



*"I am convinced that the OPCAT will constitute a truly innovative mechanism which can strike at structural or root causes of torture and cruel punishment and ill-treatment"*

Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
Geneva, 19 February 2007

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*"I urge all states that have signed the Convention to now sign up to its Optional Protocol as well, and the quarter of the world's states that have not ratified either to do so without further delay." "Torture has no place in a civilized society."*

Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
Geneva, 25 September 2009

**AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE  
(OPCAT)**

*27 - 28 April 2010, Dakar, Senegal*

**PROGRAMME**

**Objectives:**

- Encouraging prompt ratification of the OPCAT;
- Promoting open procedures of designation of effective National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM);
- Enabling the exchange of experiences of functioning of NPMs;
- Promoting effective functioning of NPMs;
- Assisting national, regional and global cooperation in prevention of torture, in particular with emerging NPMs in Africa and the ACHPR's Committee on prevention of torture in Africa (CPTA).

**Tuesday 27 April 2010**

8:30 – 9:00	<b>Registration of participants</b>
9:00 – 10:00	<b><u>Session I:</u></b> <b>Opening ceremony</b>  <b>Conference Coordinator:</b> Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer, APT <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Welcome remarks: Diéne Ndiaye, Vice-President, AI – Senegal</i></li><li>▪ <i>Speech: Mark Thomson, Secretary General, APT</i></li><li>▪ <i>Speech: Mahamane Cissé-Gouro, Regional OHCHR Representative for West Africa and nominated to represent Navi Pillay, HCHR, at the seminar</i></li><li>▪ <i>Speech: Dupe Atoki, Chairperson of the CPTA, Commissioner African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights</i></li><li>▪ <i>Opening speech: Minister of Justice, Senegal</i></li></ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Tea break and departure of Guests</b>
10:30 – 12:30	<b><u>Session II:</u></b> <b>How can the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) make a difference in torture prevention?</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Mark Thomson, Secretary General, APT <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Monitoring places of detention, a means to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Concepts and usefulness of preventive monitoring:</i> Edouard Delaplace, ICRC Geneva</li><li>▪ <i>Preventive monitoring in Africa:</i> Hannah Forster, Member of the CPTA and Executive Director of the ACDHRS</li></ul></li><li>2. The OPCAT: A system of prevention of torture and ill-treatment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>SPT in action: elements of preventive mandate and challenges:</i> Zdenek Hajek, SPT member</li><li>▪ <i>Essential criteria and requirements for effective NPMs:</i> Suzanne Soukoude, Magistrate, Vice-Chair of the OPCAT Working Group, Togo</li></ul></li><li>3. Interactive discussions</li></ol>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch break (Buffet at Novotel restaurant)</b>

14:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Session III:</b>  <b>Implementing the OPCAT: Need for dialogue and consultations on OPCAT and NPM designation</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mahamane Cissé-Gouro, Regional Representative, OHCHR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The need for a broad dialogue on OPCAT ratification and implementation: Zdenek Hajek, SPT member</li> <li>2. OPCAT Consultations and best practices from Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A successful campaign for OPCAT ratification and implementation in Senegal:</i> Seydi Gassama, Amnesty International Senegal</li> <li>▪ <i>Establishment of OPCAT working Group in Togo and perspectives for OPCAT ratification:</i> Denis Minekpor Kokou, Ministry of Human Rights</li> <li>▪ <i>Section 5 Committee of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and way forward towards OPCAT ratification and implementation:</i> Danny Titus, Commissioner SAHRC</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Interactive discussions</li> </ol>
15:30 – 16:00	Tea break
16:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Session IV:</b>  <b>Implementing the OPCAT: Designating effective NPMs, what options?</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mandiaye Niang, Senior Legal Adviser, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Trends and options of NPMs in Africa and elsewhere:</i> Audrey Olivier, APT OPCAT Coordinator</li> <li>2. <i>Designating new specialised bodies as NPM, experiences from Africa and elsewhere</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The establishment of the General Inspector of all Places of Deprivation of Liberty in France:</i> Jean-Marie Delarue, General Inspector (French NPM)</li> <li>▪ <i>Proposal towards the establishment of a National Observatory for Prevention of Torture in Benin:</i> Marie-Gisèle Zinkpe, Magistrate, Ministry of Justice, Legislation and Human Rights, and Coordinator of OPCAT Working Group</li> <li>▪ <i>The National Observer of Places of Deprivation of Liberty in Senegal:</i> Demba Kandji, Magistrate, Director of Criminal Affairs and Pardons, Ministry of Justice</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Interactive discussions</li> </ol>

