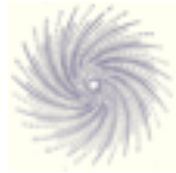
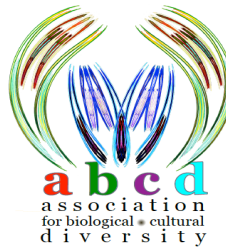


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**An Invitation to NGOs, NGO Committees and other interested groups**

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# **Cultural Rights – Cultural Diversity**

*An Introduction to a new Mandate*

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010**

**13:00-15:00, Room XXIII**

**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

*Refreshments will be served*

***Ms Farida Shaheed***

Independent Expert in the field of Cultural Rights

***Mr Resfel Pino Álvarez (tbc)***

Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cuba

***Liza Zogib***

Director, Association Biological-Cultural Diversity (ABCD)

***Victor Ricco***

Director, Centre for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)

***Moderator: Vita de Waal***

Chair NGO Committee on Environment and NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, Global Concerns, Director Foundation for GAIA, Planetary Association Clean Energy

The panel will discuss the importance of... the right to cultural life and cultural development as an essential and inherent right of all individuals and peoples and that cultural rights must celebrate the diversities that define our collective humanity. The challenge is to ensure that the right to pursue, develop and preserve culture in all its manifestations is in consonance with and serves to uphold the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. (*Farida Shaheed*, Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights)

## **BACKGROUND**

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On March 26, 2009, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 10/23 to establish a new special procedure mandate dealing with cultural rights. In October 2009 Ms. Farida Shaheed was appointed as Independent Expert in the field of Cultural Rights. Pursuant to Resolution 10/23 this mandate is to:

- (a) Identify best practices in the promotion and protection of cultural rights at the local, national, regional and international levels;
- (b) Identify possible obstacles to the promotion and protection of cultural rights, and to submit proposals and/or recommendations to the Council on possible actions in that regard;
- (c) Work in cooperation with States in order to foster the adoption of measures at the local, national, regional and international levels aimed at the promotion and protection of cultural rights through concrete proposals enhancing subregional, regional and international cooperation in that regard;
- (d) Study the relationship between cultural rights and cultural diversity, in close collaboration with States and other relevant actors, including in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with the aim of further promoting cultural rights;
- (e) Integrate a gender and disabilities perspective into his and her work;
- (f) Work in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, other special procedures of the Council, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as with other relevant actors representing the broadest possible range of interests and experiences, within their respective mandates, including by attending and following up on relevant international conferences and events.

The first Report by the Independent Expert to the 14th Session of the Human Rights Council develops preliminary views on the conceptual and legal framework of her mandate and reviews the relevant existing provisions in United Nations human rights instruments > A/HRC14/36

### **Ms. FARIDA SHAHEED**

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Pakistani sociologist Ms. Shaheed, recipient of several national and international human rights awards, has worked for more than 25 years promoting and protecting cultural rights by fostering policies and projects designed in culturally sensitive ways to support the rights of marginalized sectors, including women, peasants, and religious and ethnic minorities.

An experienced participant in negotiations at international, regional and national levels, Ms. Shaheed has brought her distinctive perspective on the integration of culture and rights to her work as an independent expert/consultant to numerous UN and development agencies as well as to the government of Pakistan since 1980.

Ms. Shaheed is the Deputy Director of a research project on Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts: gender, poverty and democratization from the inside out, and is a visiting fellow at the City University of Hong Kong. She is also the Director of research in Shirkat Gah – Women's Resource Centre in Pakistan.