



Expert Meeting
Interpreting the 1961 Statelessness Convention and
Preventing Statelessness among Children

Novotel Hotel
Dakar, Senegal
23 and 24 May 2011

Agenda*

Monday, 23 May 2011

- 09:00 – 09:30 Registration
- 09:30 – 10:00 Opening remarks
- UNHCR will briefly outline why it is focusing on development of guidance on the statelessness conventions, in particular the provisions of the 1961 Convention safeguards for preventing statelessness among children
 - The Open Society Justice Initiative will provide an overview of its work in the area of prevention and reduction of child statelessness
- 10:00 – 10:30 NORMATIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON PREVENTION OF STATELESSNESS – BACKGROUND TO THE 1961 CONVENTION AND DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW SINCE 1961
- Professor René de Groot will provide a brief overview of the background to the 1961 Convention and the developments in international and regional human rights law since 1961
- 10:30 – 11:15 WHEN IS A CHILD – OR PERSON – “OTHERWISE STATELESS”?
- *Definition of statelessness*
 - *Focus on situation of the child*
 - *Determination of the non-possession of any foreign nationality*
 - *Undetermined nationality*
- 11:15 – 11:45 Break
- 11:45 – 13:00 WHEN IS A CHILD – OR PERSON – “OTHERWISE STATELESS”? (contd.)
- *Possibility to acquire the nationality of a parent by registration*
 - *De facto stateless persons*
- 13:00 – 14:15 Lunch break
- (Agenda continued on reverse)

* Timing is indicative and subject to modification based on progress in discussions. Each item will be briefly introduced by the author of the background paper, followed by discussion.



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés



OPEN SOCIETY
JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Monday, 23 May 2011 (contd.)

- 14:15 – 16:00 GRANT OF NATIONALITY TO OTHERWISE STATELESS CHILDREN BORN IN THE TERRITORY OF A CONTRACTING STATE (1961 CONVENTION, ARTICLES 1(1)-1(2))
- *Ex lege* versus acquisition of citizenship through application, including in light of CRC article 7, ICCPR article 24, and regional instruments
 - Permissible requirements of citizenship applications
 - Prescribed period for lodging of application
 - Habitual residence
 - Criminal history
 - “Has always been stateless”
- 16:00 – 16:30 Break
- 16:30 – 18:00 1961 CONVENTION, ARTICLES 1(1)-1(2) (contd.)

Tuesday, 24 May 2011

- 9:00 – 10:00 FOUNDLINGS
- 10:00 – 11:00 IMPACT OF GENDER EQUALITY NORMS ON PROVISIONS OF THE 1961 CONVENTION
- 11:00 – 11:30 Break
- 11:30 – 13:00 GRANT OF NATIONALITY TO OTHERWISE STATELESS CHILDREN BORN TO A NATIONAL ABROAD (1961 CONVENTION, ARTICLES 1(4)-1(5) AND ARTICLE 4)
- Limitations of *ius sanguinis* transmission of citizenship in cases of birth abroad
 - *Ex lege* versus acquisition of citizenship by application
- 13:00 – 14:15 Lunch break
- 14:15 – 15:15 1961 CONVENTION, ARTICLES 1(2), 1(4)-1(5), AND 4
- Comparison of provisions for the permissible rejection of an application for citizenship – articles 1(2), 1(4)-1(5) and article 4(2)
 - Applicability of safeguards before and after accession
- 15:15-16:00 APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS TO CHILDREN BORN ON SHIPS AND PLANES
- 16:00 – 17:00 Concluding remarks and closure of the meeting