



## **Round Table of National Human Rights Institutions and National Machineries for the Advancement of Women**

**\*\*\* Ouarzazate, Morocco, 15-20 November 2004 \*\*\***

### **PROGRAMME**

The objective of the Round Table is to strengthen capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women and national human rights institutions (NIs) to promote and protect the human rights of women, through the development of institutional links and joint strategies. The Round Table will be conducted in English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.

The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will make opening presentations on national machineries for the advancement of women and NIs, respectively. An expert of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will give an overview of the Committee's practice in regard to the role of national machineries and NIs.

Each of the thematic sessions of the Round Table will be opened by participants' presentations on experiences and good practices. These will be followed by a discussion and exchange of experiences, including of constraints and challenges, among all participants. The Round Table will draw on the expertise and practical experience of the participants rather than on external speakers to identify major common issues and challenges, and to identify practical actions that can be taken at the country level and internationally for the promotion and protection of women's human rights by different stakeholders. Other sessions will be devoted to deepen the understanding of the role of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

The Round Table will cover five thematic issues: (1) the role of human rights education in promoting and protecting women's human rights; (2) enhancing enjoyment of human rights by disadvantaged groups of women (such as migrant, immigrant and minority women, and indigenous women); (3) institutional dimensions (4); the role of national institutions in implementation of the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and (5) developing national action plans. The Round Table will conclude with identification of strategies for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the two sets of institutions.

## **Proposed programme of work**

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### ***Monday 15 November: ARRIVAL - WELCOME***

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**23:15** Arrival of participants at Ouarzazate airport and transfer to the Hotel.

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### ***Tuesday 16 November:***

#### ***Opening session***

***Thematic sessions: (1) The role of human rights education; and (2) Enjoyment of human rights by disadvantaged groups of women***

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#### **09.00 - 10:30 Opening session**

Representatives of the Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme of Morocco (CCDH), OHCHR, and DAW will outline the objectives of the Round Table.

*Omar Azziman (CCDH)*

*Marianne Haugaard (OHCHR)*

*Christine Brautigam (DAW)*

#### **NIs, National machineries for the advancement of women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: an overview**

Representatives of OHCHR and DAW, and an expert of CEDAW will provide an overview of the main roles and functions of NIs, national machineries for the advancement of women, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, respectively.

*Marianne Haugaard (OHCHR)*

*Christine Brautigam (DAW)*

*CEDAW expert (TBC)*

#### **Participants' presentation of key challenges**

Participants, in a tour de table, will be invited to highlight key challenges they face in the implementation of their mandates in their respective countries. They will be invited to prepare brief written summaries (2 to 4 pages) in advance.

**10:30** *Coffee break*

**11:00 - 12:30 Continuation of key challenges**

**12:30** *Lunch break*

**14:00 - 15:30**

**Thematic session (1): Human rights education**

This session will focus on sharing experiences on the role of human rights education in the promotion and protection of the human rights of women. In particular, participants will discuss the role human rights education plays in the work of their institutions, and the means and modalities for carrying out human rights education. It will assess how, and to what extent, human rights education incorporates a gender perspective, places a particular emphasis on women's human rights, and/or is targeted at women. Attention will be paid to the emphasis placed on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in human rights education. In doing so, the session will also assess human rights education programming and implementation within the national education system, at all levels.

*(New Zealand, Human Rights Commission, 7 – 10 minutes)* (TBC)

*(Uganda, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, 7 – 10 minutes)*  
(TBC)

**15:30** *Coffee break*

**16:00 - 17:30**

**Thematic session (2): Enhancing enjoyment of human rights by disadvantaged groups of women**

During this session, participants will share experiences of the work done by their respective institutions in enhancing enjoyment of human rights by disadvantaged groups of women, including migrant, immigrant, and minority women, as well as by indigenous women. Participants will discuss legislation, policies, programmes and projects that aim at preventing and eliminating discrimination and disadvantages, including multiple forms of discrimination, experienced by these groups of women. It will assess the catalytic role of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in enhancing enjoyment of rights by disadvantaged groups of women, including in judicial decision-making.

*(Ireland, Human Rights Commission, 7 – 10 minutes)* (TBC)

*(Costa Rica, Instituto nacional de la mujer, 7 – 10 minutes)* (TBC)

**17:30 Adjournment**

18:30 Event

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**Wednesday 17 November:**

**Thematic sessions: (3) Institutional dimensions; (4) The role of national institutions in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and (5) Developing National Action Plans**

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**09:00 - 10:30**

**Thematic session (3): Institutional dimensions - Working in partnership for the protection and promotion of women's human rights**

This session will focus on institutional set-ups at the country level for promotion of human rights, and for the advancement of women. Participants will share information on the mandate and power of their respective institutions, and their relationships with institutional partners (including Government and Government agencies, parliamentarians, political parties, and non-governmental organizations). They will focus on the type and extent of cooperation, and on coordination mechanisms that exist at national and local level, as well as at regional level. Experience of existing interaction and linkages between NIs and national machineries will be assessed, as will be the role of gender focal points in the various institutions in the realization of women's human rights. The session will also include ways in which the participating entities provide input into government policy, the importance of political leadership, and working with government agencies to achieve change.

*(Kyrgyz Republic, National Council for Women, Family and Gender Development, 7 – 10 minutes) (TBC)*

*(Germany, Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 7 – 10 minutes) (TBC)*

**10:30 Coffee break**

**11:00 - 12:30**

**Thematic session (4): The role of national institutions in the implementation of the Convention**

An expert of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will lead a discussion on key trends and challenges in the promotion and protection of women's human rights. Participants will be invited to consider ways for better implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and expanded use of its Optional Protocol. Participants will also be invited to share experiences how their work on implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly enhances women's enjoyment of their human rights.

**12:30** *Lunch break*

**14:00 - 15:30**

**Thematic session (5): Developing national action plans**

Four participants will comment from their own experience in developing national plans of action, including their collaboration with other national institutions. The session will review issues of process, content and outcomes of national action plans, and related measures and indicators. Successes, impact and lessons learned will be an important aspect of discussion.

*(Zambia, Human Rights Commission) (TBC)*

*(Lithuania, Labour Market and Equal Opportunities Office) (TBC)*

*(two more) (TBC)*

**15:30** *Tea break*

**16:00 - 17:30 Strategies for future cooperation and interaction**

The session will identify strategies and steps to be taken to enhance future cooperation and institutional linkages, and means for enhancing the effectiveness of the work of these two sets of institutions in the protection and promotion of women's human rights.

*NIs*

*National machineries*

**17:30 Adjournment**

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***Thursday 18 November: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

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**09.00 - 10:30 Preparation of conclusions and recommendations of the Round Table**

*NIs*

*National machineries*

**10:30** *Coffee break*

**11:00 - 12:00 Finalization and adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

*NIs*

*National machineries*

**12:00 - 12:30 Closing session**

**14:00** *Visit to women's institutions*

**18:30** *Event*

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***Friday 19 November: DEPARTURE***

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**05.00 am** Departure of the participants from Hotel.<sup>1</sup>

**06.30** Departure of flight to Casablanca from Ouarzazate airport.

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**Note:**

Participants will be encouraged to bring materials about their institution and its activities (posters, leaflets, booklets, etc) that can be displayed in the foyer of the Round Table for the information of other participants.

There may be time available during the lunch breaks for short videos etc. if participants have something they wish to share.

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<sup>1</sup> Should participants wish to leave at another time (i.e. a day later) costs shall be borne directly by the participant.