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## ACCESSING THE UN

### Scenario exercise

*Use this exercise to bring together what you've learnt about the practical side of Accessing the UN, and to plan how you yourself might access the space and advocate.*

Read the scenario and reflect on the questions below.

Luisa, a human rights defender from Guatemala, wants to make an oral statement at the Human Rights Council during its regular session. Her organisation does not have ECOSOC accreditation, but she works closely with an international NGO based in Geneva that does. She has obtained funding to travel to Geneva to deliver the statement.

While in Geneva, Luisa hopes to meet with States to lobby them to make a statement about the human rights situation in Guatemala. She also wants to raise the issues with different Special Procedures. Luisa has heard that there will be side events about Guatemala during the Council session, but they will take place after she has returned to Guatemala.

Based on this scenario decide:

- 1** Can Luisa register for a speaking slot and deliver a statement at the Council by herself?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No, only States can deliver statements at the Council
  - c) No, only organisations with representatives in Geneva can register for a speaking slot and deliver an oral statement at a Council session
  - d) Yes, but only if the international organisation (or another organisation with ECOSOC accreditation) agrees to register for the speaking slot and give her the necessary accreditation to deliver the statement
- 2** Can Luisa meet with States during the Council session to lobby for government statements on Guatemala?
  - a) No, States do not meet with NGOs
  - b) No, only international organisations can lobby States about government statements
  - c) Yes, if she organises these meetings to take place outside the UN
  - d) Yes, if the international organisation (or another organization with ECOSOC accreditation) agrees to give her the necessary accreditation to enter the UN and meet with States there
  - e) Both c and d.
- 3** Can Luisa organise a meeting with Special Procedures?
  - a) Yes, she can email Special Procedures directly and organise a meeting with the mandate holder or OHCHR staff supporting the mandate

- b) Yes, she can walk into the UN building and ask for a meeting without emailing in advance
  - c) No, she cannot organise a meeting without having ECOSOC accreditation
- 4 Can Luisa participate in the side events when she returns to Guatemala?**
- a) Yes, all side events are live streamed on UN Web TV
  - b) No, you can only attend side events in person
  - c) Possibly, only if the sponsors of the side event have made arrangements to live stream the event

## Answers

1: d), 2: e), 3: a), 4: c)