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## Programme of Work

(draft and subject to change)

## \*\*The times indicated refer to Geneva/Central European Summer Time (CEST or GMT +02:00)

**Day 1 Tuesday 12th October 2021**

**09:00-10:00 Opening Session**

*Welcoming remarks*

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

*Opening Remarks*

# H.E. Mr. Alexander Schallenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs Austria

# Kairat Abdrakhmanov, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

**Ryszard Komenda,** Regional Representative, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for the Central Asia

**Armands Pupols**, Political Affairs and Human Rights Officer, UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

**Paulo David**, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Fernand de Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Rules and Guide to Proceedings*

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

**10:00-10:15 Technical Break**

**10:15-11:15 High-Level State Panel**

*Chair:* **Mô Bleeker**, Special Envoy, Head of the task force for Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

*Panel:* **H.E. Tatiana Molcean**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

**H.E. Martin Frick**, Director of the Office for Foreign Affairs, Principality of Liechtenstein

**11:15-11:30 Technical Break**

**11:30-13:00 Thematic Session 1: Substantive root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities**

*Moderator:* **Neil Clarke**, Head of Legal Programmes and EU Advocacy,Minority Rights Group International

*Experts:* **Jonathan Cohen**, Executive Director, Conciliation Resources

**Karena Avedissian**, Fellow, Royal Society of Arts

**Natalia Mirimanova**, Senior Political Adviser, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

*Interactive dialogue*

**13:00-14:00 Lunch Break**

**14:00-15:30 Thematic Session 2: Normative framework: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention**

Moderator: **Erzsébet Sándor-Szalay**, Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudswoman for the Rights of National Minorities

*Experts:* **Francesco Palermo**, Comparative Public Law, University of Verona and Director of the Institute for Comparative Federalism, Eurac Research

**Nurcan Kaya**, human rights lawyer and researcher

**Urko Aiartza Azurtza**, Senior Advisor, European Institute of Peace

**Irina Vlah**, Governor of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova

*Interactive dialogue*

**Day 2 Wednesday 13th October 2021**

**09:00-10:30 Thematic Session 3: Obstacles to implementing the rights of minorities and early effective conflict prevention**

*Moderator:* **Vello Pettai**, Director, European Centre for Minority Issues

*Experts:*  **André Fazi,** Lecturer in political science, University of Corsica

**Salpy Eskidjian**, Executive Director of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process

**Damir Kapidžić**, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo

**Amalur Alvarez**, Researcher, Eusko Ikaskuntza

*Interactive dialogue*

**10:30-11:30 Break**

**11:30 – 13:00 Thematic Session 4: Ways forward towards addressing gaps in human rights mechanisms to protect minorities and prevent conflicts**

*Moderator:* **Anina Ciuciu**, Director, La Voix des Rroms

*Experts:* **Marina Elbakidze**, Project Coordinator, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development

**Sardorbek Abdukhalilov**, former OHCHR Minority Fellow and lawyer, Spavedlivost Human Rights Organization

**Petra Roter**, Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana

**Vincze Loránt**, President, president of the Federal Union of European Nationalities

*Interactive dialogue*

**13:00-14:30 Lunch break**

**14:30-15:30 Presentation of Recommendations**

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:*

**15:30-16:00 Concluding remarks**

**Fernand de Varennes,** UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Russian and Romani*