

**SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS**

24 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2001

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FINAL AGENDA

SESSION 1: Closed Session - Forum Members and OHCHR

DAY 1

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2001

9:30am – 1:00pm

Forum Members Meeting – General Business
Crystal Room (Upper)

Chair: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

1. Report of Forum Activities (Secretariat)
2. Report of Forum Working Group on Legal and Governance Issues (Regional Coordinator, Mr Chris Lawrence)
 - Draft Constitution
 - Proposed Resolutions
3. Admission of New Members (Secretariat)
 - Mongolia
 - Thailand
4. Discussion re Sixth Annual Meeting (Secretariat)
 - Agenda
 - Concluding Statement
 - Draft references to the Advisory Council of Jurists
5. Election of four regional representatives to the ICC and one regional representative to the ICC accreditation sub-committee
6. Seventh Annual Meeting of the Forum (Secretariat)
7. General Business

1:00 – 2:30pm

Lunch
Longdon Room

2:30 – 6:00pm

Forum Members Meeting – Strategic Planning and Directions (closed session)

Chair: National Human Rights Commission of India

6:30pm

Dinner / Free Evening

DAY 2

TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2001

9:00am – 1:00pm

Forum Members Meeting – Strategic Planning and Directions (closed session)
Crystal Room (Upper)

Chair: Fiji Human Rights Commission

1:00 – 2:30pm

Lunch
Longdon Room

2:30 – 5:30pm

Forum Members Meeting – Strategic Planning and Directions (continued)
Crystal Room (Upper)

Chair: National Human Rights Commission of Nepal

3:00pm

Registration (for non-APF members)
Gregory Room

5:30pm

Free Evening

SESSION 2: Open Session – Forum Members and Registered Observers

DAY 3

Wednesday 26 September 2001

9:30 – 10:30am

OPENING CEREMONY – REGIONAL COOPERATION: THE ROLE OF THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Crystal Room (Upper)

Welcome and Introduction:

Mr Faisz Musthapha PC

Chairman, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and
Chairperson
Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THE HON SARATH N. SILVA PC

CHIEF JUSTICE OF SRI LANKA

Justice P.N. Bhagwati

Chairman UN Human Rights Committee & Regional Advisor to the High
Commissioner for Human Rights in the Asia Pacific

Forum member signing ceremony

10:30 – 11:00am

Morning tea

11:00am – 12:00noon

THE NEEDS OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

Chair: Philippines Commission on Human Rights

Dr Shaista Shameem, Executive Director
Fiji Human Rights Commission

Mr Jogendra Ghimire, Secretary
National Human Rights Commission of Nepal

Mr Suren Tserendorj, Chief Commissioner
National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

Mr Gerry Fox
Amnesty International

12:00noon – 1:00pm

NGOs AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

Mr Ravi Nair
South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre

Ms Rosslyn Noonan, Chief Commissioner
New Zealand Human Rights Commission

1:00 – 2:30pm

Lunch
Longdon Room

2:30 – 3:30pm	<p>HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS – ISSUES FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission</p> <p>Dr Iyanthi Abeywickrema Director, STD Program Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Mr Virendra Dayal, Member National Human Rights Commission of India</p> <p>Ms Joan Staples Australian Council for Overseas Aid / Diplomacy Training Program</p>
3:30 – 4:00pm	Afternoon tea
4:00 – 5:00pm	<p>GENDER ISSUES FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS</p> <p>Justice Shiranie Thilakawardhana Sri Lankan Court of Appeal</p> <p>Professor Kapil Shrestha, Member National Human Rights Commission of Nepal</p> <p>Ms Anchalee Ama Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organisations in Thailand</p>
5:00pm	<p>VIDEO PRESENTATION: The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions</p> <p>Introductory Remarks - Kieren Fitzpatrick</p>
6.00pm	End of Day 3 Working Session
7:30pm	<p>OFFICIAL DINNER AND CULTURAL EVENING Taj Samudra Ball Room</p> <p>The Official Dinner and Cultural Evening will be open to all Forum members, registered delegates and special guests</p>
9:30pm	Free Evening

