chad**.

In its concluding observations to the report of

Moldova, the Committee expressed concern at the lack of adequate information on the rate of infant mortality among the Roma and at the discriminatory treatment and reduced access to education, health and an adequate standard of living that Romani children experience. The Committee recommended that the State party develop and implement strategies and programs to ensure access to mainstream education for Romani children and to guarantee the optimal enjoyment by Romani children of the right to education. It also suggested that further efforts be made to ensure the implementation of the principle of respect for the views of the child, with special attention to vulnerable and minority groups.

In relation to the report submitted by the *Netherlands*, the Committee urged the State party to strengthen its awareness-raising and anti-discrimination activities and, if necessary, to take affirmative actions for the benefit of, inter alia, children belonging to minority groups.

The Committee also reviewed, under the **Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**, State party reports by the **Maldives** and the **Netherlands**. The Committee's concluding observations for *the Maldives* expressed concern over the lack of data on the prevalence of sale, child prostitution and child pornography, disaggregated by age, sex, minority group and origin.

More information can be found at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/cr/cs50.htm>

19 January to 6 February 2009 - CEDAW

The 43rd session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** took place from 19 January - 6 February 2009. During this session, the Committee considered State reports by **Armenia, Cameroon, Dominica, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Rwanda**. Regarding the report submitted by *Armenia*, the Committee requested that the State

party enact, without delay, legislation specifically addressing domestic violence against women. Such legislation should ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, in particular addressing the needs of rural women, women with disabilities, refugees and minority women. The Committee expressed concern at the relatively high dropout rate especially of ethnic minority girls from rural areas, and noted the lack of information and statistics about, inter alia, women belonging to ethnic and religious minorities.

In its concluding observations to the report of *Germany* the Committee noted the positive measures taken with the aim of enhancing integration of immigrant, refugee and minority women into the German society and of including such women in the labour market. Yet it continued to be concerned that these women may be subject to multiple forms of discrimination with respect to education, health, employment and social and political participation. The Committee urged the State party to intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination and to conduct regular and comprehensive studies on discrimination against immigrant, refugee, asylum-seekers and minority women.

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws43.htm>

16 February to 6 March 2009 - CERD

The **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is holding its 74th session from 16 February to 6 March 2009, considering the following State reports: **Bulgaria, Congo, Croatia, Finland, Montenegro, Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia, and Suriname.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds74.htm>

16 March to 3 April 2009 - HRC

The 95th session of the **Human Rights Committee** will take place from 16 March to 3

April 2009. During the session the Committee will consider the State Party reports of **Australia, Chad, Rwanda and Sweden.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/hrcs95.htm>.

27 April - 15 May 2009 - CAT

The **Committee against Torture** will hold its 42nd session from 27 April to 15 May 2009 and consider the following State reports: **Chad, Chile, Honduras, Israel, New Zealand, Nicaragua and Philippines.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cats42.htm>

20 April - 1 May 2009 - CMW

The **Committee on Migrant Workers** will hold its 10th session from 20 April to 1 May 2009 and will consider the following State reports: **Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Philippines.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmws10.htm>

4 May - 22 May 2009 - CESCR

The 42nd session of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** will meet from 4 May - 22 May 2009. During this session, the Committee will consider the State reports by **Brazil, Cyprus, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia and Cambodia.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/cescrs42.htm>

25 May to 12 June 2009 - CRC

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** will hold its 51st session from 25 May to 12 June 2009 and will consider the following State reports: **Bangladesh, France, Mauritania, Niger, Sweden and Romania**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs51.htm>
