

Background note

The purpose of the Venice experts' meeting on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (REBSP; Article 15, paragraph 1, b of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) is to further elucidate the normative content of the REBSP and clarify the relevant State obligations. Its aim is furthermore to achieve progress in the preparation of a document on the scope of application and content of the REBSP, which could help the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to elaborate a future a General Comment on the REBSP and to take it into account in discussing State periodic reports.

The meeting will build on previous meetings which took place in Amsterdam (June 2007) and in Galway (November 2008). These meetings examined the interdependence and interrelationship of the REBSP with other human rights, explored the tension between the REBSP and the protection of intellectual property, and also discussed the links between climate change, environmental protection, and the REBSP.

Around 35 international experts, including professors, members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as representatives of international organisations and bodies concerned, are expected to take part in the meeting.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 15:

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone:

- (...)
- (b) To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;
- (...)

16 JULY 2009

Opening session

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 09.30 | Greetings by Prof. Florence Benoît-Rohmer (EIUC Secretary General) |
| 09.45 | Introductory remarks by Mr Vladimir Volodin (Chief, Human Rights and Gender Equality Section, UNESCO),
Dr. Yvonne Donders (Director, Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam), and
Dr. George Ulrich (EIUC Senior Research Fellow) |
| 10.15 | Presentation of the draft final document
Explanation of purpose and key elements*
<i>*Suggestions for modifications should be submitted in writing for further discussion by 11.00 on 17 July</i> |
| 10.45 | Coffee break |

First working session

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 11.15 | "A neglected provision of the ICESCR: The REBSP – a critical analysis"
Keynote speaker: Prof. Eibe Riedel (Member of the CESCR; Professor of German and Comparative Public Law, European and International Law, University of Mannheim) |
| 11.45 | "The core content of the REBSP"
Keynote speaker: Prof. Audrey Chapman (Joseph M. Healey, Jr. Memorial Chair, Medical Humanities and Ethics, University of Connecticut Health Center) |
| 12.15 | Discussion |
| 13.30-15.00 | Lunch at Nicelli Airport, Lido |

Second working session

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 15.00 | "State obligations in relation to the REBSP" |
|-------|--|

15.30

16.30

17.00-18.00

20.00

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Yvonne Donders** (Director, Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam)

Discussion

Coffee break

General discussion and closing of the first day

Dinner at Restaurant La Piazzetta, Venice

17 JULY 2009

Third working session

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 09.30 | "International cooperation and the REBSP"
Keynote speaker: Mr Christian Courtis (Human Rights Officer, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Unit, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) |
| 10.00 | Discussion |
| 11.30 | Coffee break |

Fourth working session

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 12.00 | Discussion on the draft final document |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch at Nicelli Airport, Lido |
| 15.30 | Discussion on the draft final document (continued) |
| 16.00 | Coffee break |
| 16.30 | Adoption of the final document |
| 17.45 | Concluding remarks by Mr Vladimir Volodin (Chief, Human Rights and Gender Equality Section, UNESCO) and Dr. George Ulrich (EIUC Senior Research Fellow) |
| 20.30 | Dinner at Hotel Villa Mabapa, Lido |

EIUC and UNESCO

On the occasion of the EIUC/EMA Opening and Awarding Ceremony of 28 September 2008, EIUC and UNESCO further consolidated their institutional partnership by signing a new Memorandum of Understanding.

The MoU formalises and further articulates a long-standing cooperation between the two organisations. The objectives are, in particular, aimed at:

1. conducting, promoting and supporting human rights research with emphasis on the rights within UNESCO's fields of competence;
2. promoting education and training in human rights through development of specific educational activities;
3. further consolidating the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation;
4. reinforcing synergies with the UNESCO Chairs in Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance; strengthening linkages and interaction with other regional or sub-regional human rights master's programmes; planning and implementing activities linked to the anniversaries of major human rights instruments;
5. utilising the growing network of E.MA graduates.



Prof. Horst Fischer (EIUC President) and Mr Vladimir Volodin (Chief of the UNESCO Human Rights and Development Section).

Venue

The venue of E.MA and EIUC is the Benedictine **Monastery of San Nicolò**, situated on the laguna side of the Lido di Venezia.

The monastery was founded in the 11th century and transformed into a Renaissance cloister in the 16th century. After the suppression of the Benedictine order in 1770, the monastery was re-opened by Franciscan monks for educational purposes.

In 1998, the City of Venice generously conceded use of this architectural and historical monument as the seat of EIUC.



European Inter - University Centre
for Human Rights and Democratisation

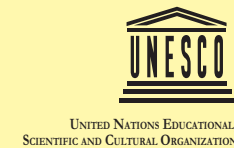
Monastery of San Nicolò
Riviera San Nicolò 26
30126 Venice - Lido (Italy)

Tel. +39 041 2720911
Fax +39 041 2720914
secretariat@eiuc.org

www.eiuc.org
www.emahumanrights.org



European Inter - University Centre
for Human Rights and Democratisation



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

THE RIGHT TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND ITS APPLICATIONS

Experts' meeting

16 - 17 July 2009
Venice, Italy

EIUC is supported by



EUROPEAN UNION



REGION
OF VENETO



MUNICIPALITY
OF VENICE



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION



OFFICE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
TECHNISCHE
ZUSAMMENARBEIT
(GTZ) GMBH