

Side Event – HRC 30th
Local Government and Human Rights
(18th September 12:30-14:00, Room 24)

Concept Note

BACKGROUND

Local government is commonly defined as the lowest tier of public administration within a given State. As the level closest to the citizens, local government is in a better position than central government to deal with human rights issues that are relevant to local needs and priorities. In fact, decisions that are made and implemented by local government on a daily basis have a real impact on almost every single aspect of the citizens' life, including education, housing, health, the environment and etc. In this sense, the importance of local government in realizing human rights at grassroots level cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, there exists very clear and strong connection between human rights and local government.

As its first step towards clarifying the connection, Human Rights Council, through its resolutions 24/2 and 27/4, requested the Advisory Committee to submit a research-based report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights to the 30th session of the Council. The final report (**A/HRC/30/49**¹) now prepared by the Committee for the session touches upon a wide range of issues, including the definition of local government, relations between central and local government, the main challenges facing local government, the concept of a human rights city, the role of civil society, and so forth.

As a main sponsor of the HRC resolutions, the Republic of Korea, together with the core group members - Chile, Egypt and Romania – takes this opportunity to organize a side event during the 30th session of the Council. This side event also benefits from video presentation by the Advisory Committee's member of the report as well as from the presence of experts on the subject from Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF), Asia Democracy Network (ADN), International Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), and United Cities and Local Government (UCLG).

The event will serve as a venue to discuss the main findings and recommendations from the report and to identify future challenges and tasks for the Council and the Advisory Committee. Member and Observer States, civil society, and other stake-holders are all invited to exchange views on local government and human rights.

¹<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Session15/Pages/Index.aspx>

OBJECTIVES

This side event will seek to:

- ✓ Present and discuss the Advisory Committee's report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- ✓ Raise awareness of Human Rights Council and other stake-holders, including States and civil society, about the importance attached to the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- ✓ Explore the ways forward on how to implement the recommendations of the report, including drawing up guiding principles on the subject.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

- 12:30-12:35 Opening Remarks by Moderator : H.E. Ambassador CHOI Seokyoung**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
- 12:35-12:45 Advisory Committee's report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights (Video Presentation)**
Ms. Katharina Pabel, Chair of the Advisory Committee Drafting Group on the subject
- 12:45-12:50 Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Adrian VIERITA**
Permanent Representative of Romania
- 12:50-12:55 Urbanization and the Role of Local Government**
Mr. Bahram Ghazi, Development and Economic & Social Issues Branch, OHCHR
- 12:55-13:05 Human Rights City in the Republic of Korea – Trends and Challenges**
Mr. Anselmo Lee, Executive Director, Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF) and Co-convener of Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
- 13:05-13:15 Human Rights City in Indonesia – Trends and Challenges**
Mr. Mugyianto, Senior Program Officer for Human Rights and Democracy, International Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)
- 13:15-13:25 How can international cities network strengthen human rights cities?**
Ms. Magali Fricaudet, Coordinator of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)'s Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
- 13:25-13:55 Interactive Discussions** with Participants
- 13:55-14:00 Closing Remarks by Moderator : H.E. Ambassador CHOI Seokyoung**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea

*Sandwiches and beverages will be served before the event.