



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 October 2018

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Forum on Minority Issues

Eleventh session

29 and 30 November 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
2. Root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities: preventing statelessness through a human rights approach.
3. Statelessness resulting from conflicts, forced population movements and migration affecting minorities: main challenges and possible solutions.
4. Ensuring the right to a nationality for persons belonging to minorities through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship for stateless minorities.
5. Minority women and children affected by statelessness: advancing gender equality in nationality laws.
6. Concluding remarks.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Venue

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 and 19/23, the eleventh session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held on 29 and 30 November 2018 in Geneva (Palais des Nations, room XVII).

The Forum on Minority Issues will have before it the provisional agenda contained in the present document to consider for adoption. The programme of work for the session is contained in the annex.

Opening meeting

The President of the Human Rights Council will deliver an opening statement, which will be followed by a video statement from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and statements by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.



Documentation

The documents for the session will be made available on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Minority/Pages/Session11.aspx).

Discussions

During the two-day session, participants will be invited to contribute to four panel discussions under the general topic “Statelessness: A Minority Issue”. Each panel discussion will be introduced briefly by a number of experts and facilitated by a moderator, who will guide the discussion towards the formulation of specific recommendations. Participants will be encouraged to make statements or comments, to answer questions from the moderator and to suggest recommendations to be included in the outcome document that the Special Rapporteur will present to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session, in March 2019.

2. Root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities: preventing statelessness through a human rights approach

Participants will discuss the impact of statelessness on a person’s ability to enjoy fully human rights and fundamental freedoms and to have access to remedy for human rights violations.

Participants will also explore the interconnections between prevention of statelessness through the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to minorities, particularly through the prohibition and elimination of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion and language and combating multiple vulnerabilities associated with statelessness.

3. Statelessness resulting from conflicts, forced population movements and migration affecting minorities: main challenges and possible solutions

Participants will discuss the impact of conflicts and their consequences in terms of statelessness of persons belonging to minorities, as a result of, inter alia, forced displacement, population transfers and forced migration.

Consideration will also be given to examples illustrating measures to adopt fair statelessness determination procedures in order to ensure that individuals enjoy their human rights during border crossing, until they acquire a nationality.

4. Ensuring the right to a nationality for persons belonging to minorities through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship for stateless minorities

Participants will address the challenges faced by persons belonging to minorities, including nomadic and other non-traditional minorities and minorities living in isolated border areas, in obtaining or demonstrating citizenship. Participants will also identify examples of effective measures for the elimination of laws and practices that arbitrarily deny or deprive persons of their nationality on the basis of discriminatory grounds such as race, ethnicity, religion and language.

Participants will share views on effective ways to ensure access to the documentation needed to prove nationality or entitlement to nationality for all, without discrimination. They include, inter alia, facilitation of birth registration, naturalization, confirmation and acquisition of citizenship.

5. Minority women and children affected by statelessness: advancing gender equality in nationality laws

Participants will discuss the impact of statelessness on children, including in terms of access to primary education and health-care services, and on women in terms of accessing sexual and reproductive health services and rights.

Participants will also discuss the impact of advancing gender equality in laws such as citizenship laws and the potential impact on preventing or eliminating the statelessness of persons belonging to minorities.

6. Concluding remarks

Participants will draw on the outcomes of the two days of discussion to reflect on the best ways to prevent and combat statelessness and the role of the promotion and protection of human rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in this regard. They will be encouraged to identify and refine a number of recommendations to States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors for the promotion and fulfilment of the rights of persons belonging to minorities in combating statelessness as they relate to each item of the present agenda.

The Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues will make concluding remarks, including proposals for follow-up steps to be taken with Forum participants.

Annex

Programme of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Thursday, 29 November 2018		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work	<p>Opening of the Forum on Minority Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council • Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (video statement) • Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues • Remarks by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues
	2. Root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities: preventing statelessness through a human rights approach	
3–6 p.m.	3. Statelessness resulting from conflicts, forced population movements and migration affecting minorities: main challenges and possible solutions	
Friday, 30 November 2018		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	4. Ensuring the right to a nationality for persons belonging to minorities through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship for stateless minorities	
3–6 p.m.	5. Minority women and children affected by statelessness: advancing gender equality in nationality laws	
	6. Concluding remarks	