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## Staff at OHCHR

Mr. Pablo Espiniella has left the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities unit to take up a new post in OHCHR's regional office in Bangkok.

Pablo's email is: [pespiniella@ohchr.org](mailto:pespiniella@ohchr.org)

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## Independent Expert on minority issues

Ms. Gay McDougall, the Independent Expert on minority issues undertook an official country visit to France from 19 to 28 September 2007. Ms. McDougall traveled to Paris, Marseilles and Strasbourg, during which she held consultations with Ministers and other senior governmental representatives, NGOs and civil society groups, religious leaders, academics and others working in the field of minority issues, discrimination, racism and gender issues. Ms McDougall visited the suburbs of Paris and Marseilles, including Bobigny and La Courneuve, areas affected by urban upheavals in 2005, to talk directly to community members about their lives and hear their stories and concerns. She also held forums specifically for minority women. She concluded that the particular problems faced by people in these ghettos is a direct consequence of racial discrimination and consequently require policy initiatives targeted to address the special circumstances that they face.

See text of press release at

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/49B43000A728B2E8C12573670070D37F?opendocument>

Ms. Gay McDougall with Mr. Doudou Diene (Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance) are planning to undertake a joint country visit to the Dominican Republic in 23 to 29 October 2007.

For further information please contact:

Graham Fox: [gfox@ohchr.org](mailto:gfox@ohchr.org)

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**Minority Fellowship Programme**

**NEW ON THE OHCHR WEB SITE**

**Pilot Arabic-speaking Minority Fellowship Programme: 3-14 December 2007**

OHCHR is planning a pilot Arabic-speaking Minority Fellowship Programme for two weeks from 3 to 14 December 2007 in Geneva.

**Application deadline: 15 OCTOBER 2007**

Description of the programme and application form in Arabic are available at

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/docs/arabfellowship/description.doc>

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/docs/arabfellowship/applicationform.doc>

**English Minority Fellowship Programme 2008**

Application forms for the English speaking OHCHR Minority Fellowship programme for Spring 2008 is on the OHCHR web site.

**The Application Deadline is 10 DECEMBER 2007**

Please find application form at:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/docs/applicationform2008\\_en.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/docs/applicationform2008_en.doc)

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**UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted on 13 September 2007 by the General Assembly. The UN Declaration was adopted by a

majority of 144 states in favour, 4 votes against (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States) and 11 abstentions (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa and Ukraine).

For further information please contact:  
[jburger@ohchr.org](mailto:jburger@ohchr.org) and [sslimane@ohchr.org](mailto:sslimane@ohchr.org)  
and [mpena@ohchr.org](mailto:mpena@ohchr.org)

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**Access of minorities to work of HRC**

The Human Rights Council at its session in September took a number of decisions concerning follow-up to the previous Sub-Commission's Working Groups on Minorities, Indigenous Populations, Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Social Forum.

With respect to discussions on the issue of a possible future forum on minorities, a draft resolution on this matter was tabled by Austria and revisions were read out orally at its adoption. A thematic forum to assist the IE in her work was established with participation of, inter alia, experts on minorities' issues and representatives of NGOs with ECOSOC status and non-ECOSOC NGOs.

See attachment for orally revised text presented to Council and information at: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>

**Social Forum**

A resolution on the Social Forum was adopted on 28 September 2008 which preserves the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the UN and the broadest range of stakeholders, including grassroots organizations, on the issue of poverty eradication.

The Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing a new special procedure on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and there is no longer a Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

With respect to indigenous issues, the Human Rights Council passed a resolution for the organization of a meeting to discuss possible arrangements for follow-up to the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. This meeting is to be held prior to 10 December 2007.

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#### **UPR review countries selected**

The Human Rights Council has selected the countries for review under the new UPR system.

The review system under UPR will consider 16 different countries at three sessions per year. Thus, 64 countries are to be considered each year. The listing of countries to be considered over the four years of 2008-2011 is available on the OHCHR web site at: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/uprlist.pdf>

The countries to be considered under the first UPR session of 2008 are: Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Finland, United Kingdom, India, Brazil, the Philippines, Algeria, Poland, Netherlands, South Africa, Czech Republic and Argentina.

See listing at: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/upr1stsession.pdf>

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#### **Preparations for Durban Review 2009**

##### *PrepCom dates in 2008*

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Durban Review Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) decided on the

following dates for the first and second substantive sessions of the PrepCom: 21 April to 2 May 2008; and 6 to 17 October 2008. Both substantive PrepCom sessions will be held in Geneva. It is expected that the Durban Review Conference itself will be held in the first six months of 2009 and the venue is still to be decided.

##### *NGO Participation*

The first PrepCom decided on NGO participation in the preparatory process of the Durban Review Conference as well as in the conference itself. These will be:

1. NGOs with ECOSOC status
2. NGOs that were accredited for the WCAR (pending individual objections from Member States which would be discussed during the PrepComs).
3. NGOs new to the process that have been approved after sending to the Secretariat application forms which shall shortly be available at [http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep\\_committee\\_durban/index.htm#docs](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/index.htm#docs).

