



Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in the ECOWAS Region

Meeting of Experts

23-24 February 2015
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Sofitel, Hotel Ivoire
Auditorium room

Detailed Agenda

Sunday, 22 February 2015

20:00-22:00

Arrival and registration of participants

Welcoming reception (Sofitel, Hotel Ivoire, garden)

Monday, 23 February 2015

08:00-09:00

Registration of late arrivals

09:00-10:00

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs

Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow, Commissioner of Humanitarian Affairs, ECOWAS
Ms. Louise Aubin, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Welcoming statement by Mr. Gnenema Mamadou Coulibaly, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Public Liberty, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Statement by Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Chair:

ECOWAS

10:00-11:00

PRESENTATIONS: "Sources of statelessness in West Africa"

🚩 Presentation of overview of statelessness in West Africa and the UNHCR global campaign on the eradication of statelessness by Mr. Mark Manly, Head of Statelessness unit, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

🚩 Presentation on sources of statelessness by Ms. Bronwen Manby, Independent expert

🚩 Presentation on birth registration in Africa: law and practices by Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Vice-Chair, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

🚩 Presentation on border delineation, State succession and nationality by the United Nations Office for West Africa, M. Malamine Tamba, Political Advisor

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Round Table A

Preventing new cases of statelessness through law reform

Room:

Auditorium room

Co-chairs:

Expert from Ministry of Senegal and UNHCR

Rapporteur:

UNHCR

Thematic input:

Experts from Ministry of Senegal , Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Ms Bronwen Manby , Independent expert

Round Table B

Preventing statelessness through civil status registration and access to nationality documents

Room:

San Pedro

Co-chairs:

Expert from Ministry of Benin and UNHCR

rapporteur:

UNHCR

Thematic input:

Experts from Ministry of Sierra Leone, Togo, Ghana, Benin; Ms Michelle Vianes, Regards de Femmes; and UNHCR

Round Table C

Political commitments, partnership and information-sharing

Room:

Bassam

Co-chairs:

Expert from Ministry of Mali and UNHCR

Rapporteur:

UNHCR

Thematic input:

Experts from Ministry of Benin , Mali, the Gambia and UNHCR

13:00-14:30

Lunch break

Chair

UNHCR

14:30-16:00

PLENARY SESSION: Report back and consideration of recommendations of breakout sessions

16:00-16:15

Coffee break

16:15-17:30

PLENARY SESSION: Report back continued

Chair **ECOWAS**

09:00-10:00

PRESENTATIONS: “Identification, protection and solutions”

- ✚ Presentation on the right to nationality in Africa by Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- ✚ Presentation on the right to nationality and ECOWAS citizenship, ECOWAS Court of Justice
- ✚ Presentation on statelessness and human rights by Mr. Ibrahima Kane, Open Society Foundation
- ✚ Presentation on the situation of stateless migrants by Ms Alice SIRONI, Migration Law Specialist, the International Organization for Migration

10:00-10:30

Coffee break

10:30- 12:00

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Round Table D

Identification of stateless persons

Room:

Auditorium

Co-chairs:

Expert from Ministry of Liberia and UNHCR

Rapporteur:

UNHCR

Thematic input:

Experts from Ministry of Niger and Côte d’Ivoire, and UNHCR

Round Table E

Protection of stateless persons

Room:

San Pedro

Co-chairs:

Expert from Ministry of Nigeria, ECOWAS and UNHCR

Rapporteur:

UNHCR

Thematic input:

Experts from Ministry of Nigeria, Guinea Bissau and IOM

Round Table F

Solutions for stateless persons and risk of statelessness

Room:

Bassam

Co-chairs:

Expert from Ministry of Côte d’Ivoire and UNHCR

Rapporteur:

UNHCR

Thematic input:

Experts from Ministry of Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia and UNHCR

12:00-13:30

Lunch

Chair

UNHCR

13:30-14:30

PLENARY SESSION: Report back and consideration of breakout session recommendations

14:30-15:30

PLENARY SESSION: Endorsement of overall proposed outcome document and recommendations of experts to the ministerial meeting

15:30-16:00

CLOSING SESSION

Closing remarks:

ECOWAS and UNHCR