



**The Organisation internationale pour les Pays les Moins Avancés (OIPMA) -
International Organisation for the Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs)**

Report of Activities 2019

The Organisation internationale pour les Pays les Moins Avancés (OIPMA) - International Organisation for the Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) is a non profit, non-governmental and independent organization based in Geneva with ECOSOC status. Established in 1996, IOLDCs, with particular focus on least developed countries (LDCs), advocates the fulfilment of Human Rights and acts as a bridge between civil society organizations and the UN Charter and Treaty Based Mechanisms for Human Rights protection and promotion.

The key priorities of the Organization are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals 1,3,5,13,16 and 17. In particular, conflict prevention, post -conflict peace- building, children in armed conflict and terrorism in crisis- affected LDCs and the impacts of climate change in LDCs. We are specialized in Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Chad, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Haiti.

IOLDCs' ultimate goal is to assist LDC to upgrade from this status through a human rights and sustainable development based approach.

To achieve this, IOLDCs activities take two directions:

1. Human Rights Advocacy: IOLDCS seeks to enhance the visibility of local concerns at the international level to push for concrete action of the international community. Additionally, the organization aims to facilitate the access to key information for development in LDCs to the international sphere. It does so with the publication of reports, written statements published by the UN, oral statements and Interactive Dialogue participation given during the Human Rights Council editions, its website www.ioldcs.org and through an interactive platform to inform key actors working on behalf of the LDCs' sustainable development.

2. Training Programs: IOLDCS organizes trainings for NGOs, human rights defenders, journalists and legal professionals. Normally, during the Human Rights Council editions, it organizes side events on specific topics open to all the Council's participants and interested people.

It also undertakes workshops aimed to inform, train, give tools and facilitate networking on some of the key priorities of the organization.

The International Organisation for LDCs (IOLDCs)
Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés" (OIPMA)
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The seventh session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019) will take place under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The session will take place from Tuesday, 9 July, to Monday, 15 July 2019, and at the ministerial level from Tuesday, 16 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019, in a meeting held jointly with ECOSOC's annual high-level segment.

Significant changes in the organization OIPMA which designated:

Side Events and Activities:

OIPMA engaged in many events with other Civil Society organizations, including its contribution to the work of the United Nations by its representatives who participated in the following events

Participation in meetings of the United Nations:

OIPMA supports the reports presented by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner of Human Rights during the sessions of Human Rights Council on regular basis through its representative's oral and written statements and interactive dialogues before the Council.

40th Regular Session

25 February 2019 to 22 March 2019 Human Rights Council

a) Written statement 2019

- Agenda item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action
Paving the way for tolerance and freedom of religion: Lessons learnt from United Arab Emirates
- Agenda item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General
- Agenda item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building
Intolerance: A major Challenge faced by the Baha’I Community
- Agenda item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development Reducing future losses due to climate change

b) Oral statements 2019

- Annual High-level Panel Discussion “Human Rights mainstreaming”
- Interactive Dialogue Item 3 SRSG on children in armed conflict
- Item 2 GD: Yemen
- Item 3 GD: Women’s rights
- Item 5 GD: Minorities: Baha’i in Yemen
- Item 8 GD: Vienna Declaration and SDGs
- Item 9 GD: Tolerance

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41st Regular Session

24 June 2019 to 12 July 2019 Human Rights Council

a) Written statement

- Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review. Situation in Yemen

b) Oral Statements

- GD Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development (including thematic reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General)
- GD Item 8: Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- GD Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms
- ID Item 9: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on racism
- ID Item 3: Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
- Panel/Annual Discussion/Debate Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women – Panel 1: Violence against women in the world of work
- UPR outcome of Yemen

42st Regular Session

du 9 septembre 2019 au 27 septembre 2019 Human Rights Council

a) Written statement

- Agenda item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development Children and armed conflict – the case of the Republic of South Sudan and of the Republic of Yemen
- Agenda item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General Obstacles and continued challenges to conflict prevention and peace building in Yemen

b) Oral statements

- ID ITEM 3: With the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and the Working Group on the use of mercenaries
- GD ITEM 2: Oral update by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, report of International Investigative

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- ID ITEM 2: On the report of the High Commissioner on Yemen
- GD ITEM 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development
- ID ITEM 4: With the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (oral update)
- GD ITEM 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
- GD ITEM 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- GD ITEM 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building

Side Events Organization 41th Session UN Human Right Council

Armed Conflict: Intolerance, Terrorism And Child Soldiers

5th March 2019

THEME:

OIPMA hosted this event with the participation of the chairperson-rapporteur of the UN working group on the use of mercenaries, a Yemeni lecturer of the University of Aden and journalist from Sky News Arabia and the Head of the observatory council for Human Rights and member of the National Assembly of the Southern Transitional Council. The event emphasised the need to urgently address the rapid rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the human rights of individuals, in particular, persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities. Moreover, it also highlighted the important role of education, including human rights education, in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for diversity, including with regard to religious expression.

Climate Change Impacts

6th March 2019

THEME:

OIPMA hosted this event with the participation of the Platform of Disaster Displacement (PDD), the OHCHR and the IPCC. Prof. Warren (IPCC) firstly provided an overview of the impacts of climate change in biodiversity and ecosystems, outlining the difference of predicted impacts at 1.5 and 2 Celsius degrees, being the latter devastating for the planet.

Secondly, Mr. Schachter (OHCHR) talked about the impacts of climate change on the effective enjoyment of human rights, in particular, the right to health. With a very engaging presentation, he also pointed out the lack of inclusion of human rights (including gender equality) during COP24 negotiations although the importance of having human rights as a catalyst for an effective climate ambition.

Displacement, although the last resort when adapting to climate change, is increasing and is predicted to rise in the years to come. Mr. Solberg (PDD) explained the typologies of displacements and their different nature, which may also be worsened by factors such as land degradation, poverty and overpopulation. He mentioned the lack of comprehensive mechanisms at the international level in addressing cross-border displacements, being different for internal mobility which mostly benefits from national (sometimes regional) standards.

These events counted with the participation of relevant experts, researchers, scientist and journalist who have several years of experience in the field and provided insightful, interesting and encouraging interventions.

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Side Event: 42nd Session UN Human Right Council

Obstacles To Implementing Counter-Terrorism Measures In Yemen

23 September 2019

THEME:

The war in Yemen, Which began in 1994, today witnesses a near collapse in the country's social, political and security fabric. The outcome of this together with other geopolitical upheavals in the Middle East, namely the rise and fall of the ISIS Khalifa in Syria and Iraq and presence of Al Qaida, have made Yemen a fertile ground and natural safe haven for the establishment and entrenchment of terrorist activities. The panelist gathered here in this debate will seek to unravel and present those obstacles which to date continue to prelude implementation of counter terrorism measures in spite of the UN global counter-terrorism strategy, the international community's highest form of response

Dr. ELISABETH KENDALL Senior Research Fellow in Arabic & Islamic Studies, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK	Mr. SALAH ALAGHBAR Journalist & Academic Professor, University of Aden, Sky News Arabia Correspondent.	Ms. SHEILA ANAZONWU Moderator Programme Coordinator IOLDCs
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Collaboration meetings NY and Brussels

High-Level segment of Ecosoc

UN Headquarters New York City US

9- 18 July 2019

IOLDCs attend the seventh session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019) will take place under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The session will take place from Tuesday, 9 July, to Monday, 15 July 2019, and at the ministerial level from Tuesday, 16 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019, in a meeting held jointly with ECOSOC's annual high-level segment.

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**Meeting at European External Action Service
(EEAS) Brussels Belgium
May 2019**

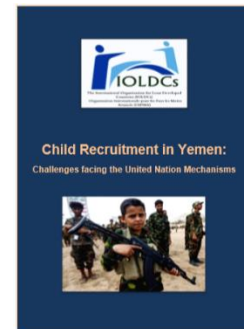
Meeting With Mr.Luis Miguel BUENO PADILLA (Desk Officer Arabian peninsula and regional policies) Mr. Stijn HOUBEN (Policy Officer Human Rights) and Mr. Titien AMATI (Policy Officer Human Rights) to explore further potential collaboration areas for EEAS/OIPMA and about a long-term and lasting peaceful solution to the conflict in Yemen, together with preparedness to engage in collaborative activities with OIPMA in to this end, are of great encouragement.

Activities 2019

Report

OIPMA has written a report on children and armed conflict in Yemen “Child recruitment in Yemen: challenges facing the United Nations Mechanisms”, published in February 2019.

The report started to be written in December 2018, being translated and rewritten in January 2019, reviewed several times, English-proofed, and finally sent to the relevant UN concerned bodies on children in armed conflict, Yemen and/or counterterrorism and trafficking.



Report's follow-up

After having been sent to the UN concerning bodies, the response to the paper was positive and the concerned actors engaged with OIPMA, sharing it with their experts. Moreover, during the 40th session of the Human Rights Council, Ms. Gamba, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, recognized the weaknesses of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), as stated in OIPMA's report.

In addition, the madam Bachelet, the United Nations High-Commissioner of Human Rights, in one speech mentioned the recruitment of children by the Houthis, which is the topic in which our report revolves around.

Social Media

Newsletter

With the first volume issued in June, OIPMA is initiating this new adventure for the rest of the year. A newsletter where we will inform our social media followers on the work we have done for the month, the activities we have engaged with, the events we have attended but also including small articles on LDCs and the situations of human rights. The aim is to cover several topics in relation to the work of the NGO, highlighting what is the panorama, and recommendations to improve such situation.

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Facebook and LinkedIn

We just started being more active on both platforms. However, we have received several views so people are interested on our activities. It is good to keep publishing the events we attend and the work we do (once we have reports to be published and our own activities).

The style looks very good in both social media.

Website

The website needs to be better structured and organized (the simplest, the better)

About IOLDCs

Who we are: a brief history of the organization + the team.

Our mission: divide each topic we address and explain what we do in relation to that. For instance: counter terrorism in Yemen; Children in Armen conflict in Uganda etc.

Statements: oral and written.

An organized calendar of the activities we are aiming to develop or attend. contact of the organization.

The content needs to be in line with the activities. For instance, does not make any sense to talk about the duties of the Global Fund when referring to AIDS/Malaria and so on if we are not engaging on that issue.

The image should be changed to a more contemporary and attractive appearance.

Administrative activities

- Ms Giulia Borsa completed her assignment on 30th of May 2019.
- The organization hired a new employee on June 2019:
 - **Aicha Cuneo** as Senior Administrative Officer
- Ms Aicha Cuneo attend the conference at CAGI on 18th of June 2019:
Assujettissement aux assurances sociales en cas de pluriactivité et de détachement, par Roxane Zappella, juriste au Service d'assistance juridique et conseils (SAJEC), FER Genève
- The organization strengthens its team by hiring highly qualified volunteers.
- IOLDCs moved to another office in the same building to improve the internet connection.

Project Preparation

African regional conference

Questions and answers on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflict

The conference theme is of particular interest to the IOLDCs, as in the context of African Least Developed Countries, it is seeking to effectively and practically contribute to combatting and eliminating the practice of recruitment of children in armed conflict as well as their demobilization; stopping sexual violence against minors and helping to build reintegration infrastructures for psychological recovery and educational training for child victims of armed conflict.

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