For a full text of the decision regarding the participation of NGOs and all other decisions, see the draft report of the first PrepCom at [http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep\\_committee\\_durban/docs/prepcomdraft.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/docs/prepcomdraft.doc).

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##### **Informal inter-agency meeting**

Following a request made by Ms. Eva Schoefer from the Mission of Austria (main sponsor of the draft resolution/decision on minorities at the Human Rights Council), the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, OHCHR, invited the sponsors of the minorities' resolution in the Council to meet with the informal inter-agency group on minorities. Representatives of the following Permanent Missions participated: Austria, Finland, Hungary, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Additionally, the representatives of ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNESCO and OCHA discussed the issue of an Information note on Minorities' issues. It was suggested that the Information Note should be finalized and published and that further cooperation be pursued through the Inter-Agency Group.

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**Community-led training for Roma in Latin America**

OHCHR supported a community-led training for Romani representatives in Latin America on human rights capacity building, advocacy and regional networking. This was held from 25 to 28 September 2007 in Buenos Aires, Argentina with a Romani NGO: AICRA (Identidad Cultural Romani de Argentina) and with the participation of a former OHCHR Minority Fellow from Bulgaria as well as Romani representatives from Spain, Bulgaria, Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

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**Future expert meeting on integration with diversity in policing**

OHCHR in cooperation with ILO and the UNODC are planning to hold an expert meeting on integration with diversity in policing in Vienna, Austria from 15 to 16 January 2008.

A background paper of the meeting is to be found at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/docs/12/2006-wp1.doc>

For further information please contact:  
[ialexander@ohchr.org](mailto:ialexander@ohchr.org)

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**Treaty Bodies and country reviews**

**15 October - 2 November 2007 - CCPR**

The 91st session of the **Human Rights Committee** meets from 15 October to 2 November 2007 in Geneva. The following State reports are scheduled for examination: Georgia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Austria, Costa Rica and Algeria. Additionally, lists of issues will be considered and adopted concerning the reports submitted by San Marino, Panama, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.

Further information may be obtained from:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/hrcs91.htm>

**5 - 23 November 2007 - CESCR**

The **Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights** will hold its 39<sup>th</sup> session from 5 to 23 November 2007. The following State reports are scheduled for consideration: Costa Rica, Ukraine, San Marino, Belgium and Paraguay.

Organizations wishing to submit information should do so by **1 October 2007**. For further details on how to submit information see:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/cescrs39.htm>

**26 to 30 November - Pre-Sessional WG of CESCR**

The Pre-Sessional Working Group of the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights will be held from 26 to 30 November 2007. The following State reports are scheduled to be considered: Sweden, The Philippines, Kenya, Bolivia and Nicaragua. Organizations wishing to submit information should do so by **1 November 2007**. For further details on how to submit information see:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/cescrwg39.htm>

**5 to 23 November 2007 - CAT**

The **Committee Against Torture** will hold its 39<sup>th</sup> session from 5 to 23 November 2007. The Committee is scheduled to consider the

State reports of: Australia, Benin, Latvia, Uzbekistan, Norway, Estonia and Portugal.

Further information is to be found at:

[http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cat\\_s39.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cat_s39.htm)

#### ***26 - 30 November 2007 - CMW***

The **Committee on Migrant Workers** will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> session from 26 to 30 November 2007. The Committee is scheduled to consider the report of Ecuador.

#### ***January to February 2008 - CRC***

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> session January to February 2008. The following State reports are planned to be considered: Dominican Republic, Georgia, Timor-Leste and Bhutan. Under the Optional Protocol to CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the following State reports are expected to be considered: Chile, Kuwait and Timor-Leste. Under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict the following State reports are expected to be considered: Chile, Germany, Ireland, Kuwait and Timor-Leste.

For further information please visit:

[http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crc\\_s47.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crc_s47.htm)

#### ***14 January to 1 February 2008 - CEDAW***

The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** is scheduled to hold its 40<sup>th</sup> session from 14 January to 1 February 2008. The following is a list of States parties reports provisionally scheduled to be examined during the next session: Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, Burundi, France, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco and Sweden.

More information at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/40sess.htm>

#### ***18 February to 7 March 2008- CERD***

The next session of the **Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial**

**Discrimination (CERD)** is scheduled to take place from 18 February to 7 March 2008 in Geneva. The Committee will consider the following reports during the session: Republic of Moldova, Italy, Republic of Fiji Islands, Belgium, Russian Federation, Dominican Republic, United States of America and Nicaragua. Under the Committee's review procedure, whereby it considers country situations in the absence of a State party report, the following are tentatively listed for review: Gambia, Monaco, Bulgaria, United Arab Emirates and Panama.

For more information please refer to:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds72.htm>

#### **NEW - OPCAT's Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture's (SPT) first visits 2007-8**

OPCAT's Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) informed Mauritius, Sweden, the Maldives and Paraguay of its plans to carry out visits to these four States Parties. The countries to receive the visits during 2007 or early 2008 have been chosen in accordance with the Optional Protocol. The SPT met with representatives from the Permanent Missions of each of the four States Parties in order to discuss the visiting programme and the modalities of SPT visits.

The SPT consists of 10 independent expert members carrying out preventive visits to places of detention in all States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/opcat/index.htm>

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