

**GENEVA
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Agenda

Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Spanish-Speaking Caribbean

San José (Costa Rica), 19- 20 November 2016

8:15-9:00 **Registration and Coffee**

9:00-9:20 **Welcome & Introductions**

- *Host Welcome: IIDH*
- *Brief Introduction to Goals*

9:20-9:50 **Opening Addresses**

- Address by CR Foreign Minister Manuel Gonzalez Sanz (tbc)
- Address by CH Ambassador Mirko Giulietti

9:50-10:20 **Overview of Consultation Objectives & Agenda**

- *Framework for this regional consultation (CU and/or one or more local partners)*
 - *[will include Topics, relevance and goals for two days and beyond; possibly highlights points of synergy between the systems]*

10:20-11:00 **Situating this Consultation within the Global Academic Platform**

- Scope and Aims of Global Project (Geneva Academy)
- Introduction to past proposals for reform (e.g., unified standing treaty body; consolidated reporting; joint working group on communications) (Geneva Academy)
- Relevance of complementarity between Inter-American and UN systems to treaty body strengthening

11:00-11:15: **Coffee Break**

11:15-12: 45: Best Practices to Promote and Enhance Global Human Rights Compliance

This session will address the overarching question: What is the role of the treaty body system in fostering human rights compliance? What best practices exist among treaty bodies for ensuring they meet their objectives? Are there lessons to be learned from the Inter-American system regarding ways to improve the functioning of the treaty bodies?

12:45-1:45 **Lunch**

1:45-3:15 Universal and Regional Complementarity and Synergy

This session will address the overarching questions: How complementary is the current treaty body system in relation to other human rights mechanisms, including the Inter-American system? How could complementarity and synergy between the treaty body system and the Inter-American system be optimized?

3:15-3:30 **Break**

3:30-5:00 **Considering, Adapting & Integrating Previous Proposals for Treaty Body Reform**

This session will delve into how recommendations raised in the earlier discussions, and in concept papers, should inform treaty body reform efforts. The session will focus specifically on relevance and impact of past recommendations for treaty body reform and how they might be adapted, improved, and/or integrated to enhance human rights compliance and address the implementation gap.

7:30 **Dinner** hosted by Costa Rica

Sunday, November 20

8:30-9:00 **Coffee**

9:00-10:30 **Maximizing the Effectiveness of Interactions with States**

This session will address the ways in which treaty bodies can enhance state engagement to foster greater human rights compliance and accountability. What practices can improve the timeliness and quality of state reporting; what methods and modalities contribute to constructive dialogue with states, as well as ongoing monitoring of compliance with recommendations that arise during periodic reviews of state human rights records, as well as individual cases.

10:30-10:45 **Break**

10:45-12:15 **The Role of Technology in Enhancing Human Rights Monitoring and Implementation**

This session will focus upon the importance of technology in the work of the treaty bodies and the ability of treaty to engage with stakeholders to improve accessibility and information sharing. Specifically: How can technology enhance the roles, impact, and working methods of treaty bodies? How can it enhance accessibility for states, NGOs, and other stakeholders? How should information/data regarding concluding observations, rulings on individual complaints, and associated contributions from member states and other stakeholders be organized and searched so as to optimize the accessibility and impact of treaty bodies?; and How can technology advance working relationships among and between the UN human rights mechanisms and the Inter-American system? What information can and should be shared publicly? What constraints exist in this regard, and how can they be overcome?

12:30-1:30 **Lunch**

1:30-2:30: **Conclusions & Next Steps**

- Key Take Aways
 - Points of Agreement
 - Research to be continued

- Outcomes Document & Continuing the Conversation

2:30: Closing Remarks