



Third International Conference of Cairo

“THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR), 60 YEARS AFTER: BETWEEN RHETORIC AND REALITY”

Within the framework of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)



Organizers:

- The Egyptian National Council for Human Rights
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Participants:

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- The African Union (AU)
- The League of Arab States (LAS)
- The International Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO)
- African and Arab National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)
- African and Arab non-governmental organizations
- The International Labour Organization, ILO
- The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Objectives:

1. Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the UDHR
2. Revitalizing the role of NHRIs and NGOs in Africa and in the Arab world
3. Exchange of experiences and consolidation of ties between African and Arab NHRIs and NGOs
4. Stimulating a meaningful participation of NHRIs and NGOs in the process of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), in light of the experience of the first 16 countries reviewed during 2008 within the Human Rights Council of the UN
5. Analysis of lessons learned and promotion of best practices among NHRIs and NGOs
6. Setting up of a permanent “Forum of Dialogue”: “Cairo Conferences. Afro-Arab Dialogue on Human Rights and Democracy”.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday 1 December 2008
(1st day)

OPENING SESSION: 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

H.E. Ms Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt

Guests of Honour:

Mr Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yaï, President of the Executive Board of UNESCO (confirmed)

Mr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director-General of ISESCO (confirmed)

Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the International Organization of the Francophonie (confirmed)

Mr Federico Mayor, President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace (confirmed)

Mr Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, LAS (confirmed)

Ms Kyung-Wha Kang, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (confirmed)

Mr Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (confirmed)

Mr Kari Tapiola, Executive Director, Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Sector, International Labour Organization, ILO (confirmed)

Lunch: 1.00 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

SESSION I: ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UDHR

2.30 p.m. – 4.30 a.m.

Chair: Mr Doudou Diène, former UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Senegal)

Speakers:

Mr Abid Hussain, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (India)

Sir Marrack Goulding, former Director of St Anthony's College, Oxford University (United Kingdom)

followed by general discussion

(Possible Speakers: Representative of Amnesty International, Mr Mohamed Faeq, Dr Salah Amer, Dr Foyad Ryad, Gidick Kedzia – Member of the committee on Economic Social & Cultural Rights (NHRIs & NGO's grass-roots)

SESSION II: CHALLENGES TO THE UDHR (TERRORISM – RACISM – FUNDAMENTALISM – ARMED CONFLICTS) - *Retos de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos (Terrorismo – Racismo – Fundamentalismo – Conflictos armadas)*

4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Chair: Mr Hisashi Owada, Judge, International Court of Justice (Japan) – *Juez, Corte de Justicia Internacional (Japón)*

Speakers:

Mr Martin Scheinin, UN Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Terrorism) (Finland) (to be confirmed) *Relator Especial de Naciones Unidas para la lucha antiterrorismo y para la protección de los Derechos Humanos y las Libertades Fundamentales (Terrorismo)*.

Dr Kamal Abou El Magd, Vice President of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights (Fundamentalism) – *Vice Presidente del Comité Nacional Egipto para los Derechos Humanos (Fundamentalismo)*

Mr Bertie Ramcharan, former Deputy UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Armed Conflicts) *Ex- Diputado, Alto Comisionado para los Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas (Conflictos armadas)*

Mr Enrique Cascallana / Mr José Manuel Gómez Bravo, Foundation *Instituto de Cultura del Sur*, Spain (Racism) (to be confirmed)

followed by general discussion *seguido por una debate general*

Tuesday 2nd December 2008
(2nd day)

SESSION III: POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

9.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.

Chair: Mr Pierre Cornillon, Honorary Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (France)

Speakers:

Mr Mohamed Younes, Managing Director, Grameen Bank (Bangladesh) (to be confirmed)

Mr Ibrahim Salama, Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR (from the perspective of treaty organs)

Mr Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences (UNESCO)

followed by general discussion

Coffee Break: 11.15 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

SESSION IV: WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

11:30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Chair: Dr Farkhonda Hassan, Secretary-General of the National Council for Women (Egypt) (to be confirmed)

Speakers:

Dr Angela Melo, Special Rapporteur on the rights of women in Africa (Mozambique) (to be confirmed)

Dr Mona Zulficar, Member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (Egypt)

Dr Elmira Suleymanova, Commissioner for Human Rights (Azerbaijan)

followed by general discussion

Lunch: 1.15 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

SESSION V: TOWARDS A PERMANENT FORUM OF ARAB-AFRICAN DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Chair: Mr Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences (UNESCO)

Official creation of a forum of exchange, discussions and involvement to ensure the realization of the ideals of democracy and human rights in Africa and in the Arab world.

CLOSING SESSION

5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.