



The International Commission of Jurists

cordially invites you to a parallel event to the 21st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council on

***High-Level Discussion on the Role of Judges and
Lawyers in Transition***

Thursday 13 September 2012, 12pm – 2pm
Meeting Room XXIV
Palais des Nations, Geneva

This parallel event aims to provide delegations and civil society with a forum to discuss the role of, and challenges faced by, judges and lawyers in countries in transition, especially as this relates to the promotion and enjoyment of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. It will consider country-specific examples of relevant experiences, including lessons learned and challenges being faced. The meeting will take the format of a moderated panel discussion, with one hour of interventions by expert panellists, and one hour of interactive debate with all participants.

The Moderator

Director of the ICJ Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

The Speakers

Mr Pablo de Greiff

*Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence,
Director at the International Center for Transitional Justice*

“The role of, and challenges faced by, judges and lawyers in the promotion and enjoyment of truth,
justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence”

Professor Voijn Dimitrijevic

*ICJ Commissioner, Director of the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Professor of Public
International Law and International Relations at the University of Belgrade, former member of the
UN Human Rights Committee*

“Lessons learnt in the former Yugoslavia”

Judge Stefan Trechsel

*Judge Ad Litem of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Professor of law at
the University of Zurich, Member and former President of the European Commission of Human Rights*

“The role of, and challenges faced by, judges in transition countries”

Govinda Prasad Sharma Koirala

Senior lawyer from Nepal, and Senior Legal Advisor at the ICJ Nepal Office

“The role of, and challenges faced by, the legal profession in Nepal”

Light lunch and refreshments will be provided

For more information, please contact Uchechi Anyanwu (uchechi.anyanwu@icj.org)

CONCEPT NOTE

ICJ FLAGSHIP PARALLEL EVENT ON THE ROLE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS IN TRANSITION

Human Rights Council, 21st Regular Session, 10 – 28 September 2012

Event and sponsors

Title

- High-Level Discussion on the Role of Judges and Lawyers in Transition

Format

- Short (10 minute) interventions by panellists will be followed by an open interaction with the audience

Sponsors

- International Commission of Jurists

Date and venue

Date

- Thursday 13 September 2012
- 12h – 14h

Venue

- *Palais des Nations*, Room XXIV

Focus and panellists

Objectives / issues for discussion

- To provide delegations and civil society with a forum to discuss the role of, and challenges faced by, judges and lawyers in countries in transition, especially as this relates to the promotion and enjoyment of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
- To consider country-specific examples of relevant experiences, including lessons learned and challenges being faced

Chair/moderator

- Director of the ICJ Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Speakers

1. Mr Pablo de Greiff, Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Director at the International Center for Transitional Justice
 - *Speaking on the role of, and challenges faced by, judges and lawyers in the promotion and enjoyment of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence*
2. Professor Voijn Dimitrijevic, ICJ Commissioner, Director of the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the University of Belgrade, former member of the UN Human Rights Committee
 - *Speaking on lessons learnt in the former Yugoslavia*
3. Judge Stefan Trechsel, Judge *Ad Litem* of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Professor of law at the University of Zurich, Member and former President of the European Commission of Human Rights
 - *Speaking on the role of, and challenges faced by, judges in transition countries*

4. Govinda Prasad Sharma Koirala, senior lawyer from Nepal, and Senior Legal Advisor at the ICJ Nepal Office
 - *Speaking on the role of, and challenges faced by, the legal profession in Nepal*

Participants

- The parallel event aims to attract as wide participation as possible, from senior levels at all Permanent Missions to the United Nations at Geneva
- The parallel event is otherwise open to all persons with access to the *Palais des Nations*

Background

- Summary:
 - This event will be held during the 21st session of the Human Rights Council in September 2012, marking the first Council session at which the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence will present a report, and be engaged in an interactive dialogue during the plenary
 - The 21st session of the Council will also include the negotiation and adoption of resolutions on the right to truth (led by Argentina) and transitional justice (led by Switzerland)
- Background documents:
 - Mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, HRC Resolution 18/7 (2011), available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/18session/resolutions.htm>
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, UN Doc A/HRC/21/46 (2012), available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session21/Pages/ListReports.aspx>
 - International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Geneva Declaration 2011, *Upholding the Rule of Law and the Role of Judges and Lawyers in Times of Crisis*, available at <http://www.icj.org/dwn/database/GenevaDeclaration-ENG.pdf>
 - Legal Commentary to the ICJ Geneva Declaration, *Upholding the Rule of Law and the Role of Judges and Lawyers in Times of Crisis*, available at http://documents.icj.org/Legal_Commentary_Geneva_Declaration.pdf
 - ICJ Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Second Geneva Forum of Judges and Lawyers (December 2011), report, *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Times of Transition – The Role of Lawyers and Bar Associations*, available at <http://documents.icj.org/2nd-CIIL-Geneva-Forum-Report.F.pdf>
 - ICJ Practitioner's Guide No 2, *The Right to a Remedy and to Reparation for Gross Human Rights Violations* (2006), available at http://www.icj.org/default.asp?nodeID=349&sessID=&langage=1&myPage=Legal_Documentation&id=22926
 - ICJ Nepal Office publication, *Nepal: Justice in transition* (2008), available at http://www.icj.org/IMG/Nepal_-_Justice_in_Transition_formatted_-_final_.pdf