

**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS CONGRESS 2012**  
**11-12 December 2012**  
**GENEVA**

**International Conference Center Geneva (CICG)**

***The Call for Stronger International Mechanisms  
To Remedy Human Rights Violations***

**Tuesday, 11 December 2012**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>VENUE, ROOM</b>
09:00-09:05	<b>Opening session</b> <i>Pedro Nikken, outgoing ICJ President</i>	
09:05-09:30	<b>Address to the Congress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Honourable UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay</i></li> <li><i>Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre, President of the UN Human Rights Council</i></li> </ul>	Meeting room 5+6
09:30-09:50	<b>Remarks by</b> <i>Mr Pierre Maudet, Conseiller d'Etat, Canton of Geneva</i> <i>Mr. Rémy Pagani, Mayor of the City of Geneva</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
09:50-10:45	<b>Keynote speaker</b> <i>Prof. Theo van Boven, Honorary Member of the ICJ</i>	
10:45-11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Foyer meeting room 5 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
11:00-13:00	<b>Panel One</b> Existing international justice systems and mechanisms: Strengths and weaknesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UN System, Professor Manfred Nowak</li> <li>The European System, including the Council of Europe, Ms. Karinna Moskalenko</li> <li>Middle East and North Africa, including the League of Arab States, Professor Leila Zerrougui</li> <li>The African System, Justice Sanji Monageng</li> </ul>	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
13:00-14:15	<b>Lunch</b>	MIP Restaurant 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
14:15-15:15	<b>Panel Two</b> The existing international justice systems and mechanisms: Strengths and weaknesses (cont.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Inter-American System, Mr Carlos Ayala</li> <li>Asia-Pacific, including ASEAN, Mr Sam Zarifi</li> </ul>	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
15:15-15:30	<b>Introduction</b> of the Draft ICJ Declaration on Access to Justice in International Human Rights Systems, Ian Seiderman, ICJ Legal and Policy Director	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
15:30-15:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Foyer meeting room 5 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor

TIME	SESSION	VENUE, ROOM
15:45-18:00	<p><b>Breakout into Six Working Groups</b></p> <p>Each Working Group will discuss particular challenges in their respective regions, with a view to coming to conclusions on ICJ priority objectives relating to developing and strengthening access to justice in international systems in the short, medium and long term. Each Working Group will discuss the respective objectives in the draft Declaration and make any suggestions for revision.</p>	
15.45-18:00	<p><b>Working Group 1: African System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential of extending the jurisdiction of the new African Court of Justice and Human Rights;</li> <li>• Obstacles to access to justice, including the highly restrictive of access to the African Court by individuals and NGOs and the shortcomings of the African Commission communication procedures;</li> <li>• The poor rate of implementation of decisions (judgments and recommendations) of supranational tribunals in Africa;</li> <li>• The suspension of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal by the SADC Heads of State and Government.</li> </ul>	Meeting room 7 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
15.45-18:00	<p><b>Working Group 2: Asia-Pacific, including ASEAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new ASEAN human rights mechanism, its potential for consideration of individual communications;</li> <li>• The assault on universal human rights engendered by the new ASEAN human rights Declaration;</li> <li>• The potential creation of other sub-regional human rights systems, including proposals in respect of the South Asian and Pacific regions;</li> <li>• Prospects for regional/sub-regional judicial enforcement of human rights.</li> </ul>	Meeting room 8 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
15.45-18:00	<p><b>Working Group 3: European System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effectiveness of European judicial mechanisms and serious practical and political challenges faced by the European Court of Human Rights, in the context of an increasing caseload and political pressure to restrict accessibility through admissibility criteria, and imposition measures such as fees or sanctions on applicants;</li> <li>• Defining the respective roles of national authorities and the Court in the Convention system;</li> <li>• Impending EU accession to the European Convention;</li> <li>• Strengthening of the system of collective petitions at the European Committee of Social Rights, in respect of economic, social and cultural rights.</li> </ul>	Meeting room 13 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
15.45-18:00	<p><b>Working Group 4: Inter-American System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the Inter-American system, including through enhanced enforcement, supervision and implementation of the judgments of the Inter-American Human Rights Court;</li> <li>• Defending the system from political attacks and threats to the independence and authority of the Inter- American Commission and Inter-American Court;</li> <li>• Effectiveness and respect of precautionary and provisional measures.</li> </ul>	Meeting room 14 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor

TIME	SESSION	VENUE, ROOM
15.45-18:00	<p><b>Working Group 5: Middle East and North Africa, including Arab League system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforcing the independence of the Arab Human Rights Committee and developing an effective mechanism in the League of Arab States, including by reforming the process of the election of its members;</li> <li>• Enlarging the mandate of the Committee to receiving and considering information by individuals, NGOs and national human rights institutions and providing for a quasi-judicial mechanism for individual complaints;</li> <li>• Establishing an Arab or regional human rights court to enforce the Arab Charter on Human Rights;</li> <li>• Expanding the substantive scope of the Arab Charter, including by providing for optional protocols on thematic areas.</li> </ul>	Meeting room 19 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
15.45-18:00	<p><b>Working Group 6: Universal/UN system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working towards the establishment of a World Court of Human Rights, to adjudicate complaints of violations of all the universal human rights treaties;</li> <li>• Enhancing the effectiveness of the existing treaty body communications procedures;</li> <li>• Enhancing the effectiveness of UN Special Procedures in respect of their potential remedial capacity.</li> </ul>	Meeting room 6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
18:00-19:30	<p><b>Reception</b></p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i>  <i>ICJ Executive Committee Chairperson, Justice John Dowd</i>  <i>Representative of the Swiss authorities (City/Canton/Confederation)</i>  <i>(TBC)</i></p>	Espace Motta 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor

**Wednesday, 12 December 2012**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>VENUE, ROOM</b>
09:00-11:00	<b>Working Groups 1-6 reconvene:</b> Working Groups will discuss short to long term ICJ work in the respective regions, with a focus on the objectives of the draft ICJ Declaration.	
	<b>Working group 1: African System</b>	Meeting room 7 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	<b>Working group 2: Asia-Pacific, including ASEAN</b>	Meeting room 8 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	<b>Working group 3: European System</b>	Meeting room 13 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	<b>Working group 4: Inter-American System</b>	Meeting room 14 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	<b>Working group 5: Middle East and North Africa, including Arab League system</b>	Meeting room 19 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
	<b>Working group 6: Universal/UN system</b>	Meeting room 6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
11:00-11:30	<b>Group picture</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
11:30-11:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	Foyer meeting room 5 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
11:45-13:00	<b>Six Working Groups report to Plenary</b>	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
13:00-14:15	<b>Lunch</b>	MIP Restaurant 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
14:15-16:00	<b>Plenary Discussion and finalization of Draft Declaration.</b>	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
16:00-16:15	<b>Adoption of Declaration</b>	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
16:15	<b>Closing remarks</b> <i>Sir Nigel S. Rodley, incoming ICJ President</i>	Meeting room 5+6 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor