Seminar of National Human Rights Institutions

European Development Days, 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} of June 2015
Tour & Taxis, Brussels
(Avenue du Port 86, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium)

– Final Agenda –
(as of 2\textsuperscript{nd} June 2015)

Co-organised by

- The European Commission,
- The International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions,
- The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions,
- The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions,
- The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, and
- The Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the American Continent.

www.eidhr.eu
Seminar purpose

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are key stakeholders and fundamental element in the international, regional and national human rights framework. Through their mandate to protect and promote human rights, they play an increasingly important role for making human rights a reality on the ground.

This event will address the role, potential and challenges of National Human Rights Institutions in development, and avenues for EU support and interactions with them. It will take place at a crucial moment of time when world leaders and development stakeholders are discussing the post-2015 agenda for development. It also occurs in a context where the European Union is enhancing its support for NHRIs.

The event will include two plenary sessions, parallel working groups, a dining cocktail, a restricted dinner for NHRIs and speakers, as well as bilateral meetings and networking facilities.

More information is available here: http://www.eidhr.eu/events/special-event-with-national-human-rights-institutions
**Wednesday 3 June 2015**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.15 – 9.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>The event will take place in the premises of Tour &amp; Taxis at the occasion of the European Development Days (<a href="http://www.EuDevDays.eu">www.EuDevDays.eu</a>). Considering the high number of expected participants, as well as security checks, early registration is strongly recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 – 11.00</td>
<td>Opening Plenary Session</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for NHRIs?</td>
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<td>It has been two decades since the parallel development of the Millennium Development Goals, the Vienna Declaration, and the Paris Principles on National Human Rights Institutions, and the link between human rights and development is now firmly established. Through their monitoring, reporting, complaints handling, and advisory mandates NHRIs play important roles in upholding international human rights standards thereby contributing to development. How can NHRIs promote the inclusion of human rights in the post-2015 agenda? How can they ensure the implementation of international accountability comprised in the SDGs? How can they facilitate the participation and inclusion of marginalised groups in development, so that no one is left behind? Beyond Goal 16, how can they contribute to a rights-based approach encompassing all human rights addressing all development sectors? What potentials and challenges may they face, in particular in interacting with and bringing other actors together?</td>
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|           | ✓ Mr Mabedle Lourence Mushwana  
Chairperson, International Coordinating Committee for NHRIs; Chairperson, South African Human Rights Commission |
|           | ✓ Mr Michel Forst  
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Secretary General, Commission nationale consultative des droits de l’Homme, France |
|           | ✓ Mr Vladlen Stefanov  
Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) |
|           | ✓ Mr Ignacio Saiz  
Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights |
|           | Moderator: Ms Lotte Knudsen, European Commission, Human Development and Migration, Director |
|           | NB: This session aims at being interactive; after a short introduction by the speakers, the floor will be opened for discussion with participants. |
11.30 – 12.30
Opening Ceremony of the European Development Days
(Room: Screening in A2)

12.30 – 14.00
Break

14.00 – 16.00
Parallel working group 1
(NHRIs room n°1)
NHRIs and Policy-Making and Public Institutions

NHRIs have an important role in monitoring the adoption and amendment of laws, as well as the functioning of the government, through reporting, documenting, advising and voicing concerns regarding compliance of national legislation and policy with international human rights norms. While their potential is incrementally recognised, what are the challenges and opportunities that NHRIs may face while engaging with public institutions? What hinders their efficiency to monitor and remedy human rights violations? What are the possible ways to interact and strengthen the cooperation between NHRIs and public institutions regarding day to day policy-making and practices? How can NHRIs apply these functions in the national implementation of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, in terms of public participation, monitoring, and accountability?

✓ Mr Driss El Yazami,
   Chairperson, Conseil national des droits de l’homme, Morocco; President, Association Francophone des Commissions nationales des droits de l’Homme

✓ Mr Ramiro Rivadeneira
   Ombudsman, Defensor del Pueblo de Ecuador, Ecuador

✓ Ms Andrea Kämpf
   Senior Policy Adviser, German Institute for Human Rights, Germany

✓ Mr Silverio Pinto Batista
   Ombudsman, Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice, Timor Leste

✓ Mr Morten Kjaerum
   Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Moderator: Mr Engelbert Theuermann, Chair of the Council Working Group on Human Rights (COHOM), European External Action Service (EEAS)

Rapporteur: Mr Gilbert Sebihogo, ICC Regional Coordinator, Director of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)

NB: This working group will be based on practical experiences of NHRIs, and sharing of challenges and best practices.
Human rights abuses are both causes for and consequences of crisis. In conflict situations, NHRIs have a critical role in protecting rights-holders, in ensuring mediation, peace-building initiatives and case registration. In post-conflict contexts, they have a fundamental role regarding reconciliation, memory, impunity, remedies, and to prevent resurgence of violence. In transition processes, they have a key normative and monitoring role in promoting adequate reforms. Increasingly, it is recognized, that natural disasters can also have an impact on the human rights situations of the persons they affect. How can NHRIs best protect and promote human rights in such challenging situations? What are the practical limits of NHRIs in these situations in terms of duty of care and safety of staff?

✓ **Ms Sima Samar**
   Chairperson, Independent Human Rights Commission, **Afghanistan**

✓ **Mr Emmanuel Ntakarutimana**
   Chairperson, Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l’homme, **Burundi**

✓ **Mr Bogdan Kryklyvenko**
   Head of Secretariat, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, **Ukraine**

✓ **Mr Hector Davalos Martinez**
   Executive Secretary, Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de México, **Mexico**

**Moderator:** **Ms Catherine Woollard**, Independent Diplomat, Director

**Rapporteur:** **Ms Debbie Kohner**, ICC Regional Coordinator, Director of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

**NB:** This working group will be based on practical experiences of NHRIs, and sharing of challenges and best practices.
16.00 – 18.00  **Meeting & Networking (1)**

A dedicated area (NHRI lounge) will provide space and facilities for networking opportunities, bilateral encounters or network meetings.

16.00 – 18.00  **The role of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations, project planning**

*(NHRI Room n°1)*

Organiser: ENNHRI – internal meeting

19.00 – 21.30  **Dining Cocktail**

*Restaurant La fabbrica - Avenue du Port 86C, B- 1000 Bruxelles (in front of Tour & Taxis)*

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**Thursday 4 June 2015**

09.30 – 10.30  **Meeting & Networking (2)**

A dedicated area (NHRI lounge) will provide space and facilities for networking opportunities, bilateral encounters or network meetings.

09.30 – 10.30  **Launch of the NANHRI Strategic plan for the period 2015-2019**

*(NHRI Room n°1)*

*Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)*

Organiser: NANHRI
Through their mandate as independent public institutions, NHRIs play a pivotal role in building bridges between the government, civil society and individuals and in promoting an enabling environment for them. They also have a role in interacting with and protecting Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). Being HRDs themselves, many NHRIs have experienced and still face threats, reprisals or intimidation. How can NHRIs, in their daily work, engage with CSOs and build the link between government, civil society and individuals? How can they bridge the 'protection gap' between the rights of individuals and the responsibilities of the State? What are their main challenges in working with or as HRD?

- **Ms Maryam Azra Ahmed**
  Chairperson, Human Rights Commission, Maldives

- **Ms Sophie Asimenye Kalinde**
  Chairperson, Human Rights Commission, Malawi

- **Mr Rolando Villena Villegas**
  Ombudsman, Defensoria del Pueblo del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Bolivia

- **Mr Henri Tiphagne**
  Executive Director, People’s Watch; Chairperson, Forum-Asia

**Moderator:** Mr Jean-Louis Ville, European Commission, Head of Unit Governance, Democracy, Gender and Human Rights

**Rapporteur:** Ms Karina Medinaceli, ICC Regional Coordinator, Director of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the American Continent

NB: This working group will be based on practical experiences of NHRIs, and sharing of challenges and best practices.
NHRIs have a key role in the national implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP) and other related standards. This implies inter alia monitoring of the state duty to protect human rights against business related impacts, and also engagement with business actors and other stakeholders. What are the opportunities faced by NHRIs when addressing business and human rights? How can NHRIs support the UNGPs and the elaboration of National Action Plans? What can NHRIs achieve through engaging directly with the private sector? How can NHRIs play a bridging role between state and business?

✓ Ms Mbogori Kagwiria  
  Chairperson, National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya

✓ Ms Datuk Khaw Lake Tee  
  Vice-Chairperson, Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM), Malaysia

✓ Ms Viviana Cáceres Draper  
  Chief Adviser, Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Chile

✓ Mr Mauricio Lazala  
  Deputy Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

Moderator: Ms Claire Methven O’Brien, Chief Advisor, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark

Rapporteur: Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick, ICC Regional Coordinator, Director of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

NB: This working group will be based on practical experiences of NHRIs, and sharing of challenges and best practices.
13.30 - 15.00  **Plenary session**
(Room: A2)  **NHRI and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Realizing their Potential in Development Processes**

Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) have for a long time led a rather shadowy existence in the global discourse on human rights. They also relate to people’s basic needs such as health, housing, education, water, and are therefore closely linked to development. However, all human rights are interdependent and failing to protect ESCR can have serious consequences which might also lead to the violations of other human rights. Human rights actors, including NHRI are increasingly working on ESCR across the globe, both in policy-making as well as in litigation. How can NHRI ensure the promotion and protection of these fundamental rights? What are their experiences, how do they achieve change?

- **Mr Patrick Keuleers**  
  Director of the Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- **Mr Joseph Whittal**  
  Deputy Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana

- **Mr Abdeljelil Bedoui**  
  Steering Committee member, Forum tunisien pour les droits économiques et sociaux (FTDES); member league of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

**Moderator: Mr Alan Miller**, Chairperson, Scottish Human Rights Commission, Chairperson of The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), ICC Secretary

**Concluding remarks by Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights**

NB: This session aims at being interactive; after a short introduction by the speakers, the floor will be opened for discussion with participants.
### Meeting & Networking (3)

A dedicated area (NHRI lounge) will provide space and facilities for networking opportunities, bilateral encounters or network meetings.

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<tr>
<td>15.00 – 18.00</td>
<td>Meeting of the ICC Working Group on Sustainable Development (NHRIs Room n° 1)</td>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>ICC Working Group on SDGs – internal meeting</td>
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<td>15.00 – 16.30</td>
<td>Meeting of the Association Francophone des Commissions nationales des droits de l'Homme (AFCNDH) (NHRIs Room n°2)</td>
<td>Organiser: AFCNDH</td>
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<td>16.30 – 18.00</td>
<td>Danish Institute for Human Rights with partners (NHRIs Room n°1)</td>
<td>Organiser: Danish Institute for Human Rights – internal meeting</td>
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<td>20.00 - 22.00</td>
<td>Working Dinner for NHRIs</td>
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