

UNGA Thematic Report on Multilateral Organisations and FOAA

Questionnaire

In his upcoming report to the UN General Assembly in October 2014, the Special Rapporteur (SR) turns his attention to the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association at and in relation to the multilateral level. The report departs from the premise that an enabling civic environment is a pre-requisite for the effective exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. The SR intends to assess the impact of State action at the multilateral level on civic space, and the extent to which this facilitates or hinders the exercise of the freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association.

This questionnaire solicits information from States, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), civil society organisations and other relevant actors with a view to assisting the SR in his assessment. “Multilateral institutions” is used broadly in this questionnaire to mean global organisations, including agencies and departments of those organisations which engage in global policy-making. Although the primary focus is on organisations whose membership consists mainly of States, which also directly influence the governance of these organisations (IGOs), organisations that indirectly implement global policy formulated by IGOs such as the UN will also come under the purview of the report.

Questions:

1. Right to freedom of association
 - a. To Member States of IGOs on experiences engaging with civil society within the contexts of those IGOs
 - i. Please a) describe the context you wish to highlight, ie the organisation of which the State is a member and the role it plays in relation to engagement with civil society if applicable (eg State is member of accreditation committee of IGO); b) describe positive measures taken to facilitate the exercise of the right to freedom of association by civil society within multilateral institutions; c) provide an illustrative example(s) of the successful use of these measures to enhance civil society’s engagement at the multilateral level. Positive measures may include providing financial support or capacity building for civil society actors to participate at the multilateral level, encouraging the flow of information from civil society etc.
 - ii. Please describe challenges to engaging with civil society within multilateral institutions;
 - iii. Please describe in detail whether you would or would not consider that civil society’s participation in the work and processes of multilateral institutions should be expanded. In particular, please specify whether the current modalities for providing access to multilateral institutions are sufficient to enable the effective participation of civil society organisations.
 - b. To multilateral institutions on civil society participation in decision-making at the multilateral level

- i. Please describe measures (financial, human resource, infrastructural, programmatic, access to information) your institution has taken to ensure the effective exercise of freedom of association for civil society at all levels (ie how the organization facilitates civil society in decision-making on matters affecting them; whether/how programmes designed, supported or implemented by the institution facilitate the freedom of association for civil society);
 - ii. Please detail the procedures to be followed by civil society to attain accreditation to participate in decision-making on issues of global concern at your institution.
 - c. To civil society associations on engagement with multilateral institutions
 - i. Please describe (a) positive, (b) negative experiences in the accreditation processes with multilateral institutions (eg how simple/burdensome is it to provide required information for accreditation; how long does the accreditation process take; how transparent is the accreditation process)
 - ii. Please describe (a) positive, (b) negative experiences in general in engaging with multilateral institutions. Using illustrative examples identify concrete success stories in the exercise of the right to freedom of association from engaging with multilateral institutions.
 - iii. Please describe the (a) ease and/or (b) challenges of accessing information related to decision-making processes within multilateral institutions
 - iv. Please suggest measures that (a) civil society (b) multilateral institutions and (c) States can take to facilitate the exercise of the right to freedom of association for civil society
 - v. Please describe the level of participation that civil society should be accorded in global decision-making (eg should the state-centric model of global governance be reformed? If so, in what way?)
 - vi. Please identify multilateral organisations that (a) would benefit from closer engagement with civil society organisations, (b) please suggest concrete issues/aspects on which these organisations should engage with civil society.
- 2. Questions on the exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly in the context of the multilateral level
 - a. To civil society:
 - i. Are there any multilateral institutions which you perceive as having a positive or negative impact on the freedom of peaceful assembly based on their policies, projects, goals, engagement with governments or engagement with activists/civil society? For example (1) funding (or refusing to fund) a development project where the multilateral's partner government has actively worked to prevent affected communities from exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly or (2) working with (or refusing to work with) civil society

groups because they are actively involved in planning peaceful assemblies? Describe the examples in detail.

- b. To multilateral institutions:
 - i. In what way does your organization protect and foster the right to peaceful assembly when implementing projects, formulating policies or planning events? For example, when implementing a development project with a partner government, does your organization actively monitor the human rights impact of that project, including the impact on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly? Or, when planning an event that might attract peaceful protests, does your organization monitor and influence the local police response?
 - ii. What other safeguards are in place to prevent rights abuses that could be perceived as related your organization's projects, policies or events?
 - iii. How are these safeguards triggered?
 - iv. What improvements would you like to see in this area?

- c. To member states:
 - i. How do the multilateral organizations in which you are a member protect and foster the right to peaceful assembly when implementing projects, formulating policies or planning events? For example, when implementing a development project with a partner government, do the organizations actively monitor the human rights impact of that project, including the impact on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly? Or, when planning an event that might attract peaceful protests do such organizations monitor and influence the local police response?
 - ii. What other safeguards are in place to prevent rights abuses that could be perceived as related the organization's projects, policies or events?
 - iii. How are these safeguards triggered?
 - iv. What improvements would you like to see in this area?