



## The UN Human Rights Treaty Body Reform Agenda 2020:

### Scope for Local and National Engagement?

INTERNAL AGENDA (17 – 18 October 2018)

Wednesday, October 17 (Kjerka, Domus Media, UiO Faculty of Law)

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#### Expert seminar

**08:45 – 09:00 Registration and coffee**

**09:00 – 09:30 Welcome and Introductions  
Overview of Seminar objectives and Agenda**

**09:30 – 10:30 Situating the Seminar within the Treaty Body Review 2020 Process and the Academic Platform Report on the 2020 Review**

(Chair: Bård Anders Andreassen, NCHR)

- Introduction to past proposals for treaty body reform (e.g. unified standing TB, simplified and aligned reporting procedure, joint TB working group, enhanced accessibility to the TB system, etc) (Elena Kountouri Tapiero, Secretary, Treaty Body Chairs Meeting, OHCHR)
- The Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020: “[Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System](#)” (main recommendations of the Academic Platform Report 2020 - Single Consolidated Review and Clustered Reviews) (Felix Kirchmeier, GA)
- Future steps towards a stronger Treaty Body System (Kamelia Kemileva, GA)

**10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break**

**10:45 – 12:30 Session 1: Overview of Domestic Stakeholders Engagement in the TB system**

(Chair: Gentian Zyberi, NCHR)

(2/3 minute presentations by each participants on their institution’s mandate towards TB engagement)

- Civil Society
- NHRIs
- Ombudspersons
- NMRFs (tbc)

**12:30 – 13:30 Lunch**

**13:30 – 15:30 Session 2: Domestic Stakeholder Engagement with the State Reporting Procedure**

(Chair: Felix Kirchmeier, GA)

Expected, actual and prospective roles of domestic stakeholders when engaging in the State Reporting Procedure. This session will focus on the experiences of the various stakeholders’ representatives, with a focus on the challenges currently faced and potential solutions, in light of the proposals of a Single Consolidated / Clustered Review as put forward by the Academic Platform.

- What are the pros and cons of the proposed introduction of a Single Consolidated Review and a Clustered Review?



- Would the resulting consolidation and predictability strengthen the system's visibility?
- How to remedy the resulting reduction of available entry points for domestic stakeholders' engagement?
- What alternative opportunities for engagement can be foreseen with the introduction of a Single Consolidated Review/Clustered Review proposal?

**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break**

**15.45 - 18:00 Session 3: Domestic Stakeholder Engagement with the Individual Communications Procedure**

(Chair: Kamelia Kemileva, GA)

Expected, actual and prospective roles of domestic stakeholders when engaging with the Individual Communications Procedure. This session will focus on the experiences of the various stakeholders' representatives, with a focus on the challenges currently faced and potential solutions, in light of the proposals discussed by the Academic Platform and experiences piloted by certain Treaty Bodies.

- How to improve the processing of Individual Complaints (Structural Axe). Examples include the introduction of hearings, "fast track" processing for similar cases and other useful actions to be taken at Committee level.
- How to improve the functioning and coordination of the Petitions Unit with the rest of the OHCHR Secretariat (Secretarial Axe).
- How to improve the use and impact of Individual Communications in-country (Implementation Axe). Examples include how to increase overall visibility of Views, introduction of a user-friendly Treaty Body jurisprudence database, how to tackle issues of reprisals targeting users of the Individual Communications procedure (claimants and lawyers/human rights defenders involved).

**19:00 Dinner** (Lofoten Fiskerestaurant, Aker Brygge)

Thursday, October 18 (Kjerka, Domus Media, UiO Faculty of Law)

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**08:45 – 09:00 Coffee**

**09:00 – 09:30 Recap of Expert Seminar (Day 1)**

(Chair: Patrick Mutzenberg, CCPR Centre)

**09:30 – 10:15 Session 4: Domestic Stakeholder Engagement with the Confidential Inquiry Procedure and Visits**

(Chair: Nora Sveaass, SPT)

Expected, actual and prospective roles of domestic stakeholders when engaging with the Confidential Inquiry Procedure. This session will focus on the experiences of the various stakeholders' representatives, with a focus on the challenges currently faced and potential solutions, in light of the [Secretariat Note](#) submitted to the 30th Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies on the 2016 Workshop on the Inquiry Procedure (June 2018).



**10:15 – 11:00 Session 5: Domestic Stakeholder Engagement and the Issuance of General Comments**

(Chair: Kirsten Sandberg, CRC)

Expected, actual and prospective roles of domestic stakeholders when engaging in the preparation of General Comments. This session will focus on the experiences of the various stakeholders' representatives, with a focus on the challenges currently faced and potential solutions (e.g. see 2018 Briefing to the CEDAW Committee on the use of General Recommendations by NHRIs).

**11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break**

**11:15– 12:45 Session 6: Strengthening Domestic Stakeholder Engagement**

(Chair: Miloon Kothari, Independent Expert)

The outcomes of the four procedure-specific sessions will be discussed and compiled in the form of a statement with recommendations aimed at informing discussions at the 31st Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies (June 2019).

**12:45 – 13:30 Lunch**

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The UN Human Rights Treaty Body Reform Agenda 2020: Scope for Local and National Engagement  
Public Conference (Professorboligen, UiO Faculty of Law)

**13.30 – 14:00 Welcome and Opening Addresses**

Welcome: Gentian Zyberi, Head of Department, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, NCHR and Member elect of the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR, 2019-2022)

Chair: Nora Sveaass, Professor, UiO Department of Psychology and SPT Member

- Per Morten Sandli, Vice Rector, UiO
- Sveinung Rotevatn, State Secretary, Department of Justice and Public Security
- Kirsten Sandberg, Professor, UiO Department of Public and International Law and CRC Member (tbc)
- Ibrahim Salama, Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR
- Petter Wille, Director, NIM

**14:00 – 15:00 Panel 1: The Role of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) and Independent State Institutions (NHRIs and Ombudspersons) towards a stronger United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System (6-7 min each)**

Chair: Orest Nowosad, Chief, Groups in Focus Section, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR

This session will address the ways in which NMRFs, NHRIs and Ombudspersons can improve interaction with the preparation, monitoring and follow-up of TB recommendations. Special attention will be given to viable options for strengthening and/or streamlining synergies between existing TB procedures, coordinated institutional structures within the State apparatus and independent State institutions.

- Leikas Leena, Expert Official, Finnish Human Rights Centre
- Carla Garnelas, Treaty Monitoring Principal, UK Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Khalid Ramli, Head, United System Section, National Human Rights Council of Morocco
- Barneombudet (tbc)

**15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break**

**15:15 – 16:15 Panel 2: The Role of Civil Society towards a stronger United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System (6-7 min each)**

Chair: Annti Korkeakivi, Chief, Treaty Body Strengthening, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR

This session will address the ways in which civil society organizations can improve interaction with the preparation, monitoring and follow-up of TB recommendations. Special attention will be given to viable options for strengthening and/or streamlining synergies between existing TB procedures and civil society organizations.

- Miloon Kothari, Independent Expert and former Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing
- Olga Abramenko, Expert, ADC Memorial
- Tomer Broude, Academic Director, Minerva Center for Human Rights
- Vincent Ploton, Director of Development and Treaty Body Advocacy, ISHR
- Norwegian NGO (tbc)

**16:15 Closing Remarks**