DAY 4

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2001

9:00 – 11:00am

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL COOPERATION
Crystal Room (Upper)

Chair: National Human Rights Commission of Nepal

Justice P.N. Bhagwati

Chairman UN Human Rights Committee & Regional Adviser in the Asia Pacific to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr Orest Nowosad

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick

Director - Secretariat

Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

Regional Governments – (dialogue with government representatives)

Mr Nick McNally

International Commission of Jurists

11:00 – 11:30am

Morning tea

11:30am – 12:30pm

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE: Report on the Outcomes from the World Conference

Chair: Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights

Mr Orest Nowosad

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dr Bill Jonas

Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

Representative

Non-government organisations

12:30 – 2:00pm

Lunch

Longdon Room

2:00 – 3:00pm

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF JURISTS: Report Back on Inaugural Session Reports and Development of New Reference

Chair: New Zealand Human Rights Commission

1. Report from Forum members and Forum Secretariat
2. Discussion regarding new reference for the Advisory Council

Mr Nick McNally

International Commission of Jurists

3:00 - 4:00pm

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, THE *GUIDING PRINCIPLES* AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS: Panel Discussion

Mr Godfrey Gunatilleke

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah
Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies

Ms Pabudini Wickramaratne
Law and Society Trust

Ms Renuka Senayake
Centre for Policy Alternatives

4:00 – 4:30pm

Afternoon tea

4:00 – 5:30pm

CLOSED SESSION (Forum Members)

Gregory Room

Final Drafting of the Concluding Statement

4:30 – 5:30pm

THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

Crystal Room (Upper)

Mr N. Selvakkumaran
Commissioner

5:30 – 6:30pm

CONFERENCE STATEMENT and CLOSING CEREMONY

Adoption of Statement of Conclusions and Recommendations

Crystal Room (Upper)

Chair: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

6.30pm

End of Sixth Annual Meeting

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING

Conduct of the Meeting

- Overall the meeting's sessions are to be chaired by a member representative of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.
- Background papers prepared for public sessions will be available to all participants.
- Each session will begin with a short introduction, followed by comments and responses, and concluded by a summary of the discussion by the Chair.
- The interventions by Forum member representatives take place before those by other participants.

Participation of Forum member representatives

- The representatives of Forum members – the human rights commissions of the, Australia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines and Sri Lanka – are the principal actors of this regional meeting.
- For each session, Forum member representatives may make initial introductory presentations or be subsequent commentators, if they so desire.
- The responsibility for finalising the meeting conclusions lies with Forum member representatives.

Participation of the United Nations

- As co-sponsor of the meeting, the representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will be specifically invited to address the meeting under a number of topics, in particular – “Asia Pacific Regional Cooperation” and “Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Report on the Outcomes of the World Conference”.
- The Chair is to exercise flexibility to allow adequate opportunity for interventions generally by representatives of the United Nations throughout the meeting.

Participation of Government representatives

- The Chair of the meeting is to exercise flexibility to allow adequate opportunity for interventions by government representatives.
- Government representatives will be specifically invited to make a brief address to the meeting on any steps they have taken towards the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions under the topic – “Asia Pacific Regional Cooperation”.

Participation of NGOs

- The Chair of the meeting is to exercise flexibility to allow adequate opportunity for interventions by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). NGO representatives with prepared written statements are requested to provide a copy of these to the Secretariat.

Participation of relevant institutions

- The Chair of the meeting is to exercise flexibility to allow adequate opportunity for interventions by representatives of relevant institutions.

The role of the Secretariat

- The role of the Secretariat is to facilitate the work of the meeting by:
 - (i) Providing necessary clarifications, inputs and information
 - (ii) Acting as resource persons – particularly in the preparation of background papers
 - (iii) Summarising discussions and preparing the final report of the meeting.