

Press Release

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Lisbon forum to highlight role of national human rights institutions

Strasbourg, 12.11.2007 – An international forum opening in Lisbon, Portugal on Friday 16 November will focus on the role played by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Some 60 participants at the meeting will discuss a number of issues related to the work of NHRIs, including their interaction with constitutional and ordinary courts and Ombudsman institutions as well as the role they can play in the safeguarding and developing democratic processes.

The presentations will also touch upon the role of North-South co-operation in reinforcing the efficiency of NHRIs. The event will also look at the good practices of NHRIs in the protection and promotion of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, including children.

The two-day meeting is organised by the North-South Centre in co-operation with the Venice Commission and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

Speakers at the opening session will include Peter Schieder, President of the Lisbon Forum; Claude Frey, President of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre; Gianni Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission; Markus Jaeger, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights; Matlotleng Matlou, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Institute of South Africa; and Nazim Ahmad, Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network.

Journalists are invited to attend the opening of the conference at 9:00 a.m. on 16 November at the Centro Ismaili (Avenue Lusitana), Aga Khan Development Network in Lisbon.

Further information is available at <http://www.nscentre.org>

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