

CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Programme

Day 1 – Monday 26 October

14:00-15:00

Registration

15:00-15:45

Introduction and Overview

- Introduction of participants
- Objectives and overview of the programme

15:45-17:45

SESSION 1: Identifying Methods of Implementing Human Rights Obligations Relating to the Environment

Moderator: John Knox

This session will focus on identifying a wide range of possible methods of implementing human rights obligations relating to the environment, possibly including different types of legal instruments, technical and practical assistance, and the employment of new and existing forums. In-depth discussion of the pros and cons of various methods will be addressed in subsequent sessions.

Day 2 – Tuesday 27 October

10:00-11:15

SESSION 2: Implementation at the international level

Moderator: Achim Halpaap

This session will address in more detail methods of operationalizing a human rights perspective on environmental issues at the international level, including at the Human Rights Council, in other UN bodies and agencies, in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and in regional bodies. The goal will be to identify the pros and cons, in practical terms, of different approaches.

11:15-11:30

Break

11:30-12:45

SESSION 3: Implementation at the national level

Moderator: David Boyd

This session will shift the discussion to the national level, again looking at ways to strengthen effective implementation of human rights obligations relating to environmental protection.

12:45-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

SESSION 4: Climate Change and Ecosystem Protection

Moderator: Barbara Ruis

Operationalization presents particular challenges in thematic areas where the norms may be less clearly developed or well understood. Two areas where the norms are still being clarified are climate change and ecosystem protection. This session will discuss how those thematic areas are already incorporating a human rights perspective, and how that perspective could be strengthened.

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-17:30

SESSION 5: Practical Conclusions and Recommendations

Moderator: John H. Knox

The final session will pull together the previous sessions, with a focus on summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the various measures discussed. The discussion will try to develop specific recommendations that could be made to the Human Rights Council, as well as other interested stakeholders.

17:30-18:00

Closing remarks