



**PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:
TOWARDS A NEW UN CONVENTION**
New Delhi
26 - 29 May 2003

**An International Workshop for National Human Rights Institutions from the
Commonwealth and Asia-Pacific Region**

Jointly organised by:

- The British Council
- National Human Rights Commission of India
- Asia-Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions
- The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

with support from the UK's Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the National Human Rights Commission of India

Venue: Taj Mahal Hotel, 1 Mansingh Road, New Delhi

Day 1

Monday, 26 May 2003

1900 Reception for Delegates of the Workshop
Venue: The LongChamp, Hotel Taj Mahal, New Delhi

Welcome address by:

- Dr Morna Nance, Acting Director, British Council India
- Mr Orest Nowosad, OHCHR NI Team Leader
- Dr Justice A S Anand, Chair, NHRC India (and Chair, APF)

Introduction of Workshop Directors and Participants

Dinner provided at reception

Day 2

Tuesday, 27 May 2003

0900 Delegates arrive in the LongChamp

0915 Housekeeping / Rules of Procedure

0930 **Session 1**
**Presentation of Country Papers and Discussion on Impact
of National Legislation and Administrative Practice**

Chair: Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director, APF / Mr Simon Williams, British Council
• Presentations from India, Australia, South Africa and Northern Ireland
10 minutes each followed by discussion

Detailed programme

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1115 Break for tea / coffee

1145 **Session 2**
**Role for National Human Rights Institutions in
Promoting the Rights of People With Disabilities**

Chair: Mr Virendra Dayal, Member, NHRC India

Speakers:

1. Dr Sev Ozdowski, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australia Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission
2. Mr Kevin McLaughlin, Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC)

15 minutes each followed by discussion

1315 Break for Lunch

1415 **Session 2.1**
Group work on potential areas of NHRI intervention

1500 **Session 2.2**
Group reports to plenary

Chair: Ms Tinkhani Khonje

Desk Officer for persons with Disabilities Rights

Thematic Committee of the Malawi Human Rights Commission

1545 Break for tea / coffee

1615 Optional visits to Disability NGOs

1930 Groups return to hotel and share learning/experiences of visits informally over dinner

Day 3

Wednesday, 28 May 2003

0900 Reconvene / key points arising from previous day / housekeeping revisited

0930 **Session 3**
**'Mainstreaming Disability': Experiences of UN
Conventions (Hard Instruments)**

Detailed programme

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Chair: Justice Sujata V Manohar, Member, NHRC India

Speakers:

1. CEDAW: Ms Charlotte McClain Commissioner, South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)
 2. CRC: Mr Gerry Pinto, UNICEF India
 3. CERD: Mr Vasu Pillai, Member, CERD Committee
- 15 minutes each followed by discussion

1100 Break for tea / coffee

1130 **Session 4**
Presentation on Existing (Soft) UN Instruments relevant to Disability

Chair: Ms Charlotte McClain, Commissioner, SAHRC

Speakers:

1. Mr D Seetulsingh, Commissioner, Mauritius National Human Rights Commission on UN Standard Rules of Equalisation of Opportunities for People with Disabilities
 2. Dr (Ms) Datuk Raj Karim, Malaysia Human Rights Commission on World Programme of Action
 3. Ms Amita Dhanda, Registrar NALSAR (India) on Mental Health Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities
- 15 minutes each followed by discussion

1300 Break for lunch

1400 **Session 5**
International Monitoring Mechanisms and Complaints Procedures

Chair: Ms Robyn Hunt, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission, New Zealand

Speakers:

1. Ms Anuradha Mohit: OHP Presentation on Existing Monitoring Mechanisms: Key Decisions of various Committees
 2. Mr Vasu Pillai, Member, CERD Committee on Monitoring Mechanisms in the New Convention
- 15 minutes each followed by discussion

1530 Break for tea / coffee

1600 **Session 5.1:**
Inter-Country Group work to recommend Monitoring Mechanisms / Complaints Procedures for New Convention
(Groups as for Session 2)

Detailed programme

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1715

**Session 5.2
Plenary to present group work on Monitoring Mechanisms**

Chair: Mr D Seetulsingh, Chair, Mauritius National Human Rights Commission

1750

Discussion

1800

Proceedings end for the day

1830

Shopping trip (transport provided)

2100

Return to hotel (transport provided)

Evening

Participants free to make own arrangements for dinner

Day 4

Thursday, 29 May 2003

0900

Reconvene / key points arising from previous day /
housekeeping revisited

0930

**Session 6
Nature and Key Elements of the New UN Convention on
Disability: Perceptions of Human Rights Institutions and
NGOs**

Chair: Dr Justice A S Anand, Chair, NHRC India

Speakers:

1. Ms Robyn Hunt, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission, New Zealand
 2. Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick, APF
 3. Mr S K Rungta, Secretary General, National Federation of the Blind
- 10 minutes each followed by discussion

1030

**Session 6.1
Nature and Elements of the New Convention: Group Work**

1100

Break for tea / coffee

Detailed programme

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1130

**Session 6.2:
Plenary Presentations on Group Work**

Chair: Dr Ameer Zainudeen, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka

- Maximum 7 minutes each presentation, for submission to the drafting committee

1230

Break for Lunch

1330

**Session 7
Partnership strategies for action in the lead-up to the new
UN Convention on Disability**

Chair: Ms Anna Bossman

Deputy Commissioner (Legal and Investigations)
Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice

Speakers:

1. Mr Orest Nowosad, OHCHR NI Team Leader
2. Ms Clare Doube, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

15 minutes each followed by discussion

1430

**Session 8
Presentation of Draft Recommendations and Discussion**

Chair: Mr. Virendra Dayal, Member, NHRC India

- Presentation by the Drafting Committee members
Followed by discussion

1530

Break

1630

**Session 9
Closing Ceremony / Adoption of Recommendation and
Valedictory**

Programme:

1. Opening remarks by Mr Mark Runacres, Acting British High Commissioner to India (5 minutes)
2. Presentation of Statement / Recommendations from the Workshop by Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick / Ms Charlotte McClain (on power point) (15 minutes)
3. Remarks by Mr Orest Nowosad, OHCHR
4. Message by Dr Satya Narayan Jatiya, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment read out by Mrs Uma Tuli, Chief Commissioner, Office of the Chief Commissioner of Disabilities (15minutes)
5. Presidential Remarks by Dr Justice A S Anand, Chair, NHRC India / Chair, APF (10 minutes)
6. Closing Remarks / Vote of Thanks by Dr Morna Nance, Acting Director, British Council India (5 minutes)

Followed by Tea

Detailed programme

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Day 5

Friday, 30th May 2003

Programme for the APF Meeting

Purpose: How best can our institutions participate at the Second Ad Hoc Meeting?

1130 – 1230 Strategies for effective participation by the NHRIs in the 2nd
meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Justice A S Anand, NHRC, India

1230 Lunch

Detailed programme

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