



Wilton Park

Programme

Addressing implementation gaps: improving cooperation between global and regional human rights mechanisms

Thursday 23 – Saturday 25 January 2014 | WP1291

While ratifications of international human rights instruments continue to increase, closing the implementation gap remains a major challenge for the realisation of human rights. Governments are primarily responsible for implementing human rights at national level; global and regional organisations with a human rights mandate play complementary roles in promoting, protecting and enhancing the universality of human rights, together with national human rights institutions and civil society organisations.

As requested by the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has in recent years instituted annual consultations between the UN and regional human rights systems to strengthen existing links and identify new approaches for cooperation between regional and international human rights mechanisms and procedures, and complement and support each other in promoting and protecting human rights. For example, a road map has been adopted for cooperation between the special procedures of the HRC and the special mechanisms of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Regional organisations in Europe also meet to discuss enhancing cooperation between international and European human rights mechanisms.

Drawing on the inspiration, experience and good practice of all regions, the conference aims to improve implementation of human rights in Europe by:

- Taking stock of existing cooperation between global and regional human rights mechanisms;
- Identifying best practice and lessons learned in how global, regional and local organisations work together, taking account of the particularity and complementarity of their roles, and the added value of the various human rights mechanisms;
- Examining how global and regional human rights mechanisms interact with national human rights institutions and civil society organisations;
- Exploring possible new approaches or forms of cooperation, with a view to securing improved implementation of human rights at the national level.

In association: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo and Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern

Thursday 23 January

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500

Welcome and introduction

Isobelle Jaques

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Introductory remarks from

Petter Wille

Ambassador and Special Envoy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

Nicole Wyrsh

Ambassador, Special Envoy for Human Rights, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern

1515-1645

1. What are the challenges and opportunities in securing improved implementation of human rights?

What are the most effective instruments, best practices and lessons learned in strengthening the implementation of universal human rights? Where do the difficulties lie? What role can global, regional and local human rights organisations and mechanisms play, and how might these roles be strengthened?

Janez Lenarčič

Director, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Warsaw

Chaloka Beyani

UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Displaced Persons; Professor of Law, London School of Economics, London

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. How does cooperation and coordination work between global and regional human rights mechanisms? What are the strengths and weaknesses?

What examples demonstrate how cooperation can work? What is the added value of the different human rights monitoring mechanisms?

Emilio Álvarez Icaza Longoria

Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington DC

Chidi Odinkalu

Senior Legal Officer, Africa Programme, Open Society Justice Initiative, Abuja

Dunja Mijatović

Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE, Vienna

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 24 January

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1030

3. Setting human rights standards and monitoring their implementation at national and local levels: is a sharper strategic focus needed, and improved prioritisation? What role can national human rights institutions play in this?

What are the key attributes of treaty bodies/judicial mechanisms, special procedures and other instruments for human rights monitoring and implementation? How do universal and regional mechanisms cooperate among themselves and with national bodies and organisations? How do regional organisations use the work of treaty bodies, or special procedures of the UN system, and vice-versa?

Jasminka Dzumhur

Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Frauke Lisa Seidensticker

Management Board, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna

Daniel Thürer

Emeritus Chair of International, European, Public and Comparative Constitutional Law, University of Zurich; Member, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Council of Europe, Strasbourg

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

4. Parallel working groups examining the role of global, regional and local organisations in standard setting, monitoring and implementation

Each working group is tasked to formulate up to five recommendations on how cooperation between global and regional organisations can be strengthened

Working Group 1: standard setting

Co-chairs: Nigel Rodley

Chair, United Nations Human Rights Committee; Chair, Human Rights Centre; Professor of Law, University of Essex

Róisín Pillay

Director, Europe Programme, International Commission of Jurists, Geneva

Working Group 2: monitoring

Co-chairs: Mbedle Lourence Mushwana

Chairperson, South African Human Rights Commission; Advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa, Braamfontein

Malcolm Evans

Chair, United Nations Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture; Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol

Working Group 3: implementation

Co-chairs: Peter Splinter

Amnesty International Representative to the United Nations, Geneva

Justin Pettit

Programme Officer, Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

1300-1430

Lunch

1430-1600

5. How best to secure effective implementation of human rights globally?

Governments are primarily responsible for implementation of human rights at national level. Does a human rights field presence from an international or regional organisation strengthen human rights and if so how? What role can technical assistance play in human rights implementation? What are the lessons learned and best practice? Can effective fieldwork combine assistance and reporting? How does cooperation operate among organisations in the field, including with national human rights institutions and local NGOs?

Claudio Grossman

Chairman, United Nations Committee Against Torture; Chair, Human Rights Treaty Bodies; Professor of Law and Dean, American University, Washington DC

Barbara Davis

Head, Human Dimension Department, OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Dushanbe

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1800

6. Parallel working groups to examine effective cooperation between global and regional organisations for improving better implementation of human rights

Each working group is tasked to formulate up to five recommendations on how cooperation between global and regional organisations can be strengthened

Working Group 1: field operations

Co-chairs: Roger Nash

Senior Strategy Analyst, Fieldview Solutions, Brewster

Mary Ann Hennessey

Head of Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Council of Europe, Sarajevo

Working Group 2: technical assistance and capacity building

Co-chairs: Erica Schläppi

Consultant, Ximpulse, Bern

Joy Ngozi Ezielo

United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Enugu

Working Group 3: what should be the priorities for cooperation, and how best to sustain the focus?

Co-chairs: Vladlen Stefanov

Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, Geneva

Petter Wille

Ambassador and Special Envoy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

1800-1845

7. Report back from working groups

1930

Reception followed by dinner

Saturday 25 January

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1030

8. What is the added value and comparative advantage that synergies between universal, regional and local human rights organisations can bring?

Karina Moskalenko

Director, International Protection Centre, Moscow and Strasbourg

Daniele Cangemi

Head, Human Rights Law and Policy Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Bacre Waly Ndiaye

Director, Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, Geneva

Christian Strohal

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, Vienna

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

9. How to advance implementation: what policies would make a difference in strengthening global, regional and local human rights cooperation?

Does the profile of human rights work in global and regional organisations need to be raised, and if so how can this best be done?

Elisa Massimino

President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Rights First, Washington DC

Thomas C Greminger

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, Vienna

1245

Lunch

1400

Participants depart