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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Forum on Minority Issues
First session
Geneva, 15-16 December 2008

Provisional agenda and annotations thereto*

Note by the Secretariat

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. International and regional human rights frameworks and core principles
3. Essential requirements for an effective education strategy
4. Equal access to quality education for minorities
5. Learning environment and school governance
6. Relationship between desegregation strategies, cultural autonomy and integration in the quest for social cohesion
7. Content and delivery of the curriculum
8. Concluding remarks

* Late submission.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Venue

1. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/15, the first session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2008.
2. The Forum will have before it the provisional agenda contained in the present document to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex I.

Opening meeting

3. The Forum may wish to consider the following scenario with regard to the structure of the opening meeting. The independent expert on minority issues will open the session and make a statement. Statements would then be made by the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, followed by a video message by the Assistant-Director General for Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Documentation

4. A list of documents for the session is provided in annex II. In addition to normal distribution, official documents for the session will be made available on the Human Rights Council website at the address
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/minority/forum.htm>.

2. International and regional human rights frameworks and core principles

5. At the sessions, participants will have an opportunity to make brief presentations and comments based on the draft recommendations that they have before them. After the presentations, there will be an open discussion during which all participants will be invited to contribute.

3. Essential requirements for an effective education strategy

6. Issues for presentation and discussion could include budgetary allocations for education services to minorities; legislation to implement education rights and to eliminate discrimination; the recruitment of teachers to work in minority schools; and unlawful policies and practices of segregation.

4. Equal access to quality education for minorities

7. Issues for presentation and discussion could include the principle of non-discrimination; school locations; dropout rates; school enrolment for displaced persons or members of nomadic or semi-nomadic groups; and access to education for women and girls.

5. Learning environment and school governance

8. Issues for presentation and discussion could include hostile environments and bias in disciplinary measures; anti-discrimination and intercultural training; recruitment and training of teachers from minority communities; and the active involvement of representatives from minority communities in school management and administration.

6. Relationship between desegregation strategies, cultural autonomy and integration in the quest for social cohesion

9. Issues for presentation and discussion could include contacts and exchanges between minorities and the general population; relations between religious minorities and secular schools; opportunities for persons belonging to minorities to learn their mother tongue or learn through the medium of the mother tongue.

7. Content and delivery of the curriculum

10. Issues for presentation and discussion could include the development of curricula relating to minorities; inclusion of the histories, cultures and traditions of minorities in the general compulsory curriculum; and opportunities for members of the general population to learn minority languages.

8. Concluding remarks

11. The Chairperson of the Forum, Viktoria Mohacsi, and the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall, will share with Forum participants their concluding remarks, including forward-looking proposals for next steps.

Annex I

Monday, 15 December 2008	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
<p>Welcoming and opening remarks by the independent expert on minority issues</p> <p>Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues</p> <p>Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p>Video message from the Assistant-Director General for Education, UNESCO</p> <p>International and regional human rights frameworks and core principles</p> <p>Essential requirements for an effective education strategy</p>	<p>Equal access to quality education for minorities</p> <p>Learning environment and school governance</p>
Tuesday, 16 December 2008	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
<p>Learning environment and school governance</p> <p>Relationship between desegregation strategies, cultural autonomy and integration in the quest for social cohesion</p>	<p>Content and delivery of the curriculum</p> <p>Concluding remarks on next steps</p>

Annex II

List of documents

Documents before the Forum on Minority Issues at its first session

Symbol	Title
A/HRC/FMI/2008/1	Provisional agenda and annotations thereto; note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/FMI/2008/2	Recommendations on minorities and the right to education
