



Asia - Pacific Regional Forum on  
conflict prevention and  
the protection of the  
human rights of minorities  
7-8 September, 2021 | ONLINE MEETING



In cooperation with:



## P R A C T I C A L      I N F O R M A T I O N

### 1. Date and venue of the meeting

The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum (the “Regional Forum”) on the topic “*Conflict Prevention and the Protection of the Human Rights of Minorities*” will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The Regional Forum is convened by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues and organized by the Tom Lantos Institute in cooperation with a number of regional organizations.

The meeting will be held on the Zoom conferencing platform.

Please note, throughout the Regional Forum and its documentation, the term “minorities” refers to national, or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as specified in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities [1992].

### 2. Output

During the meeting, the discussions and the contributions of the participants will result in the development of a regional document with practical recommendations reflective of regional contexts and challenges.

The main purpose of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on “Conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities” is to provide regional insights, which will feed into the thematic work of the [Special Rapporteur on minority issues](#) for his report to the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2022. Furthermore, discussions will inform the work and recommendations of the 14th session of the [Forum on Minority Issues](#), which will take place in Geneva in December 2021.

### 3. Information relevant to holding the meeting online

#### Preparation

A few days prior to the meeting, access information to the meeting will be sent to all

registered participants. It will not be necessary to set up an account with Zoom to join the meeting. Participants may access the meeting through a web browser as well. However, it is highly recommended to download the application to ensure access to all available functions, for example interpretation.

The meeting can be joined 1 hour before the indicated starting time. Participants are strongly encouraged to log in early in order for their credentials and connectivity to be checked prior to the start of the meeting.

Participants are required to join the meeting using the applicable naming convention communicated before the meeting via the confirmation email.

### **Conduct of the online meeting**

Participants are required to remain muted with their camera disabled at all times during the meeting, except when taking the floor. This will ensure the best possible sound quality for all meeting participants.

Participants wishing to speak should indicate this to the moderator (via the “raise hand” function in Zoom) and wait for the floor to be given to them by the moderator. The speakers will be taken in the order that they raised their hands. (Please see the Quick Reference Zoom Guide on how to use the functions). Once the moderator hands the floor to a participant, the speaker should unmute themselves and, if possible, turn on their camera before taking the floor. After their intervention is finished, the speaker mutes themselves and disables their camera. This process is repeated for each participant who is given the floor.

Following the expert presentations for each thematic session, participants’ interventions are limited to 2 minutes. The organizers reserve the right to change the time limit, subject to the number of participants. Any change will be communicated to participants in advance.

Subject to the number of participants registered for the Regional Forum, participants can speak only once during a thematic session. If there is time left before the end of the thematic session, moderators will ask participants to raise their hands if they wish to make a second intervention.

All interventions and statements under each theme of the Regional Forum should be relevant to the particular theme and relate to the topics under discussion. All statements should include **concrete recommendations** on how to tackle the issues under the theme. We count on the cooperation of all participants to that end.

The focus of all interventions should be the development of recommendations. However, if participants have research or data that is relevant to the theme of the discussions, then they are encouraged to share this by posting it in the chat function.

There are no rights of reply or points of order during the Regional Forum. All participants wishing to make a statement or intervention must follow the protocol detailed above.

### **Recommendations**

To ensure they are incorporated into the output document, all recommendations, including those proposed during an intervention must be sent in writing. It is strongly encouraged that recommendations are submitted in advance of the Regional Forum by emailing them to [Marcus.Oda@tomlantosinstitute.hu](mailto:Marcus.Oda@tomlantosinstitute.hu) by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. Recommendations can also be submitted during the Regional Forum by submitting them via the Zoom chat function.

All proposed recommendations submitted in writing will be collated by the organizers. The final list of recommendations will be open for comment via the Zoom chat function during the final session (Presentation of Recommendations).

### **Code of conduct**

Participants have a right to express their opinions freely, while respecting human rights and the principle of non-discrimination. In order to attain fruitful and meaningful exchanges, all participants are expected to show respect for others' views and to exercise decorum, avoid abusive or disrespectful language or derogatory and inflammatory remarks, respect UN core values and principles, and uphold UN standards when referring to countries and territories.

## **4. Schedule**

The opening session will start on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September at 07:00 CEST (Geneva) (to find your local time zone, please click [here](#)). During this session the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, as well as the keynote speakers, will present their opening remarks. Participants will not be able to make statements or interventions during the opening session.

The High-Level state panel will follow, with presentations on positive experiences and lessons learnt. Participants will not be able to make statements or interventions during the opening session.

Four thematic sessions will follow, and all participants will have the right to speak during the thematic sessions and to submit proposed recommendations in writing.

At the closing session on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at 12:30 CEST (Geneva) (to find your local time zone, please click [here](#)), the proposed recommendations developed during the four thematic sessions will be made available to participants to consider. The session will be introduced by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues and

the recommendations will be made available for all participant to view via the shared-screen Zoom function. The recommendations will then be read out. Participants that wish to comment on a specific recommendation should use the chat function to send their comment, referring to the specific recommendation number.

The final set of recommendations will be posted online on the organizer's website, the webpage of the UN Forum on Minority Issues and on [www.minorityforum.info](http://www.minorityforum.info) following the Regional Forum, once they have been finalized by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

The meeting will end on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at 14:00 CEST (Geneva).

## **5. Contact Information**

Mr. Sean Waller, at [regionalforum@tomlantosinstitute.hu](mailto:regionalforum@tomlantosinstitute.hu)

## **6. Media**

The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues will be available for 1 hour at the end of each day of the regional forum for media enquiries.

For inquiries and media requests, please contact Ms. Marina Narvaez ([mnarvaez@ohchr.org](mailto:mnarvaez@ohchr.org)) or Ms Hee-Kyong Yoo ([hyoo@ohchr.org](mailto:hyoo@ohchr.org)).

## **7. Promotion**

The Regional Forum will be livestreamed on YouTube. Only the original language spoken will be available, there is no interpretation via the livestream. The link to view the livestream is [here](#).

We encourage all participants to promote the Regional Forum through their social media accounts to reach as many people as possible to maximise participation from all parts of the region. Please use hashtags #MinorityForum #MinorityForumAsiaPacific for any social media posts related to the Forum.

Following the Regional Forum, the video and audio recording will be publicly available on the Tom Lantos Institute's YouTube channel, website and on [www.minorityforum.info](http://www.minorityforum.info).