

09.07.2007

**FOLLOW-UP SEMINAR
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES
IN ARMENIA**

YEREVAN, 13 NOVEMBER 2007

Draft programme

Armenia as a State Party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities since 1998 undertook to implement the provisions contained in this international treaty. The measures undertaken by Armenia and their level of implementation have now undergone two cycles of monitoring by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention.

This seminar focuses on the second monitoring cycle, which began with the submission of a second State Report by the Hungarian authorities on 24 November 2004. The Advisory Committee based its assessment on the information contained in this State Report and other written sources, as well as on information obtained during its visit to Yerevan and the region of Aragatsnots from 28 to 30 March 2006. This resulted in the adoption of the Advisory Committee's 2nd Opinion on Armenia on 23 May 2006 (made public by the authorities on 24 October 2006), followed by the adoption of the corresponding Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (on 7 February 2007).

The 2nd Opinion and Resolution on Armenia identify strengths in the implementation of the Framework Convention but also identify areas where improvements could be made.

The aim of this meeting is to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Framework Convention and to discuss the steps taken and/ or foreseen to implement the recommendations contained in the 2nd Opinion of the Advisory Committee and Committee of Ministers' Resolution.

Three main areas will be examined during this meeting, in the presence of the responsible authorities, minority self-governments, NGOs as well as international organisations:

- rights of persons belonging to minorities in the field of education
- access of persons belonging to national minorities to and participation in the media
- participation in public affairs, cultural, social and economic life of persons belonging to national minorities

It is expected that following the discussions relating to the above-mentioned topics, general conclusions will be drawn providing the platform of a work programme to be implemented in order to further promote and respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Armenia.

8:45 Registration

9:15 Opening of the seminar

- **Mrs Kharatyan, Head of the Department for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs**
- **Bojana Urumova, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in Armenia**

SESSION I – GENERAL EVALUATION

Chair: ...

09.30 Overview of the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee and Committee of Ministers' Resolution in respect of Armenia

- **Asbjorn Eide**, Former President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention

10:15 Government's comments on the Recommendations and their implementation

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Civil Society view on the monitoring processes and results of the Second monitoring cycle

- Alla Kuzminskaya: President of "Polonia" NGO, Polish community
- Arkadi Khitarov: President of Union of Greek NGOs'

Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

SESSION II – SPECIFIC THEMES

Chair: ...

13.30 MINORITY EDUCATION, INCLUDING TEACHING IN AND OF MINORITY LANGUAGES

- Bagrat Yesayan: Representative of the Ministry of education
- Suren Zolyan: Head of the linguistic university after V.Bryusov
- Representatives of the national minorities
 - Sergey Choloyan: Director of secondary school of Shenkani village (Yezidi community)

- Muradova Taisiya Author of Assyrian textbook
- Juri Yakovenko: Director of private school with Russian language of education of Shenkani village (Yezidi community)

Discussion

14:15 PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE MEDIA

- Vardan Kopyan: Representatives of the Public Radio and Television Council
- Anna Arzumanyan: Representatives of the National Commission on Radio and TV
- Armenuhi Demirchyan: Representatives of the Ministry of Culture
- Representatives of the national minorities
 - Olga Arakelyan: Journalist, author of “My motherland Armenia” radio program
 - Romania Yavir: President of “Ukraina” Federation of Ukrainian NGOs of Armenia, Editor of “Dnipro Slavutich” newspaper

Discussion

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES

- Representatives of the Coordinating Council for National Minorities
- Representative of the Department for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs
- Marzpet Gareginyan: Advisor of head of self governing office of Kotaik region
- Willi Wayner: Head of the “Menora” Jewish cultural center

Discussion

16:15 Concluding remarks and closing of the seminar

- **Asbjorn Eide**
- **Mrs Kharatyan/representative of the Armenian authorities**

16:45 End of the session