



{In Archive} Meeting with Chinese delegate

Emma Reilly to: Eric Tistounet, Goro Onojima

08/02/2013 14:56

Cc: Giuliano Comba, Eeva Kristina Holopainen, Elena Kountouri
Tapiero

From: Emma Reilly/OHCHR

To: Eric Tistounet/OHCHR@UNCHR, Goro Onojima/OHCHR@UNCHR

Cc: Giuliano Comba/OHCHR@UNCHR, Eeva Kristina Holopainen/OHCHR@UNCHR, Elena Kountouri Tapiero/OHCHR@UNCHR

Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

Dear Eric, Goro,

June Ray, Lidiya Grigoreva and myself met with [REDACTED] of the Chinese mission yesterday. June presented the role of CSS and the extent of our mandate with regards to NGOs, and Mr. [REDACTED] summarised their concerns - they apply different criteria to UNOG security to ensure the safety and dignity of their delegates, so while they are also in direct contact with UNOG on the issue, they are still insisting that we should provide them with information on whether or not the named individuals have requested accreditation prior to the session. June did not commit either way, although she did mention that accreditation for the session has not even begun at this point.

Following the meeting, June indicated that she would raise the matter directly with the DHC to ensure a consistent approach to such questions throughout the house, but she would also like to meet with you next week to discuss. You will already have seen Eeva's email regarding the invitation from the Chinese ambassador to the HC for lunch on 21 February, which would appear to have been sent almost immediately following the meeting.

If my understanding is correct, the list of individual participants accredited to sessions of the Commission was not made public *prior* to the session itself. As rule 7(a) of the Rules of Procedure provides that participation of NGOs shall be based on arrangements including ECOSOC Res 1996/31 and "practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights," we could perhaps rely on this to maintain the position of requesting documentation to back up any security concerns, as we did for the Turkish mission before the last session, and not directly providing confirmation of whether or not named individuals have requested accreditation at this stage. A further argument is that we would clearly require additional resources to respond to such queries from each UN Member State prior to the constitution of the databases of participants, although Mr. [REDACTED] did mention that he has suggested to his colleagues in Beijing that they increase their voluntary contribution, so this line of argument may be less advisable. Another important issue to consider is whether or not we should inform any NGO seeking to accredit these individuals of the Chinese request. Provision of such information would seem consistent with the spirit of ECOSOC Res 1996/31, and with allowing NGOs to assess any possible risk of reprisals.

I have also copied Elena in case she has memory of a precedent from previous sessions on which we could rely.

Very best,
Emma



Emma Reilly

Human Rights Officer

Human Rights Council Branch

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

E-mail: ereilly@ohchr.org

Tel: +41 22 917 9685

Web: www.ohchr.org