Reproductive Rights are Human Rights

SIDE EVENT—7 NOVEMBER
An opportunity to emphasize the relevance of reproductive rights in the work of National Human Rights Institutions.

OBJECTIVE
To emphasise the relevance of reproductive rights in the work of National Human Rights Institutions.

TWO OTHER TOOLS
“Technical Guidance on a HRBA to the implementation of policies and programmes for the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity” - OHCHR.
“Reproductive Rights: A Tool for Monitoring State Obligations” - Center For Reproductive Rights and UNFPA.

Reproductive rights are at the heart of women’s human rights and gender equality. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, also known as the 1994 Cairo consensus, clearly recognized reproductive rights as an emergent category embracing existing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of direct relevance to human sexuality and reproduction. Reproductive rights, thus, were recognized as having the intrinsic value of expanding the freedoms and choices of women, men and couples to decide free of discrimination, coercion and violence if, when and how often to have children while enjoying the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health.

Based on the normative nature of reproductive rights, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and UNFPA have developed a handbook to clarify the content and relevance of reproductive rights and the role that National Human Rights Institutions can play in promoting and protecting these rights.

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• This handbook is the result of a consultative process, which is built on the experience of several National Human Rights Institutions working in the area of reproductive rights.

Programme

* Opening remarks by moderator, Alfonso Barragüés, UNFPA;
* ‘Reproductive Rights: A Tool for Monitoring State Obligations’ by Alejandra Cardenas, Center for Reproductive Rights;
* Mapping of National Human Rights Institutions and reproductive rights in Asia and the Pacific, by Kieren Fitzpatrick, Asia Pacific Forum
* ‘Monitoring experience developed by the Kenyan Human Rights Commission’, by Commissioner Anne Kyalo-Ngugi;
* Lucinda O’Hanlon, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights