

# Minority Update

## N°8 – October 2007

### OHCHR Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit



Minorities team members' emails:

[ialexander@ohchr.org](mailto:ialexander@ohchr.org)

[dhadri@ohchr.org](mailto:dhadri@ohchr.org)

[rmazzawi@ohchr.org](mailto:rmazzawi@ohchr.org)

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#### Staff at OHCHR

Ms. Reem Mazzawi, a former Minority Fellow on the 2005 programme, joined OHCHR's Indigenous Peoples and Minorities unit for 3 months to assist in the planning, organization implementation and follow-up of the pilot Arabic-Speaking Minority Fellowship Programme. Her email is: [rmazzawi@ohchr.org](mailto:rmazzawi@ohchr.org)

Fiona Blyth-Kubota is assigned to work in the team servicing the Human Rights Council's new

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mandate. She will be based in the Treaties and Council Branch of OHCHR. Her email remains: [fblyth-kubota@ohchr.org](mailto:fblyth-kubota@ohchr.org)

#### Independent Expert on minority issues and Special Rapporteur against racism and racial discrimination

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

The press release is available at:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/1B539E061600764FC125737A006B36EB?opendocument>

For further information please contact:

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

Gloria Carrera: [gcarrera@ohchr.org](mailto:gcarrera@ohchr.org)

#### 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)

**UPR review countries Deadline for NGO submissions is 20 November 2007**

The Human Rights Council has selected the countries for review under the new Universal Periodic Review system. **The deadline for NGO submissions under the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the UPR system is 20 November 2007 and they should be sent to the following email address: [UPRsubmissions@ohchr.org](mailto:UPRsubmissions@ohchr.org)**

NGOs are being strongly encouraged to limit their submission to a 5-page document, to which a more detailed and factual report may be attached for reference. This information will be available on line for others to access. Further information on NGO submissions under the UPR system is to be found at:

[http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/noteNGO\\_041007.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/noteNGO_041007.htm)

The countries to be considered under the first UPR session of 2008 from 7-18 April 2008 are:

**Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.**

The countries to be considered under the second UPR session of 2008 from 5-16 May 2008 are:

**Benin, France, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Japan, Mali, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine and Zambia.**

The listing of other 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>

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**Indigenous Peoples and the HRC - meeting on 6 and 7 Dec 2007 in Room XVII of PdN**

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 6 and 7 of December in Room XVII of the Palais des Nations.

For further information please contact: **Mireya Pena** at email: [mpeña@ohchr.org](mailto:mpeña@ohchr.org)

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**Expert meeting on Integration with diversity in policing: Vienna 15-16 January 2008**

OHCHR in cooperation with ILO and the UNODC as well as the Independent Expert on minority issues are scheduled to hold an expert meeting on integration with diversity in policing in Vienna, Austria from 15 to 16 January 2008.

Professionals in the police service from different regions and countries of the world have been invited to participate, including from: Cameroon, Canada, Hungary, India, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Samoa.

The main background paper of the meeting, prepared by Mr. Tom Hadden, 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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**Preparatory Committee (Prep-Com) for  
Durban Review: 21 April-2 May 2008**

***PrepCom dates in 2008***

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Durban Review Conference decided on **21 April to 2 May 2008; and 6 to 17 October 2008** as the dates for the first and second substantive PrepCom sessions to be held in Geneva.

***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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**UN Minorities Documents 1945-1996**

Attached is a list of some of the major UN documents referring to minorities issues prepared during the years 1945-1996. These are separate from those generated under the work of the former WG on Minorities. Most of the documents are available in an electronic version and are to be placed on the OHCHR web site in the future for ease of reference for researchers and others.

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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**.

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/escrwg39.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/cats39.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/crcs47.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) undertook its **first country visit to Mauritius.**

The press release of that visit is available at:  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/3035F318C56594A5C125737800707050?opendocument>

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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