GENEVA
ACADEMY

Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains

Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG

Agenda
2015 Annual Conference
Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020

Geneva, 14-15 December 2015
Villa Moynier, 120B Rue de Lausanne, Geneva

DRAFT PROGRAMME

10:00

1. **Welcome & introduction of participants**
   Robert Roth, Geneva Academy / Hannah Peters, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

10:30 -13:00

2. **Purpose of the meeting**
   Introduction by the organizers[1]

**With
Coffee Break**

   ✓ Explanation of the context : i.e. 2020 review provision in General Assembly resolution 68/268 and related UN Secretary-General reporting and 2020 review
   ✓ Developments in 2015
   ✓ Need for several reform options to be proposed to the inter-governmental process

3. **Key challenges facing the international human rights treaty system**
   Introduced by Paulo David, OHCHR

   ✓ Overview of key challenges (see background paper)

4. **Overview of previous treaty body reform efforts**
   Presentation by Birgit Van Hout, OHCHR

   ✓ The reports by Independent Expert Philip Alston (1988 – 1996)
   ✓ The UN Secretary-General's proposal of a single report (2002-2006)
   ✓ The High Commissioner's proposal of a unified standing treaty body (2006)
   ✓ The High Commissioner treaty body strengthening process: from Geneva to New York through Dublin (2009 – 2014)
   ✓ Proposals by individual thinkers

13:00-14:00

LUNCH BREAK

14:00- 17:00

5. **Scope and key parameters for the academic research project**

**With
Coffee Break**

   ✓ Participants will be invited to identify research questions and to propose guiding principles for the research
   ✓ Preliminary presentation of research questions / projects by participants
   ✓ Approaching the research: By theme? By region? By model / option?

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1 All sessions will be moderated by the organizers.

19:00   **DINNER** for participants in a restaurant near the venue

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09:30   **6. Project resources & management**

- ✓ Role of the Geneva Academy
- ✓ Self-structuring of research(-clusters); potential identification of core group of project leaders in regions ("chefs de file") and related functions
- ✓ Role of OHCHR
- ✓ Financial support

10:30   **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00-12:30   **7. Project methodology & timeline**

- ✓ Division of labour: Who does what and how by when?
- ✓ Who else should be associated to this group?
- ✓ Project methodology (types of contributions and output, coherence, validation)
- ✓ Testing of emerging ideas - Possibility of validation seminars
- ✓ Consolidation of research
- ✓ Injection of proposals into the inter-governmental process

12:30-13:30   **LUNCH BREAK**

13:30-15:00   **8. Internal and external coordination and communication**

- ✓ Communication within academic network (a platform to link with all interested stakeholders?)
- ✓ Interaction with States, OHCHR, civil society and UN entities
- ✓ Interaction and cooperation with treaty bodies and their members
- ✓ External communication / Public information strategy

15:00-16:00   **9. Next steps and Closing**

- ✓ Preliminary dates for virtual meetings and a potential next conference in Geneva
- ✓ Time-lines for research projects