



Fifteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues

1 and 2 December 2022

INFORMATION NOTE

### **Where, when and how will the Forum be held?**

- The annual [Forum on Minority Issues](#) will be held on 1 and 2 December in Geneva (Room XX, Palais des Nations).
- Subjected to the physical distancing measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the number of registered participants, the Secretariat may limit the number of accredited participants per delegation with access to the plenary room. All participants will have to wear masks in the Conference Room.

### **Who can participate in the Forum?**

- The Forum is open to Member States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on minority issues, representatives of minorities and minority and non-governmental organizations.

## **What is the theme and structure of the Forum?**

- This year the Forum's theme is "*Review. Rethink. Reform. 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Minority Rights*". Read the concept note for more details about the theme.
- The panelists will introduce the discussion through an intervention, which shall not exceed 7 minutes.
- The Forum will be structured around four thematic panel discussions:

Item 1. Review: Normative frameworks and the mainstreaming of the Declaration at the UN

Item 2. Rethink: Minority rights defenders and their role in promoting principles of the Declaration

Item 3. Reform: Filling the gaps in the implementation of the Declaration

Item 4. Open dialogue: urgent situations of minorities

- After each panel, the floor will be open for oral interventions. Based on the number of participants seeking the floor the Chairperson will announce the duration of oral interventions at the beginning of each session. However, participants should be ready to limit their interventions to 2 minutes.

## **How to engage with the Forum?**

- Accredited participants can engage with the Forum by making oral interventions. Please see the below section on the List of Speakers for more details about the process. Interpretation will be provided in the

six official UN languages and all interventions will have to adhere to the topic under discussion and contain concrete recommendations.

- Participants, as well as individuals and organizations who will not be able to participate in the Forum or who do not wish to take the floor, can contribute to the discussions by sending a written submission that includes proposal for recommendations at the following email address: [hrc-sr-minorityforum@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-minorityforum@un.org)
- The event can be followed via livestream at the UN Web TV. Link to the livestream will be provided at the webpage of the Forum a few days before the event.

### **How to register for the Forum?**

- All participants are required to register for the Forum using an online registration system Indico [following this link](#). Registrations will be open from 4 October and will close 21 November 2022. No application will be accepted after this date.
- Participants will need to create a profile and complete the online registration before receiving confirmation of their registration by the Forum Secretariat.
- Confirmed participants will receive a QR code by email. The QR code will be scanned by UN Security upon arrival in order to issue a badge of accreditation to the UN premises.
- Some delegates may need a visa to be able to travel to Switzerland. Please note that participants will need to plan and fund their travels to

Geneva. Participants are also responsible for organizing their own visas, if necessary.

### **How will the List of Speakers be collated?**

- While registering for the Forum on Indico, participants will be asked to indicate the session where they would like to intervene.
- The list of speakers will be finalised based on the number of those requesting the floor for each session. The Chairperson will seek to ensure regional, gender and institutional balance of interventions from the floor.
- Registered participants will be able to take the floor once per agenda item. Interventions will be limited to one per organization. Please note that if you are included in the List of Speakers, you will be announced under the “organization name” indicated by you on Indico.
- Limited number of pre-recorded interventions by minority delegates will be accommodated bearing in mind time limitations. Participants from minority groups who wish to intervene via a pre-recorded video statement **must register as soon as possible on Indico no later than 8 November**. Secretariat will provide further technical instructions on submitting the pre-recorded statement to delegates shortlisted to the List of Speakers.

### **How to prepare for the Forum?**

- Participants are encouraged to read the materials available [on the webpage of the event](#).

- All participants are encouraged to reflect upon key issues and recommendations in connection with the topics for each of the thematic sessions of the Forum.
- When preparing for an oral intervention, accredited participants are encouraged to ensure that they can deliver the intervention by speaking at a moderate pace; no more than 100 – 120 words per minute.
- Accredited participants must send their statements to the Secretariat at least one day in advance. Details on how to submit a statement will be provided at a later stage.
- Participants are also encouraged to attend the Preparatory Meeting on Wednesday 30 November from 10:00 AM to 1 PM in Palais des Nations Room XXI.

### **Preparatory Meeting**

- The Preparatory Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 November from 10:00 AM to 1 PM in Palais des Nations Room XXI.
- The meeting is open to all participants of the Forum and will provide guidance for participants to ensure a constructive and successful discussion during the Forum.
- In the time remaining after the presentation of the rules of procedures for the Forum, civil society organizations may take the opportunity to share with the Special Rapporteur information on situations, which do not fall within this year's thematic focus of the Forum.

## **Side events**

- Participants may organize side events to further contribute to discussions relating to the theme of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, particularly with a view to sharing information on strategies, challenges, activities and best practices in the area.
- The Secretariat is not responsible for the side events organized during the Forum. States and NGOs hosting a parallel event are responsible for the content of the event and the conduct of the participants.
- State and NGO side-events are public meetings and may therefore be attended by all Permanent Missions, NGOs and other civil society representatives, UN staff and other participants with access to Palais des Nations.
- Please note that due to the renovation of the Palais des Nations, only one room is available to be allocated for side events, and it will be allocated on "first come, first served" basis. No requests for side-events will be received after 27 October.

## **What is the outcome of the Forum?**

- During the Forum, participants will identify recommendations to effectively address the gaps in the implementation of the UN Declaration on Minority Rights.
- The recommendations will be compiled in a report that will be presented by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues to the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in March 2023.

- The Chair of the Forum will prepare a summary report of the discussions, which will be made available on the webpage of the Forum after its conclusion.

### **What accessibility measures are in place?**

- Interpretation in International Sign Language will be provided during the Forum.
- Captioning in English, Spanish and French will be provided during the Forum.
- People with disabilities registering for the Forum are encouraged to fill in the “Accessibility requirements” segment of the registration. The Secretariat will try to accommodate the requests to the extent possible.

### **Where to address any additional questions?**

- Any questions or requests for information should be addressed to the Secretariat of the Forum on Minority Issues, Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at [hrc-sr-minorityforum@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-minorityforum@un.org).