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### First OHCHR training for staff in Asia and first consultation with NHRI

A pilot training workshop on minority and indigenous issues and rights for OHCHR staff in Asia was held in Nepal and the first consultation on minority issues with a National Human Rights Institution was held in Nepal.

Attached to this Newsletter is a sample powerpoint of the type of information shared during such trainings.

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### UNDP and minorities issues

UNDP is considering preparing a joint OHCHR-UNDP resource guide for its staff to better understand minority rights and issues and how to better promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities in their work. This guide may be used for future staff trainings.

### Consultation with Board members of Voluntary Trust Fund for Technical cooperation

The Board meets in Geneva to advise on the funding of projects of technical advice and support provided to Governments upon their request. The present Board members are: Ms. Mary Chinery-Hesse ( Ghana ), Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn ( Thailand ), Mr. Viacheslav I. Bakhmin ( Russia ), Ms. Monica Pinto ( Argentina ), and Mr. William Schabas ( Canada ).

Presentations were made to the Board members about the OHCHR supported Indigenous and Minority Fellowship Programmes and how it contributes to the protection and empowerment goals of OHCHR .

For more information on the work of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, please see:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/funds/coop/>

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### ECOSOC NGO status

OHCHR has developed a Handbook for NGOs which aims to provide the non-governmental organizations with a comprehensive and user-friendly guide on how to work with the Office of the high Commissioner for Human Rights.

If you wish to download the Handbook, please visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/ngohandbook.htm>

In some instances, it is indicated that only NGOs with ECOSOC status are able to cooperate with certain bodies and mechanisms.

For any information regarding the acquisition of ECOSOC consultative status, you may visit <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/> which contains all relevant information and documentation for application.

You may also address your queries to the:

NGO Section of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations in New York:

*DESA NGO Section  
One UN Plaza. Room DC1-1480  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Tel. +1 212 963 8652  
Fax: +1 212 963 9248  
E-mail: [desangosection@un.org](mailto:desangosection@un.org)*

UNOG NGO liaison office in Geneva Switzerland:

*Mr. Ricardo Espinoza ( [respinosa@unog.ch](mailto:respinosa@unog.ch), tel. +41 22 917 21 27)*

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**Treaty Bodies** and country reviews:

**The Committee Against Torture** held its 38th Session during 30 April - 18 May 2007 in Geneva. It reviewed 7 States parties reports: *Italy, Ukraine, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Poland and Japan.*

Specific references to minorities are contained in the concluding observations concerning Italy, Ukraine and Poland.

More information at [http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cat\\_s38.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cat_s38.htm)

**The Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** held its 38th session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 May to 1 June 2007. It reviewed *Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic and Vanuatu.*

References concerning women belonging to minorities or ethnic groups or the disaggregation of data on the basis of ethnicity are contained in the concluding observations of: Mauritania, Niger and Serbia.

More information at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/38sess.htm>

**The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** held its 40<sup>th</sup> session in Geneva from 30 April to 18 May 2007. It reviewed Latvia, Hungary, Finland, Nepal Specific references to minorities or to requests for information about the ethnic composition of the population are contained in the concluding observations concerning Latvia, Hungary, Finland, Nepal and the Netherlands Antilles.

More information at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/cescrs38.htm>

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