

AGENDA

Tuesday, 23 February

p.m.

Public Inauguration of the Colloquium

Opening Ceremony presided over by the Hon Justice M Rama Jois, Acting Chief Justice of the State of Karnataka

Inaugural Address by the Hon Justice P N Bhagwati

Vote of Thanks by Mr Jeremy Pope, Legal Director, Commonwealth Secretariat

Wednesday, 24 February

a.m.

Opening Session:

1. Presentation by the Hon Justice Lallah on "International Human Rights Norms"

2. Discussion of the sources of International Human Rights Norms including:

(i) International Treaties relating to Human Rights

(ii) Customary international law with particular reference to:

- The UN Charter
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Declarations, Resolutions of the General Assembly, Declarations by Commonwealth Heads of Government, etc.

(iii) The jurisprudence of the various international mechanisms:

- The UN mechanisms
- The European system
- The Inter-American system
- The African system (preliminary assessment)

Thursday, 25 February

a.m.

Third Session:

The relationship between International Human Rights Norms and Domestic Law

Presentation by the Hon Justice P N Bhagwati on "Fundamental Rights in their Economic, Social and Cultural Context"

Discussion on:

3. The incorporation of International Human Rights Norms in relevant national constitutions

4. To what extent are international human rights standards given domestic constitutional or legislative protection in the areas of:

(i) Civil and Political Rights

(ii) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

5. Locating the lacunae. If there are gaps, how can these be filled by:

(i) The development of the common law by judicial techniques with reference to international human rights norms, or

(ii) The direct application of international customary law by domestic courts

p.m.

Fourth Session:

Presentation by Mr Anthony Lester, QC on "Freedom of Expression"

Friday, 26 February

a.m.

Fifth Session:

Presentation by the Hon Justice Kirby on "The Role of the Judge in Advancing Human Rights"

Discussion on:

6. Judicial techniques and strategies to translate human rights and fundamental freedoms into practical reality through the interpretation of legislation and the common law including rules of procedure, evidence, amicus curiae briefs, locus standi, etc.

7. The question of funding of public interest litigation and legal aid, the role of human rights commissions, etc.

p.m.

Sixth Session:

8. Close of conference and discussion on follow-up.