

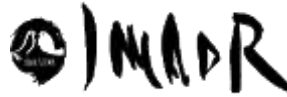


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Centre
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Human Rights
Research
and
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Centre



Institute
on Race,
Equality
and Human
Rights



GLOBAL
CENTRE FOR
PLURALISM

CENTRE
MONDIAL DU
PLURALISME

Programme of Work

(DRAFT – subject to change)

Day 1 – Tuesday 27th April 2021

14:00-15:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Opening Session

09:00-10:00 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

08:00-09:00 (New York, UTC -4)

07:00-08:00 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Welcoming remarks (5 minutes)

Anna-Mária Bíró, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute

Opening Remarks (45 minutes)

Martha Delgado Peralta, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Antonia Urrejola Noguera, President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Magdalena Talamas, Director of the Department for the Promotion of Peace at the Organization of American States

Guillermo Fernandez-Maldonado, Representative in Mexico of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme

Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Rules and Guide to Proceedings (5 minutes)

Anna-Mária Bíró, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute, will set-out the process and explain the rules of proceedings for the forthcoming sessions.

15:00-16:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

High-Level State Panel

10:00-11:00 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

09:00-10:00 (New York, UTC -4)

08:00-09:00 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Moderator: **Gay McDougall**, former Vice Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and former UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities

Panel: **Cristopher Ballinas Valdes**, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Ariel Eckbland, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, United States of America

Victoria Donda, President of the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, Argentina

H.E. Ambassador Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Costa Rica

Esequiel Roque do Espírito Santo, Deputy National Secretary of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, Brazil

Questions and Answers

16:00-16:15 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Break

16:15-17:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Thematic Session 1: Substantive root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities

11:15-12:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

10:15-11:45 (New York, UTC -4)

09:15-10:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Moderator: **Carlos Quesada**, Director, International Institute on Race, Equality, and Human Rights

Experts: **Lottie Cunningham**, President, Contact Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua

Ralph R. Premdas, Professor of Public Policy, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.

Marino Córdoba, Legal Representative, Asociacion Nacional de Afrocolombianos Desplazados (AFRODES)

Interactive dialogue

17:45-18:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Break

18:00-19:30 (Geneva, UTC +2)

13:00-14:30 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

12:00-13:30 (New York, UTC -4)

11:00-12:30 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Thematic Session 2: Normative framework: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention

Moderator: **Jose Antonio Guevara Bermúdez**, Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala

Experts: **John Packer**, Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa

María Luisa Acosta, Coordinator, El Centro de Asistencia Legal Para Pueblos Indígenas (CALPI)

Alejandro Fuentes, Senior Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Interactive dialogue

Day 2 – Wednesday 28th April 2021

14:00-15:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

09:00-10:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

08:00-09:45 (New York, UTC -4)

07:00-08:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Thematic Session 3: Obstacles to implementing the rights of minorities and early effective conflict prevention

Moderator: **Lecia Brooks**, Southern Poverty Law Centre

Experts: **Maria Eugenia Carbone**, Director of the Latin American Program and Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, Auschwitz Institute

Carlos Alberto Sarti, Director, Fundación Propaz

Mirna Cuentas, Conflict Prevention and Dialogue Specialist, Governance and Peacebuilding, Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme

Yadira Pinilla, Senior Advisor in the Secretariat for Integral Development, Organization of American States

Interactive dialogue

15:45-16:00 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Break

16:00-17:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

11:00-12:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

Thematic Session 4: Ways forward towards addressing gaps in human rights mechanisms to protect minorities and prevent conflicts

10:00-11:45 (New York, UTC -4)
09:00-10:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Moderator: **Meredith Preston McGhie**, Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

Experts: **Alain-G. Gagnon**, Canada Research Chair in Quebec and Canadian Studies, University of Quebec in Montreal

Althea Middleton-Detzner, Director, PeaceTechLab

Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (Video presentation)

Hurst Hannum, Professor Emeritus of International Law, The Fletcher School at Tufts University

Interactive dialogue

17:45-18:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Break

18:45-19:45 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Presentation of Recommendations

13:45-14:45 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

12:45-13:45 (New York, UTC -4)

11:45-12:45 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

In this session, the proposed recommendations developed during the four thematic sessions will be made available to participants to consider.

The session will be introduced by **Fernand de Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, following which **Marcus Oda**, Programme Manager at the Tom Lantos Institute, will present the list of recommendations.

Participants can make any final comments on specific recommendations using the Zoom chat function.

Moderator: **Anna-Mária Bíró**, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute

19:45-20:15 (Geneva, UTC +2)

Concluding remarks

14:45-15:15 (Buenos Aires, UTC -3)

13:45-14:15 (New York, UTC -4)

12:45-13:15 (Mexico City, UTC -5)

Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

Working language of the regional forum is English. Interpretation will be provided in French, Portuguese, Spanish and Mexican sign language.