



Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

CONCEPT NOTE

Warsaw Conference on the role and position of NGOs in the Council of Europe

22 March 2019

Warsaw, Poland

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Council of Europe, drawing from the legacy of the Third Council of Europe Summit held in Warsaw in 2005 and stressing the importance of the Warsaw Declaration and its Action Plan, which placed new emphasis on the importance of the civil society and advocated for the need to enhance NGO participation in the Council of Europe activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and the Council of Europe hereby present the following concept note related to an International Conference on the role of Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) in the Council of Europe. We hope that the outcome of the conference, in the form of the Chair's Conclusions, will contribute to the reflection process on the future of the Council of Europe and will serve as a basis for further discussions on NGO participation in the structures of the Organization.

Date and location:

Warsaw; one-day conference; 22 March 2019 (Friday). Venue: Sala Senacka, Pałac Kazimierzowski, University of Warsaw (physical address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-325 Warszawa).

Organizers:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland; Council of Europe; University of Warsaw – Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, Institute of European Studies with the participation of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe – Finland.

Participants:

Diplomats from Council of Europe Member States (Permanent Representatives accredited in Strasbourg, representatives from Capitals or those Warsaw-based); representatives of NGOs and International Organizations (UN, OSCE ODIHR, Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU); experts; academics, students. Approx. 120-150 participants.

Format and language:

Entire day conference divided into two sessions (morning and afternoon). Working language English. Simultaneous translation available into Polish and French.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

9.00 – 10.00 High Level Panel – official opening of the Conference

Opening of the conference by (in the order of appearance):

Prof. Stanisław Sulowski, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw;

Prof. Maciej Duszczyk, Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations, University of Warsaw;

Prof. Jacek Czaputowicz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland;

H.E. Thornbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

H.E. Anne Sipiläinen, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Chair of the Committee of Ministers (in total 60 minutes).

10.00 – 10.15 Coffee break

10.15 – 12.30 Session 1

Existing mechanisms of NGO participation in the work of international organizations. Taking stock of the current situation?

Ms. Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe;

Ms. Lidiya Grigoreva, Chief of the NGO Liaison Unit, UN Office in Geneva;

Ms. Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, First Deputy Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;

Mr. Andreas Accardo, Head of Institutional Cooperation & Networks Unit, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency

Presentation of the current institutional framework for NGO participation in the Council of Europe.
Presentations of institutional arrangements of NGO participation in other international Organizations.

This panel will outline of the current institutional framework for NGO participation in international organizations active in the area of democracy, human rights, rule of law. It should also provide comparative material with regards to solutions adopted in these international organizations.

Interactive discussion; Questions and answers.

Discussion will be moderated by Prof. Dorota Moroń (University of Wrocław).

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 16.00 Session 2

Possible scenarios regarding the future of the NGOs in the Council of Europe.

- Introductory statements by:

Ms. Claudia Luciani, Director of Democratic Governance and Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe;

Mr. Janusz Stańczyk, Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe;

Dr. Hanna Machińska, Deputy Ombudsperson, academic, former Head of CoE Office in Warsaw.

- Interventions by Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders

This session will give the possibility to the participants i.e. representatives of CoE Member States, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as other stakeholders to present their views on the possible future solutions regarding NGO participation in the Council of Europe.

Discussion will be moderated by H.E. Christopher Yvon (Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe).

16.00 – 16.30 Summary session

This brief session will permit the Finnish Chair of the meeting to present an initial set of conclusions which will be then elaborated and presented in full during one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee of Ministers and which could constitute one of the elements feeding into the reflection process on the future of the Council of Europe.

Speaker – Ms. Johanna Suurpää, Director at the Ministry of Justice of Finland (Unit for Democracy, Language Affairs and Fundamental Rights).