



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Launch Event of the Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission

Guidelines on Freedom of Association

Thursday 5 March 2015, 10:00 to 12:00

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva
Room XXIV (1st floor, Building E)

Master of Ceremony: *H.E. Mr. Urs Schmid, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to UNOG*

10:00-10:20 Welcome and Launch of the Guidelines on Freedom of Association

Mr. Michael Georg Link, Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Mr. Gianni Buquicchio, President, Venice Commission

Mr. Maina Kiai, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Mr. Anders Kompass, Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

10:20-11:30 Towards an Enabling Legal Framework for Freedom of Association

Brief Introduction on the Guidelines on Freedom of Association by

Ms. Alice Thomas, Chief, Legislative Support Unit, OSCE/ODIHR

Ms. Marta Achler, PhD researcher at the European University Institute

Interactive Panel Discussions on an Enabling Legal Framework for Freedom of Association

Panel Members:

- *Mr. Maina Kiai, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association*
- *Ms. Herdis Thorgeirsdottir, Vice-President, Venice Commission*
- *Mr. Jeremy McBride, Human Rights Lawyer and Barrister, Monckton Chambers, the United Kingdom*
- *Ms. Natalia Bourjaily, Vice President - Eurasia of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, the United States of America/Belarus*

Moderator: *Mr. Thomas Vennen, Head of the Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR*

11:30 End of event followed by a light lunch outside of Room XXIV