First meeting between National Human Rights Institutions and National Independent Monitoring Mechanisms designated under article 33.2 of the UNCRPD and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CONCEPT NOTE

25 September 2014

Room III Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Introduction

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Committee) is the body of independent experts with the legal mandate to monitor the implementation by the States parties of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Committee examines States parties' compliance with the Convention through the review of periodic reports submitted by the States parties and information submitted by other stakeholders. The Optional Protocol to the Convention gives the Committee also competence to examine individual complaints with regard to alleged violations of the UNCRPD by States parties to the Convention, and to conduct inquiries when there is reliable information indicating grave or systematic violation by a State party of rights set forth in the Convention.

The UNCRPD provides for national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and national independent monitoring mechanisms (NMM) appointed under article 33.2 of the Convention with the specific mandate and the unique role of monitoring the implementation of the rights enshrined in Convention at national level.

Against this background and since its inception, the Committee has actively engaged with NHRIs and NMMs to develop effective ways of engagement in the implementation of the UNCRPD at the national level. Recently, cooperation opportunities under article 37.2 of the Convention aiming at reinforcing national capacities in monitoring the implementation of the Convention have also been developed.

In this spirit, a one-day meeting will be held to discuss the participation of NHRIs and NMMs in the proceedings of the Committee, with a view to contributing to the development of Committee Guidelines in this regard. Furthermore, the meeting will serve to identify further opportunities for engagement and cooperation between the Committee and NHRIs and other NMMs with respect to monitoring activities at the domestic level.

Participants

Members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, NHRIs from all regions, NHRI regional networks, as well as NMM and representatives from the OHCHR will participate in the meeting. The meeting will also include the participation of representatives of civil society and Disabled Persons' Organizations, independent experts and academia. Within the resources available, remote participation will be provided upon request.

Objectives and Focus
The objective of the event is to provide a forum to strengthen the interaction between the Committee, NHRIs and other NMMS. The main focus is to:

- Exchange experiences, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations on NHRIs' participation in the Committee's proceedings;
- Discuss the monitoring of implementation of the UNCRPD at the national level and related capacity building activities;
- Identify opportunities for the Committee and NHRIs and other NMMS to engage with one another; and
- Develop recommendations on the way forward.

**Working languages**

Interpretation will be available in four UN languages namely Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. Captioning in English will be provided.

**Expected Outcome**

The discussion will develop ideas on practical ways to strengthen the collaboration between national human rights institutions, independent monitoring bodies and the Committee aiming at:

1) Convening a draft outline on Guidelines on the participation of NHRIs in the proceedings of the Committee; and
2) Developing a paper outlining opportunities to strengthen engagement and cooperation between the Committee and NHRIs.
PROGRAMME OF WORK

WELCOME REMARKS (10:00 to 10:30)

Mr Michael MØLLER, Director-General, UNOG (TBC)
Mr Ibrahim SALAMA, Director, Human Rights Treaties Division, OHCHR
Ms Maria Soledad CISTERNAS REYES, Chairperson, CRPD
Mr Alan MILLER, Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission and Secretary, ICC
Mr Anders NOSKER, Chief, Information Services Department, ITU

SESSION 1 “THE PARTICIPATION OF NHRIS AND INDEPENDENT MONITORING MECHANISMS IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE” (10:30 to 12:30)

Session 1 will discuss the Committee's and NHRIs' experiences of, and identify opportunities for, NHRIs' and other article 33.2 mechanisms' contributions to all stages of the work of the Committee, including in the reporting procedure, procedures under the optional protocol (communications and inquiries), early warning and urgent action proceedings, as well as the role of NHRIs and monitoring mechanisms in the simplified reporting procedure.

Both, panellists and participants will be invited to share and discuss experiences, lessons learned and recommendations, with a view to contributing to the Committee's prospective Guidelines.

Moderation: Mr Hyun SHIK KIM, CRPD

Panellists: Ms Silvia QUAN, CRPD
Ms Gillian TRIGGS, President, Australian Human Rights Commission (video)
Mr Ramiro RIVADENEIRA SILVA, Defensor del Pueblo, Defensoría del Pueblo de Ecuador

Rapporteur: Mr Vladlen STEFANOV, Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, OHCHR

Expected outcome:

- Key elements identified for the participation of NHRIs and independent monitoring mechanisms in the proceedings of the Committee, with a view to establish a draft outline on guidelines on the matter;
- A Committee Working Group appointed for the development of the Guidelines.

SESSION 2 “MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCRPD AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL: COMPLEMENTARITY AND SYNERGIES” (12:30 TO 13:00)

Session 2 will discuss the role of NHRIs in monitoring the implementation of the Convention at the national level and the Committee’s role in supporting these monitoring activities.

Panellists and participants will be invited to focus on experiences, lessons learned and recommendations, and discuss in particular: the Committee’s capacity building mandate under article 37(2) of the UNCRPD, and NHRIs’ and independent monitoring mechanisms' needs and challenges in monitoring the Convention at the national level (on data collection, indicators, inter alia).

Moderation: Mr James HEENAN, Chief, Groups in Focus Section, OHCHR
Panellists: Mrs Diane MULLIGAN, CRPD
Mr Adv Bokankatla Joseph MALATJI, Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission
Ms Inés de ARAOZ, Legal Advisor, FEAPS
Ms Sara BRUNET, Chair, Working Group on Disabilities ENNHRI
IDA Representative

Rapporteur: Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director, Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs

Expected outcome: Opportunities to strengthen cooperation between the Committee and NHRIs in national monitoring activities.

Lunch break (13:00 to 13:45)

SIDE–EVENT “MAKING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES A REALITY – A PIVOTAL ROLE FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS” (13:45 TO 14:45) – Room IX

Hosted by Mr Gerard QUINN, Professor, National University of Ireland, Galway
Mr Neil CROWTHER, Consultant, National University of Ireland, Galway

SESSION 2 – CONTINUED: OPEN DISCUSSION (15:00 TO 16:30)

SESSION 3 “WAY FORWARD” (16:30 to 17:45)

This session will provide a forum for discussion on the interaction and engagement opportunities between the Committee and NHRIs. The session will hear a presentation by Ms Lisa SEKAGGYA, Human Rights Officer, National Human Rights Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, OHCHR. Suggested discussion items may include in particular:

- Topics that require priority attention, such as independence, indicators development, simplified reporting procedure, inter alia.
- Capacity-building activities such as regional workshops, data-base on best practices on monitoring the Convention, network of NHRIs’ disability focal points and those designated NMM.
- Promotion of the role of NHRIs in UN proceedings, e.g. adoption of a Joint Commitment paper, Committee Concluding Observations that support the establishment and development of NHRIs and NMM, cooperation as NHRIs seek for formal standing with COSP, establishment of a Committee focal point on NHRIs and NMM, participation in ICC General Meetings and regional meetings.
- Periodic follow-up meetings.

Moderation: Mr Alan MILLER, Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission and Secretary, ICC

Rapporteur: Mr Martin BABU, CRPD

CONCLUDING REMARKS (17:45 to 18:00)

RECEPTION (18.30 to 19.30) – RESTAURANT DES DÉLÉGUÉS (Palais de Nations, Building A, 8th Floor).

Reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of New Zealand.