

**GENEVA  
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international  
humanitaire et de droits humains  
Academy of International  
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights



# Agenda

## Regional Consultation for Asia

South Asian University, New Delhi,  
India  
13 -14 October 2017

## DAY 1: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

9:00 - 9:30                    **Welcome Coffee and Registration of the Participants**

9:30 - 10:00                **Inauguration and Welcome remarks**

- Welcome address by **Dr. Kavita A. Sharma**, President SAU
- Address by **Dr. Ravindra Pratap**, Associate Dean, FLS SAU
- Address by **Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika**, Director, CHRI
- Address by **Ms. Riccarda Chanda**, First Secretary, Head of Human Security, Culture and Legal Affairs, Embassy of Switzerland

10:00 - 10:30                **An Overview**

- **Miloon Kothari**, Consultant, Geneva Academy's Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020; Former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing
- **Domenico Zipoli**, Visiting researcher, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Vote of Thanks: **Dr. Srinivas Burra**, FLS, SAU

10:30 - 11:00                **Tea/Coffee Break**

11:00 - 13:00                **Session I: Is Continuing the Path of Linear Growth a Feasible Option for the Treaty Bodies System**

Moderator: **Mikiko Otani**, Member, UN Committee on Rights of the Child

### Key Questions:

- Focus on State Reporting
- Focus on Individual Complaints
- Focus on General Comments
- Harmonization of Treaty Body Procedures

### Speakers:

- **Sanjoy Hazarika**, Director, CHRI

- **Enakshi Ganguly Thukral**, Haq Centre for Child Rights

13:00 - 14:00           **Group Picture and Lunch Break**

14:00 - 15:30           **Session II: How to Meet the Burgeoning Need of Strengthening the Treaty Body System**

**Moderator: Miloon Kothari**, Independent Expert; Former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Key Questions:

- Nomination, Selection, Professionalization of Treaty Body Members
- Capacity Building
- Interaction with NGOs and NHRIs
- Role of the Chairpersons
- Improving the interplay between the current treaty body system, the UN Special Rapporteurs and the UPR

Speakers:

- **Mikiko Otani**, Member, CRC
- **Matin Talkhabi**, Director of Research, Institute of Public Laws Studies, University of Teheran
- **Cecilie Figenschou Bakke**, Director, China Program, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

15:30 - 16:00           **Tea/Coffee Break**

14:00 - 15:30           **Session III: Considering, Adapting and Integrating Previous Proposals Should we move towards redesigning (or lessening) reporting obligations of states in the Treaty System?**

Moderator: **Savitri Goonesekere**, Former Member, CEDAW

Key Questions:

- Consolidation of reports to the treaty bodies (SG Report)
- Reduction of Emphasis on Reporting
- Comprehensive Reporting Calendar

Speakers:

- **Shanti Diaram**, Former Member, CEDAW
- **Sara Hossain**, Member, UN Voluntary Fund on Victims of Torture

## DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00 - 9:30                   **Tea/Coffee**

9:30 - 11:00               **Session IV: How can the Treaty System benefit from collaboration and coordination between Treaty Bodies?**

**Moderator: Sara Hossain**, Member of the UN Voluntary Fund on Victims of Torture

Key Questions:

- Joint Treaty Body Working Group on Individual Communications (including overview of
- Proposal from CERD)
- Joint Treaty Body Working Group on Follow-Up
- Platform for Elections of Treaty Body Members (UNHCHR Report)

Speakers:

- **Savitri Goonesekere**, Former Member, CEDAW
- **Enamul Hoque Chowdhury**, Member, Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission

11:00 - 11:30               **Tea/Coffee**

11:30 - 13:00               **Session V: Consideration of New Proposals that may not require Normative Change**

Moderator: **Miloon Kothari**, Independent Expert; Former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Key Questions:

- Lessons from the ILO System (e.g. desk based reviews)
- Revival of the Unified Standing Treaty Body
- Possible Variations: Consolidation of the ICCPR and ICESCR
- Single Unified Treaty Body for Reporting Only
- Publicity, Transparency of the Treaty Body System

- Role of the Secretariat

Speakers:

- **Mikiko Otani**, Member, CRC
- **Akhter Hussain**, Member, Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission

13:00 - 14:30           **Lunch Break**

14:30 - 16:00           **Session VI: Treaty Bodies and Human Rights**

Moderator: **Savitri Goonesekere**, Former Member, CEDAW

Keys questions:

- Treaties bodies role in fostering human rights
- Best practices of treaty body compliance
- Strategies within resolution 68/268 to address the treaty body compliance - Role of civil societies/NGO's and individuals

Speakers:

- **Shanti Diaram**, Former Member, CEDAW
- **Ramesh Nathan**, National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)
- **Shivani Chaudhry**, Executive Director, Housing and Land Rights Network

16:00 - 16:30           **Tea/Coffee Break**

16:30 - 17:00           **Session VII: Review and Adoption of Text/Points of Agreement**

Overview of deliberations and moderation:

- **Savitri Goonesekere**, Former Member, CEDAW
- **Miloon Kothari**, Independent Expert; Former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

**END OF CONFERENCE**