



Wilton Park

Programme

Towards a 21st century treaty body system

**Wednesday 28 February – Friday 2 March 2018 |
WP1574**

The expert roundtable will provide a fora to explore opportunities presented by the 2020 General Assembly Review of the UN Human Rights Treaty Body System. In particular, the meeting will consider what makes for a modern and effective Treaty Body System (TBS), with the protection of human rights at the forefront.

Building on existing discourse, the expert group will consider creative ideas, proposals and recommendations for the development of a Treaty Body oriented approach in the light of the Treaty Body Strengthening Process.

Discussion will focus on practical ways in which Treaty Body System reform can:

- enhance and strengthen human rights protection at state, regional and international levels
- amplify impact 'on the ground' - building on lessons learned, existing good practice and innovative approaches
- create opportunities for an ambitious future which goes beyond 2020

Proposals will take into account:

- Political viability
- Short term and longer term prospects
- Resource implications to ensure efficiency and effectiveness

The event will be held under the [Wilton Park Protocol](#), whereby all discussion will be off the record. Participation will be up to 50 people drawn from a broad spectrum of countries and backgrounds, including treaty bodies, independent experts, OHCHR, NGOs and State Party representatives.

In association with the Organising Committee comprised of Jens Modvig (Chairperson, UN Committee Against Torture), Anastasia Crickley (Outgoing Chairperson, UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), and Sir Malcolm Evans (Chairperson, UN subcommittee on Prevention of Torture).

Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes to be confirmed)

In association with:

Wednesday 28 February

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| 1500-1600 | Participants arrive |
| 1515-1545 | Briefing for Session 2 Co-facilitators - Library |
| 1600 | Welcome to Wilton Park Julia Purcell Programme Director, Wilton Park Introduction to meeting Anastasia Crickley Outgoing Chairperson, UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); Vice-President International Association for Community Development, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University, Kildare |
| 1620-1730 | 1. The uniqueness of the Treaty Body System: context, vision and values Plenary session Context setting and brief overview of ideas emerging from previous discussions, including the Copenhagen planning meeting. Why is the Treaty Body System still essential? What are the key attributes and elements? What is the specific added value of the TBS to the existing human rights framework? Jens Modvig Chairperson, UN Committee Against Torture (CAT); Director, Health Department, DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture, Copenhagen Rosa Freedman Professor of Law, Conflict and Global Development, University of Reading Malcolm Evans Chairperson, UN subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT); Professor of International Law, University of Bristol |
| 1730-1800 | Tea/coffee |
| 1800-1845 | 2. Future of the Treaty Body System: challenges and opportunities Breakout session 4 parallel groups to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what are the challenges eg blockers, key concerns, constraints• current opportunities• What one change would improve the effectiveness of the TBS to enhance human rights protection?• Example of innovative practice |
| 1845 | De-brief with Session 2 Co-facilitators - Library |
| 1915 | Briefing for Session 5 Co-facilitators - Library |
| 1900 | Reception followed by dinner |

Thursday 1 March

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-0930

3. Reflections from breakouts

Brief overview on outputs from groups

Plenary

0930-1045

4. Increasing human rights impact: engagement, independence and transparency

How to ensure direct engagement and access to people affected by human rights concerns? eg. country visits, links with NHRIs, NGOs, states, indigenous groups. In what ways can co-operation be enhanced? How to sustain a high calibre of Committee nominations? eg. skills base, transparency of selection process.

Plenary

Session Chair:

***Ibrahim Salama**

Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Geneva

Speakers:

Felice Gaer

Vice-Chairperson, UN Committee Against Torture (CAT); Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, New York

Benyam Mezmur

Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC); Associate Professor, University of the Western Cape, Bellville

1045-1130

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1245

5. Strengthening prevention and protection of human rights: raising profile and building capacity

Breakout groups to develop proposals and recommendations towards greater prevention and protection of human rights. Taking into account the political environment and resource implications, all thematic discussions to include:

- What needs to change – short term and long term?
- Who needs to do what in order to effect change?
- What are the risks/unintended consequences?
- Lessons from current good practice- who is doing what?

Proposed themes for breakouts:

- Collaboration, co-ordination and more effective cross-working between committees
- Reporting procedures
- Communications
- Working with other bodies- who and how, to maximise impact and make better use of resources
- Accessibility and visibility of TBS (Pro-activity, getting on the front foot, media, social media, ownership and leadership)
- Ownership, follow up and implementation
- 'wild card' themes eg additional topics that may have emerged in preceding sessions

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| 1300-1445 | Lunch |
| 1400 | Briefing for Session 8 Co-facilitators - Library |
| 1500-1530 | <p>6. Raising profile and building capacity</p> <p>Plenary session- reports from groups</p> <p>Chaired by: Anastasia Crickley Outgoing Chairperson, UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); Vice-President International Association for Community Development, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University, Kildare</p> |
| 1530-1630 | <p>7. Follow up and implementation</p> <p>Plenary session- chaired discussion in response to feedback</p> <p>Chaired by: Jens Modvig Chairperson, UN Committee Against Torture (CAT); Director, Health Department, DIGNITY - Danish Institute against Torture, Copenhagen</p> |
| 1630-1700 | Tea/coffee |
| 1700-1830 | <p>8. Creating opportunities for change</p> <p>Breakout session</p> <p>Opportunity for final round of creative/blue sky thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political viability/workability • Resource test • Timeline- Long/short term • Who needs to do what? |
| 1845 | Reception followed by Conference dinner |
| 1845 | De-brief with Co-facilitators - Library |

Friday 2 March

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| 0800-0845 | Breakfast and checkout |
| 0915-1000 | <p>9. Check in from breakouts</p> <p>Plenary</p> |
| 1000-1115 | <p>10. Proposals, next steps and ownership</p> <p>Plenary discussion in response to breakout reports</p> <p>Chaired by: Malcolm Evans Chairperson, UN subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT); Professor of International Law, University of Bristol</p> |
| 1115-1145 | Tea/coffee |

1145-1155

11. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1155-1245

12. Round up and concluding remarks

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart