

**Regional consultation on draft guidelines on the effective implementation
of the right to participate in public affairs**

**Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

6 and 7 September 2017

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Wednesday, 6 September 2017

Morning Session: 9.30am - 12.30pm

9.30am-10.00am	Welcome, introduction and opening remarks.
	Opening remarks by Mr Anand Chand , Officer in Charge, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for East Africa Opening remarks by Ms Nathalie Prouvez , Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
10.00am-11.00am	Session 1: The right to participate in public affairs: Scope, content, and related guidance at the international, regional and national levels.
	Moderator: Ms Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR) Introductory remarks by Mr Christof Heyns (South Africa), Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Pretoria and Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. <i>Discussion</i>
11.00am-11.15am Coffee break	
11.15am-12.30pm	Session 2: Ensuring an enabling environment for the effective exercise of the right to participate in public affairs: pre-requisites
	Moderator: Mr Christof Heyns This session will discuss the normative and institutional frameworks which

	<p>enable the enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs. It will also focus on the inter-linkages between the right to participate and other human rights, the implementation of which constitutes a pre-requisite for the full enjoyment of the right to participate, in particular, the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Charles Fombad (Cameroon), Professor of law and Head of Constitutional Law Unit at the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (ICLA) at the University of Pretoria. - Ms Pansy Tlakula (South Africa), Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p>12.30pm-2.00pm Lunch break</p>	

Afternoon session: 2.00pm -5.00pm

<p>2.00pm-3.15pm</p>	<p>Session 3: Enjoyment of the equal right to participate in public affairs by all: overcoming challenges, creating opportunities and sharing good practices.</p>
	<p>Moderator: Mr Hernán Vales (OHCHR)</p> <p>This session will focus on challenges, and ways to overcome them, as well as sharing good national practices, with regard to enhancing the right to participate of various marginalized groups, including persons with albinism, indigenous peoples, minorities, persons with disabilities and young people. All discussions will include challenges from a gender perspective.</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Ikponwosa Ero (Nigeria), United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism. - Mr Batundi Hangi Vicar (Democratic Republic of Congo), Coordinator of the <i>Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés</i>, (FDAPID). <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p>3.15pm-3.30pm Coffee break</p>	

3.30pm 5.00pm	<p>Session 3 (continued): Enjoyment of the equal right to participate in public affairs by all: overcoming challenges, creating opportunities and sharing good practices.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Gogontlejang Phaladi (Botswana), Founder and Executive Director of the Gogontlejang Phaladi Pillar of Hope Organization, member organization of the African Youth and Adolescent Network (AfriYAN). - Ms. Yetnebersh Nigussie (Ethiopia), Co-Founder, Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD), Senior Inclusion Advisor at Light for the World. <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p>5.00pm Closing</p>	

Thursday, 7 September 2017

Morning Session: 9.30am - 12.30pm

9.30am-10.45am	<p>Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Christof Heyns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing the role of civil society in the formulation, monitoring and implementation of policies and legislation in the context of post-conflict and peace-building efforts. <p>Introductory remarks by Mr. Emmanuel Ntakarutimana (Burundi), Former President of the Independent National Human Rights Commission for Human Rights</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10.45am-11.00am Coffee break	
11.00am-12.30am	<p>Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms (<i>continued</i>) :</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good national and regional practices in relation to ensuring accountability and transparency of public decision making institutions. <p>Introductory remarks by Mr Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai (Sierra Leone), Executive Director, Society for Democratic Initiative and Chairman of the Governing Council of the African Freedom of Information Center (AFIC) in Kampala, Uganda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing the role of people living in urban slums and rural areas in the formulation, monitoring and implementation of policies and legislation. <p>Introductory remarks by Ms Esther Mwaura-Muiru (Kenya), Founder and Coordinator of GROOTS Kenya (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood)</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12:30pm-2.00pm Lunch break	

Afternoon session: 2:00pm-5.00pm

2.00pm-3.00 pm	Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms (<i>continued</i>) :
	Moderator: Mr Hernán Vales (OHCHR) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology and social media: opportunities and challenges to strengthen equal and meaningful participation Introductory remarks by Mr Jimmy Kainja (Malawi), Lecturer teaching media and communications at Chancellor College, University of Malawi, writer and blogger. <i>Discussion</i>
3.00pm-4.00pm	Session 5: The right to participate at the regional and international level, including within international organizations.
	Moderator: Mr C. Heyns <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good practices from the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Introductory remarks by Ms Pansy Tlakula (South Africa), Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equal participation in political and public affairs: the African Union experience Introductory remarks by Mr. Ikubaje John (Nigeria), Political Officer, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission. <i>Discussion</i>
4.00pm-4.15pm Coffee break	
4.15pm-5.00pm	Closing session Moderators: Mr Christof Heyns and Ms Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)
	<i>Recap of discussions, final discussion and participants’ recommendations on Content of guidelines</i>