



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 43rd SESSION

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Item 5 - Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms: Presentation of Reports

11 March 2020

Mr Fernand de Varennes, Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, presented the Report of the **Forum on Minority Issues** ([A/HRC/43/62](#)). The 12th session of the Forum (28-29 November 2019) on the theme **“Education, language and the human rights of minorities”** was co-chaired by Ms Anastasia Crickley and Ms Astrid Thors, and attended by more than 600 participants. For the first time, three regional forums on the same topic were held in Brussels, Bangkok and Tunis. 57 recommendations drawn from the contributions of more than 1000 participants are based on international law and standards, and address, among other topics, the importance of creating conducive environment for minority languages teaching, and the learning needs of individuals who belong to deaf communities, indigenous peoples or migrant communities who can all potentially constitute a linguistic minority. The recommendations aim to provide guidance to implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

HE Ms Kadra Ahmed Hassan, Permanent Representative of Djibouti and Chair-Rapporteur of the Social Forum 2019, presented the Report of the **2019 Social Forum** (1-2 October 2019) ([A/HRC/43/63](#)), which focused on the **rights of children and youth to education**. The Forum assembled more than 650 participants and 50 speakers. The report contains a summary of the discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Forum, including the need to invest in universal quality, inclusive education, in particular in conflict and emergencies; the need to reach those left furthest behind, including the refugee children, pregnant girls and young mothers; and the need to ensure that learning environments are free from discrimination and violence, including sexual violence, among others.

Mr Javaid Rehman, Member of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures (on behalf of the Chair-Person of the Committee, Ms Anita Ramasastry) presenting the Report on the **26th annual meeting of special rapporteurs** ([A/HRC/43/64](#)). Includes a page with facts and figures related to all activities of the Special Procedures in 2019, e.g. 669 communications transmitted, 84 in situ visits to 57 States and territor. 2019 was marked by several positive developments related to Special Procedures, including in cooperation with the states (broadly positive, more standing invitations), engagement on thematic issues and the collection of good stories (new webpage¹ launched to share them). New OHCHR Initiative²: a page reflecting the cross-cutting thematic issues addressed by the SP (new technologies, the SDGs, migration, and climate change). One-page documents highlighting the main issues raised in their reports are shared by the Special Rapporteurs. 2019 was also a challenging year: global retrenchment against the human right values, financial constraints, and direct attacks faced by some mandate holders.

Ms Yvette Stevens, Chair-Rapporteur of the Report on the **Human Right Council contribution to the prevention of human rights violations** ([A/HRC/43/37](#)), presented the report along with Mr Pablo de Greiff and Mr Nils Muižnieks. The report makes recommendations on how to improve the preventive role of the Council and its mechanisms, and on how the Council can work more effectively with all pillars of the UN system. Some concrete actions mentioned included preventive diplomacy, confidential sessions of the Human Rights Council sessions, country visits, early warning actions, and recognizing that prevention can also occur during and after the conflict. The importance of longer-term prevention was underlined, particularly through identifying structural gaps and providing advice to the governments.

“The cost of prevention is far less than not investing in it at all”.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/SPGoodStories.aspx>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/CrosscuttingThematicIssues.aspx>

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