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- Mr. Sabir Michael (Christian, Pakistan)
- Mr. Oktam Gaziev (Uzbek, 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 *English-speaking* 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>.

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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). The deadline for the 2009 programme is **July 15, 2009**.

The 2009 *English-speaking* fellowship takes 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)

Independent Expert on Minority Issues

The **Independent Expert on minority issues**, Ms. Gay McDougall, participated in the Durban Review Conference in Geneva between 20 and 24 April, 2009. She was one of a panelist including the High Commissioner, Mr. Stéphane Hessel (one of the drafters of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights) and Ms. Berthe Kayitesi (a Rwandan genocide survivor) who spoke during an opening event "United against racism". She was also a panelist and moderator in side events on social exclusion in South Asia and on

minorities and policing in multi-ethnic societies. Ms. McDougall presented a statement to the plenary session regarding minorities facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and called for greater attention by all States to the plight of minorities facing inequality and exclusion, poverty, and sometimes violence.

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Forum on Minority Issues

On 17 March 2009, the Human Rights Council (HRC) heard the recommendations of the Independent Expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall, adopted by the Forum on Minority Issues held on 15 and 16 December 2008 (A/HRC/10/11/Add.1). This was followed by general debate. The HRC also adopted the resolution of the Social Forum as number 10/29. In this resolution the HRC affirmed the unique space for interactive dialogue provided by the Social Forum and requested the next meeting of the Social Forum to focus on, among others, the negative of economic crises on efforts to combat poverty and national anti-poverty programmes.

This resolution can be found on the Council's website along with other information: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/10session/Unedited_versionL.11Revised.doc

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

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Durban Review Conference Preparatory Process

The *Inter-sessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (ISWG)* held the second session of informal open-

ended consultations between **6 and 9 April 2009** aiming to continue and finalize the process of negotiations on and drafting of the outcome document. The ISWG decided to forward to the Preparatory Committee document A/CONF.211/PC/WG.2/2 reflecting the level of agreement on particular paragraphs reached by the ISWG at its plenary meetings held during its first and second sessions on the understanding that the Preparatory Committee at its third substantive session would continue and finalize the process of negotiations on and drafting of the outcome document. More information can be found at:

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/session_s.shtml

The Preparatory Committee held its third and final substantive session during **15 - 17 April 2009**. It reviewed the work of the first and second sessions of the ISWG and discussed the draft outcome document as submitted by the ISWG. The Preparatory Committee adopted the draft outcome document and submitted it for consideration of the Durban Review Conference.

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Durban Review Conference

The *Durban Review Conference (DRC)* took place between **20 and 24 April 2009** to evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. The DRC concluded with a global agreement aiming to achieve real changes in the fight against racism. The outcome document affirms that "the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities shall be protected" and it includes several provisions to address hatred and discrimination faced by minorities as well as barriers to employment and political representation. Specifically, the

outcome document recognized the racial discrimination, xenophobia and violence faced by Roma/Gypsies/Sinti/Travellers and urged States to prevent and eradicate these scourges.

The complete document can be found at:
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/Durban_Review_outcome_document_En.pdf

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Durban Review Conference Side Events

The Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit (IPMU) of the OHCHR organized two side events during the Durban Review conference. The event on **"United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: contributing to the realization of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action"** took place on **21 April 2009**. The panelists and speakers reviewed how international human rights mechanisms contribute to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action, in light of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Several panelists discussed the need for indigenous peoples to take ownership of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples as a means to mainstream indigenous peoples issues within the international community. The States of Guatemala and Mexico also participated in the discussion, suggesting the need to see the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action with a positive perspective and to move forward to create change at the national and regional levels.

