

Enhancing national reporting and implementation of human rights through coordinated engagement at the local and regional levels: the role of NMIRFs

23 July 2025

Palais des Nations, Room H-207-208-209

10h-12h30 and 14h-16h30 Geneva time

10:00- 10:15 Opening session

- Nosy Ramamonjisoa, Capacity Building programme Coordinator, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR
- Anh Thu Duong, Co-Director, Global Cities Hub
- Felix Kirchmeier, Geneva Human Rights Platform, Geneva Academy

Session 1: Fostering the engagement of local and regional governments with the International human rights system- the potential role of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up

10:15- 11:00 Plenary panel

Moderator: Virginia Bras Gomes, consultant, Board Member, Geneva Human Rights Platform and former Chairperson of the CESCR Committee

- Ian Brown, Senior Policy Analyst and Advisor, Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada
- Joachim Rücker, former mayor and former President of the Human Rights Council, Germany
- Researcher, Republic of Korea (remote) (name TBC)

11:00-11:45 Break outs

For those unable to remotely attend both morning and afternoon sessions due to time zone impediments, a specific break-out may be organized where both reporting and implementation will be discussed.

Guiding questions:

- Does your country/the country you cover have a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up?

- What is the current role of local and regional governments in engaging with the international system in your country? (What channels of communications does your country have to liaise with LRGs when it comes to the engagement with the international human rights system; How are does the central government identify the LRGs it coordinates with/consults for the purpose of the engagement with UN bodies? Should there be any selection criteria if several LRGs are interested in engaging? Or is the practice to engage with all those expressing an interest? What benefits can be drawn from LRG's participation/reporting? For both LRGs and central administrations?)
- Is there some form of coordination and information management systems (including digital) which enable the involvement of LRGs in data planning and data collection, including through the NMIRF when it exists? What are the current challenges in this regard?
- Discussing concrete proposals to enhance LRGs' participation including through the/a NMIRF in your country/the country you cover.

11:45-12:30 Key findings

12:30- 14:00 Lunch break

Session 2: Implementation of human rights obligations at the national level- the role of local and regional governments and National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up

14:00-14:45 Plenary panel

Moderator: Anh Thu Duong, Co-Director Global Cities Hub

- Emilio Jatón, Secretary of Human Rights of the Governorate of Santa Fe and former mayor of Santa Fe- Argentina
- Carola Gunnarsson, Vice-President, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- Jackie Smith, co-founder and chair of steering committees of Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance and the North American Human Rights Cities Alliance.

14:45-15:30 Break out

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- What is the current involvement of LRGs in implementing recommendations stemming from the international human rights system?
- What are the challenges faced?
- Name at least one concrete proposal of ways to enhance LRGs' contribution to implementation and/or tracking of implementation.

15:30-16:30 Key findings and way ahead