

Glion III report launch and panel discussion

Turning international norms into local reality: Are we seeing a new human rights 'implementation agenda'?

Concept note

Monday 17th October, 09h30 to 12h15

Intercontinental Hotel, Geneva; Room Benelux

Concept

The development of international human rights norms is seen as one of the great success stories of the UN. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly on 10th December 1948, the international community has moved to create a comprehensive global code of human rights norms governing practically every area of the relationship between the individual and the State.

But what are the real world, practical, tangible implications of this global code? The primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights lies with States, but do States comply with the standards and obligations that they themselves have set down and ratified? What do States do with the recommendations generated by the main human rights mechanisms? How do States seek to transform international norms into local reality and do they succeed? How do the Human Rights Council (Council) and the wider international human rights system support States (e.g. through capacity-building) to strengthen implementation and compliance?

As the Council marks its 10th and the two human rights Covenants their 50th anniversaries, there are important signs that UN Member States are increasingly turning their attention to the question of **implementation**, and how best to support it. 2016 therefore offers an important opportunity for a process of inclusive and collective reflection on remaining gaps, lessons learned, and best practices and how to replicate them.

The third Glion Human Rights Dialogue (Glion III), organised by Norway and Switzerland, with the support of the Universal Rights Group (URG), held from 3rd to 4th May 2016, aimed to provide an informal space for considering such questions.

Glion III adopted a **bottom-up approach** to the issue of implementation, addressing a number of key questions: How do States implement UN human rights recommendations? How does the international community seek to support them in that regard? How does the international human rights system seek to promote cooperation and address persistent non-cooperation? And, how can implementation be strengthened in the future?



Draft programme

- 0930h Coffee and croissants (next to Benelux room)
- 10h00 **Start of meeting**
- 10h05 **Welcome by H.E. Mr Hans Brattskar, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Norway**
- 10h10 **Opening remarks**
- Kofi Annan spoke of the HRC leading the international community from ‘the era of declaration’ to the ‘era of implementation:’ are we now seeing such a shift?
- H.E. Mr Kyong-Lim Choi, President of the HRC (10 minutes)
- Mr Eric Tistounet, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR (10 minutes)
- 10h30h **Moderated discussion (Q&A) with panellists**
- Moderator: H.E. Mr Valentin Zellweger, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland*
- The emergence and evolution of single national (implementation) coordination and reporting structures, and the work of OHCHR***
- Ms Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh, Chief, UPR Branch, OHCHR
- Streamlined national coordination, implementation and reporting: the example of Costa Rica***
- H.E. Ms Elayne Whyte Gómez, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica



Inclusive implementation and independent reporting: the role of domestic civil society, NHRIs and parliaments

Mr Iniyar Ilango, FORUM ASIA

Building space at the HRC to exchange national experience and good practice, recognise achievement, discuss obstacles, and learn lessons

H.E. Ms Beatriz Londoño Soto, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia

H.E. Mr Kok Jwee Foo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Singapore

11h15h
- 12h00

Moderated dialogue with all participants

Moderator: H.E. Mr Valentin Zellweger, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland

Interpretation will be available English-French