The IPMU also held the side event entitled: **"Durban Commitments to Minorities: Policing in Diverse Societies"** which took place on **23 April 2009**. Several speakers shared information about effective measures to prevent racial discrimination against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in particular through their participation and involvement in all

aspects of policing. Among others, Margaret Donaldson, the Director of the Race Discrimination Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission made a presentation on the successes of a project implemented by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to open up dialogue between the Muslim communities and law enforcement in Australia. Short parts of the video "Unlocking doors" prepared by the AHRC featuring various workshops organized during the project were screened and the 2009 minority fellow Ms. Samah Hadid shared her experience about her participation in this project. Oluwakemi Okenyodo-Asiwaju, the Regional Representative of the Altus Global Alliance/CLEEN Foundation delivered a presentation related to the context of informal policing in Nigeria which aims at improving relations between minorities and police. Régis de Gouttes, a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) focused in his presentation on the CERD's role in eliminating racial profiling in policing. Brendan Moran, the Director of the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE HCNM) discussed the OSCE's role in creating good policing practices in multiethnic societies which includes trust, confidence, communication and cooperation between police institutions and minorities. As an example of a good practice of cooperation between police bodies and minority organizations a Brazilian video material was screened entitled "Policia Mineira" that is a documentary film highlighting the easing of tension between the police and members of a community in the *favelas* of Brazil through the playing of music together.

The side event **"Voices"** took place daily during the Durban Review Conference from **20 - 24 April** and was moderated by Ms. McDougall, the Independent Expert on minority issues. This provided a platform for 16 men and women from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds to share their experiences and provide a human face to

issues addressed by the Durban Review Conference. Participants related their experiences of racially motivated violence, exclusion and poverty caused by discrimination and racism.

Several **minority and indigenous fellows** took part in "**Voices**" side event and delivered presentations about their experiences with regard to the situation in their respective communities. 2009 Indigenous Peoples Fellow and tribal leader of the Matigsalug-Manobo tribe of Kitaotao in the Philippines, Datu Cosma Lambayon described the racial discrimination faced by him and his community in the Philippines and the struggle to recover their ancestral lands. Ojot Miru Ojulu, an Anywa and 2006 Minority Fellow, described his experience with racism including verbal abuses and discrimination in areas related to housing, education and violence in Ethiopia. Fakteh Kuna Zamani, 2007 Minority Fellow explained her engagement in defending the right of Azerbaijani's and other Iranian minorities. Khalid Hussain as Bihari Urdu speaker and as 2008 Minority Fellow discussed the discrimination he faced in a camp in Bangladesh without adequate access to health services, water and sanitation.

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 fulfillment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments..." (GA resolution 60/251).

The Human Rights Council adopted during its **10th plenary session (2-27 March 2009)** the

outcomes of the UPR regarding the 16 countries reviewed at the 3rd UPR Working Group session in December 2008: **Botswana, Bahamas, Burundi, Luxembourg, Barbados, Montenegro, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Liechtenstein, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan and Tuvalu.** At the HRC plenary session, the States under Review, HRC Member States and Observers, and stakeholders including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations made interventions.

The 5th session of the UPR Working Group will take place from **4 to 15 May 2009** in Geneva and review 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 submissions of stakeholders input regarding countries under review at the **7th session** which will take place in February 2010 are:

- **1 September 2009:** Angola, Egypt, Madagascar, Gambia, Qatar, Fiji, Iran and Iraq.
- **8 September 2009:** Kazakhstan, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The deadlines for submissions of stakeholders input regarding countries under review at the **8th session** which will take place in May 2010 are:

- **2 November 2009:** Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan and Lao PDR;
- **9 November 2009:** Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Armenia and Belarus.

For these and future deadlines see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NewsDeadlines.aspx

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. 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>.

The reviews are webcasted live and the archives can be accessed at www.un.org/webcast/unhrc.

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

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Treaty Bodies and country reviews

16 March - 3 April 2009 - HRC

The Human Rights Committee held its 95th session from 16 March to 3 April 2009, during which it considered State reports of **Australia, Rwanda and Sweden**.

In its concluding observations to the report of *Australia*, the Committee expressed concern about excess use of force by law enforcement against racial minorities. The

Committee further remained concerned about discrimination against persons of Muslim background, despite measures by the State party to combat islamophobia.

In relation to the report of *Rwanda*, the HRC expressed concern about the non-recognition of minorities and the marginalization and discrimination against the Batwa community.

Pertaining to the report submitted by *Sweden*, the Committee welcomed the inclusion of a provision prohibiting discrimination on grounds of, among others, colour, national or ethnic origin, linguistic or religious affiliation, by public institutions. The Committee was concerned, however, with intolerance towards minority groups among school youths which is manifested as discrimination, harassment, insults and physical violence. The Committee called on Sweden to intensify efforts to combat hate speech.

