



## **The importance of human rights communication procedures, in general and at UNESCO**

**23 March 2023 - 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid format (*Webex link below*)**  
**English-French interpretation**

**Room XXII**  
**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**The Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Paraguay will host a Side-Event during the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) to discuss the importance of human rights communication procedures including the UNESCO confidential 104 Procedure.**

### **Background**

Paraguay and Switzerland are members of the UNESCO Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, one of the permanent subsidiary bodies of the Executive Board. This Committee is also dealing with the examination of communications relating to individual cases in UNESCO's human rights fields of competence (confidential 104 Procedure).

### **Objectives**

The first objective is to shed light on the importance of Human Rights communication procedures overall, and the UNESCO 104 Procedure in particular. The second objective is to think more in terms of networking and to include UNESCO in the perception of the human rights ecosystem. It is addressed to Member States (11 States members of the Committee are also members of the HRC), NGOs, but also to the Secretariats of the Special Procedures, the Treaty Bodies and Working Groups.

### **Main questions**

- What are the specificities of the different Human Rights communication procedures?
- What are their advantages and disadvantages?
- What is the UNESCO 104 Procedure? How does it work?
  - o Who may submit a communication?
  - o Which human rights fall within UNESCO's competence?
  - o What are the conditions of admissibility of a communication?

## Provisional agenda

13:00-13:05 Welcoming remarks by the Permanent Delegate of Switzerland to UNESCO, **H.E. Muriel Berset Kohen**.

13:05-13:35 Panel discussion moderated by the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the UN in Geneva, **H.E. Marcelo Eliseo Scappini Ricciardi**, with

- **Ms. Beatriz Balbin Chamorro**, Chief of the Special Procedures Branch, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- **Ms. Irene Khan**, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

**Mr. Santiago Villalpando**, Legal Adviser, Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

13:35-13:55 Q & A

13.55-14.00 Closing remarks

*(After the event, refreshments and sandwiches will be served outside the room.)*

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