

**Regional consultation on draft guidelines on the effective implementation
of the right to participate in public affairs**

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Bangkok**

2 and 3 October 2017

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 2 October 2017

Morning Session: 9.30am - 12.00pm

9.30am-9.45am	Welcome, introduction and opening remarks
	Opening remarks by Ms. Katia Chirizzi, Regional Office for South-East Asia, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Opening remarks by Ms. Nathalie Prouvez, Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
9.45am-10.45am	Session 1: The right to participate in public affairs: Scope, content, and related guidance at the international, regional and national levels
	Moderator: Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR) Introductory remarks by Mr. Miloon Kothari (India) , Former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing and current President of UPR Info <i>Discussion</i>
10.45am-11.00am Coffee break	
11.00am-12.00pm	Session 2: Ensuring an enabling environment for the effective exercise of the right to participate in public affairs: pre-requisites
	This session will discuss the normative and institutional frameworks that enable the enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs. It will also focus on the inter-linkages between the right to participate and other human rights, the implementation of which constitutes a pre-requisite for the full enjoyment of the right to participate, including the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

	<p>Moderator: Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity)</p> <p>Introductory remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ahmed Tholal (Maldives), Senior Project Coordinator, Transparency International Maldives and former Deputy Chair, National Human Rights Commission - Ms. Sor Rattanamanee Polkla (Thailand), Co-founder, Community Resources Centre <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12.00pm-2.00pm Lunch break	

Afternoon session: 2.00pm -5.00pm

2.00pm-3.00pm	<p>Session 3: Enjoyment of the equal right to participate in public affairs by all: overcoming challenges, creating opportunities and sharing good practices</p>
	<p>Moderator: Ms. Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)</p> <p>This session will discuss the impact of discrimination on the full, effective and equal enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs by all, as well as good national practices with regard to enhancing the right to participate of various marginalized groups. All discussions will include challenges from a gender perspective.</p> <p>Enhancing participation of women.</p> <p>Introductory remarks by Ms. Shreen Saroor (Sri Lanka), Founder, Mannar Women's Development Federation</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
3.00pm-3.30pm Coffee break	

<p>3.30pm-5.00pm</p>	<p>Session 3 (continued): Enjoyment of the equal right to participate in public affairs by all: overcoming challenges, creating opportunities and sharing good practices.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Hernán Vales (OHCHR)</p> <p>Introductory remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand), UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity - Mr Ramesh Nathan Vedana Jagam (India), General Secretary, National Dalit Movement For Justice-NDMJ (NCDHR) <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p>5.00pm</p>	<p>Closing</p>

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.00pm

9.30am-10.45am	Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms Moderator: Mr. Miloon Kothari, (Former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing and current President of UPR Info) Enhancing the role of civil society in the formulation, monitoring and implementation of policies and legislation. Introductory remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Saroeun Soeung (Cambodia), Executive Director of Cooperation Committee for Cambodia- Mr. Ahmed Rifai (Indonesia), Kota Kita Foundation <i>Discussion</i>
10.45am-11.00am Coffee break	
11.00am-12.00pm	Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms (<i>continued</i>) : Moderator: Mr. Hernán Vales (OHCHR) Good national and regional practices in relation to ensuring accountability and transparency of public decision making institutions. Introductory remarks by Mr. Kedar Khadka (Nepal) , President, Go Go Foundation Technology and social media: opportunities and challenges to strengthen equal and meaningful participation Introductory remarks by Ms. Bernise Ang (Singapore) , co-founder and Executive Director of Zeroth Labs, Behavioural & Complex Systems Analyst and Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum <i>Discussion</i>
12:00pm-2.00 pm Lunch break	

Afternoon session: 2:00pm-5.00pm

2.00pm-3.00 pm	Session 4: Various forms and levels of participation, including emerging new forms (<i>continued</i>) :
	<p>Moderator: Mr. Miloon Kothari (Former Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing and current President of UPR Info)</p> <p>Good local practices in relation to ensuring meaningful and effective participation in local government.</p> <p>Introductory remarks by Mr. Yoon Jang-hyun (Republic of Korea), Mayor of Gwangju.</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
3.00pm-3.15pm Coffee break	
3.15pm-4.15pm	Session 5: The right to participate at the international level, including within international organizations
	<p>Moderator: Ms. Nathalie Prouvez (OHCHR)</p> <p>Introductory remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Urantsooj Gombosuren (Mongolia), Chairperson – Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
4.15pm-5.00pm	Closing session by Ms. Nathalie Prouvez and Mr. Miloon Kothari <i>Recap of discussions, final discussion and participants' recommendations on Content of guidelines</i>