More information can be found at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/hrcs95.htm>

16 February - 6 March 2009 - CERD

The 74th session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** took place from 16 February to 6 March 2009. During this session, the Committee considered State reports by **Bulgaria, Congo, Croatia, Finland, Montenegro, Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia and Suriname**.

In its concluding observations to the report of *Bulgaria*, the Committee noted that the State party had implemented programmes for the integration of minorities, for the upbringing and education of Roma children, for the promotion of the mother tongues of ethnic minorities, and for the prevention of discrimination by State officials and the police against persons from ethnic minorities. The Committee was concerned with the low levels of minority groups in public administration, the army and the police. It further noted with concern several factors of

discrimination against the Roma people, including, the former practice of the State Party of placing Roma children in schools for children with disabilities as well as obstacles faced by the Roma in accessing work, housing, health care and education and excessive force used by police against the Roma.

Regarding the report submitted by the *Congo*, CERD was worried that the State Party does not recognize inter-ethnic tensions within the State.

Pertaining to the report submitted by *Croatia*, the Committee welcomed the adoption of the Constitutional Act on National Minorities (2002) as well as the establishment of the Councils for National Minorities. However, the Committee was concerned that the State did not prosecute violence against members of minorities. The Committee was further concerned about various discrimination faced by the Roma. This included, in the fields of education, employment, housing, citizenship, and political participation. The Serb and Bosniak peoples faced similar difficulties in obtaining citizenship.

In its concluding observations to the report of *Finland*, CERD welcomed the strengthening of the Ombudsman for Minorities. The Committee was concerned with *de facto* segregation in housing of Roma and immigrants as well as the limited access of Roma to the rights to education, employment, housing and access to public places. It also noted the *de facto* discrimination against persons of foreign origin, including Somalis, in a number of areas.

In assessing the State report of *Montenegro*, the Committee noted with concern that despite State party actions many Roma children were not enrolled in schools, and were not completing higher education. The Committee also found the Roma faced discrimination in education, employment, healthcare and social welfare and often experienced police brutality.

Regarding the report submitted by *Pakistan*, the Committee noted the creation of the National Commission for Minorities. However, the Committee was concerned that the State party had not yet adopted a law prohibiting caste-based discrimination and noted the persisting *de facto* segregation and discrimination against Dalits in accessing their economic, civil, political, and social rights. The committee was further concerned with acts of violence against minority women.

In its concluding observations to the report of *Turkey*, the Committee was concerned about the definition of 'minority' in the Treaty of Lusanne and the resulting difficulty of groups such as the Roma and Kurds in accessing their rights, including education, housing, and employment. These groups also faced hostile attitudes, threats and violence from the public. The Committee was particularly concerned with the training of religious personnel and unresolved questions of restitution of property in relation to the Greek minority.

More information can be found at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds74.htm>

20 April to 1 May 2009 - CMW

The **Committee on Migrant Workers** held its 10th session from 20 April to 1 May 2009 and considered the following States reports: **Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Philippines**. The CMW was concerned about various forms of discrimination faced by undocumented and irregular migrant workers and their families in Azerbaijan. The CMW was further concerned about the situation faced by Filipino women migrant workers.

More information can be found at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmws10.htm>

27 April to 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, Philippines.**

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

4 May to 22 May 2009 - CESCR

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

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, Romania and Sweden.**

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

13 July to 31 July 2009 - HRC

The **Human Rights Committee** will hold its 96th session from 13 July to 31 July 2009 and will consider the following State reports: **Azerbaijan, Chad, Netherlands, and United Republic of Tanzania.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/hrcs96.htm>

20 July to 7 August 2009 - CEDAW

The 44th session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** will take place from 20 July to 7 August 2009. During the session, the Committee will consider the state reports by **Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Denmark, Guinea Bissau, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Liberia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor Leste, and Tuvalu.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws44.htm>

3 August - 28 August 2009 - CERD

The **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is holding its 75th session from 3 August to 28 August 2009, considering the following State reports: **Chad, Poland, Colombia, Azerbaijan, Chile, China, Greece, Monaco, Philippines, Ethiopia, Peru, Panama, and United Arab Emirates.** It will consider the country situation in the absence of a State party report for **Maldives and Kuwait.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds75.htm>