**Wednesday 28 April 2010**

<b>8:30 – 8:45</b>	<b>Summary of day 1</b> One of the Conference Rapporteurs: Patrick Lessene, APT Delegate to the African Commission, or Amanda Dissel, APT Delegate in South Africa
<b>8:45 – 9:45</b>	<b>Session V:</b> <b>Implementing the OPCAT: Designating effective NPMs, what options? (continued)</b>  <b>Chair:</b> El Hadji Malick Sow, Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Designating national human rights institutions as NPM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>The role of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRCM) as NPM in the Maldives:</i> Mohamed Zahid, Vice-President of NHRCM</li><li>▪ <i>The potential of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice as NPM in Ghana:</i> Anna Bossman, Commissioner of CHRAJ, Ghana</li></ul></li><li>2. Interactive discussions</li></ol>
<b>9:45 – 10:15</b>	<b>Session VI:</b> <b>Towards effective OPCAT implementation in Africa: Introduction to working groups</b>  General introduction from the Conference Coordinator, Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer, APT  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Working Group 1: Interactions between torture prevention actors in the context of OPCAT implementation in Africa<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Need for interaction and cooperation at national, regional and global levels:</i> Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer, APT</li></ul></li><li>b) Working Group 2: NPMs in action<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Key elements to analyse the functioning of NPMs:</i> Audrey Olivier, OPCAT Coordinator, APT</li></ul></li></ol>
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>Tea break</b>

<p><b>10:45 – 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>Session VII:</b>  <b>Towards effective OPCAT implementation in Africa: Discussions in working groups</b></p> <p><b>Working Group 1: Interactions between torture prevention actors</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer  <b>Rapporteur:</b> Caroline Ouaffo Wafang, Associate Expert in Human Rights, OHCHR, Togo</p> <p>Brief introductions by resource persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ACHPR (Feyi Ogunade, Senior Legal Officer, ACHPR)</li> <li>b. NANHRI (Abderrazak Rouwane, Morocco National Human Rights Council)</li> <li>c. ICTR (Mandiaye Niang, ICTR)</li> <li>d. NPMs from other regions (Jean-Marie Delarue, France)</li> <li>e. CSOs (Jarwlee Tweh Geegbe, Executive Director, Rescue Alternative Liberia)</li> <li>f. ICRC (Edouard Delaplace, ICRC Geneva)</li> </ul> <p><b>Working Group 2: NPMs in action, how NPMs are working/will work?</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mark Thomson, Secretary General, APT  <b>Rapporteur:</b> Dr. Uju Agomoh, PRAWA, Nigeria</p> <p>Brief introductions by resource persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. SPT (Zdenek Hajek, SPT)</li> <li>b. NPMs from other regions (Mohamed Zahid, Vice-President of NHRC of Maldives)</li> <li>c. NPMs from Africa (Kadidia Sangaré, Chairperson of the NHRC of Mali)</li> <li>d. CPTA (Commissioner Musa Bitaye, ACHPR)</li> <li>e. OPCAT Working Groups (Lukas Muntingh, Member of the Section 5 Committee of the SAHRC)</li> <li>f. APT (Audrey Olivier, OPCAT Coordinator, APT)</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 – 14:00</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch break (Buffet at Novotel restaurant)</b></p>
<p><b>14:00 – 15:00</b></p>	<p><b>Session VIII:</b>  <b>Towards effective OPCAT implementation in Africa: Reporting back from working groups</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Anna Bossman, Deputy Commissioner CHRAJ, Ghana</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reporting back from Working Groups</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working Group 1: Caroline Ouaffo Wafang, OHCHR, Togo</li> <li>▪ Working Group 2: Dr. Uju Agomoh, PRAWA, Nigeria</li> </ul> <p>2. Interactive discussions</p>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Tea break</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<p><b><u>Session IX:</u></b>  <b>Recommendations, follow-up strategies and ways forward</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer, APT  <b>Conference Rapporteurs:</b> - Amanda Dissel, APT Delegate in South Africa (English)  - Patrick Lessene, APT Delegate to the ACHPR (French)</p> <p>1. Formulation and adoption of recommendations (road map)</p> <p>2. Possible follow-up and ways forward</p>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<p><b><u>Session X:</u></b>  <b>Closing</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Seydi Gassama, Executive Director, AI - Senegal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AI – Senegal</li> <li>▪ APT</li> <li>▪ ACHPR</li> <li>▪ OHCHR</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Justice, Senegal</li> </ul>