



Reports on the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council

General debate on agenda Item 3 (22 and 24 September 2020)

Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development

Background documentation:

- [A/HRC/45/9](#) (Impact of the use of private military and security services in immigration and border management on the protection of the rights of all migrants – Report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination)
- [A/HRC/45/9/Add.1](#) (Visit to Switzerland – Report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination)
- [A/HRC/45/17](#) (Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its twenty-first session – Note by Secretariat)
- [A/HRC/45/18](#) (Report of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework relating to the activities of private military and security companies on its second session – Note by the Secretariat),
- [A/HRC/45/19](#) (Good practices and challenges to respecting, protecting and fulfilling all human rights in the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity – Follow-up report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- [A/HRC/45/20](#) (Question of death penalty – Report of the Secretary-General)
- [A/HRC/45/21](#) (Right to development – Report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- [A/HRC/45/24](#) (Evaluation of the implementation of the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education – Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- [A/HRC/45/25](#) (High-level panel discussion marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- [A/HRC/45/26](#) (Effects of artificial intelligence, including profiling, automated decision-making and machine-learning technologies, on the enjoyment of the right to privacy – Note by the Secretariat)¹
- [A/HRC/45/27](#) (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on terrorism and human rights)
- [A/HRC/45/29](#) (First annual report of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development)
- [A/HRC/45/30](#) (Human rights of migrants – Report of the Secretary-General)

The General Debate was preceded by the interventions of:

- H.E. Mr **Munir Akram**, President of the Economic and Social Council – to report on the discussions at the High-Level Political Forum (*video message*),
- Mr **Mahamane Cisse-Gouro**, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division – presentation of the Secretary-General's and the High Commissioner's thematic reports,
- Mr **Zamir Akram**, President-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development – presentation of the report (*video message*),
- H.E. Ms **Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko**, President, Chair-Rapporteur of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group to Consider the Possibility of Elaborating an International Regulatory Framework on the Regulation, Monitoring and Oversight of the Activities of Private Military and Security companies – presentation of the report.

¹ Unavailable on the [OHCHR web](#) as of 25 September 2020.



Interventions made on behalf of Groups of States

<p>Germany on behalf of the European Union²</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong opposition to the death penalty. - Terrorism and human rights: efforts to combat terrorism must fully respect international law. - Indigenous people: threats and attacks against indigenous human rights defenders. - Maternal mortality and morbidity: need for a truly human rights-based approach. - Human rights of migrants: need to ensure international cooperation. - Support for the right to development, based on the indivisibility, independence, universality and inalienability of all human rights.
<p>Australia on behalf of Australia, Indonesia and 28 countries from all regional groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has intensified since the break of the COVID-19.
<p>Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call for consolidating international efforts to combat xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization and stereotyping. - Plight of colonized people under illegal occupation. - Right to Development: a key enabler for the realization of basic human rights of all peoples.
<p>Ukraine on behalf of the Core Group of co-sponsoring states of the resolution “The role of prevention in promotion and protection of human rights”³</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted the OHCHR’s notification on extension of reporting period date for a study on the contribution of special procedures in assisting States and other stakeholders in the prevention of human rights violations and abuses to HRC48. - Need for joint efforts between the UN bodies to further improve the implementation of the Human Rights Council’s prevention mandate.
<p>Afghanistan on behalf of a group of countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Casualty recording during violence and conflict: dignity for the dead.
<p>Czech Republic on behalf of 48 states</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of equal and effective public participation, particularly in the exceptional situation of public global health emergency. - Role of the free press is crucial: journalists and the media must be able to report freely on the pandemic and the measures to combat it.
<p>Peru, on behalf of Ecuador and Peru, the sponsors of the initiative on the Repercussions of arms transfers on human rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repercussions of the Illicit or unregulated arms transfers on the human rights of women and girls.
<p>Denmark on behalf of the Core Group for the resolution on human rights and the 2030 Agenda⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Development Agenda: the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. - Need for strong cooperation between ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council, and human rights grounded approach for the work of ECOSOC and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

² The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement

³ Australia, Hungary, Morocco, Maldives, Poland, Uruguay, and Ukraine

⁴ Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay, and Denmark



Estonia on behalf of Nordic and Baltic countries ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Development Goals and human rights approach. - Maternal mortality and morbidity. - Strong opposition to the death penalty.
Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right to development and support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. - Support to the Draft legally binding instrument on the Right to Development. - Importance of non-politicization and non-selectivity, and dialogue-based approach.
Panama on behalf of a group of countries ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fight against corruption, terrorism, money laundering, tax evasion, and illicit flows. - Negative effect of discriminatory “blacklists”.
Belgium on behalf of 53 states ⁷ , and endorsed by 36 NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The twentieth anniversary of the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
New Zealand on behalf of a Core group on “Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity” ⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maternal mortality and morbidity
Brazil on behalf of the members of the International Freedom of Religion and Belief Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of religion and belief. - The Group was launched in February 2020.
El Salvador on behalf of Like-Minded countries ⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights of migrant children and adolescents.
Australia on behalf of 16 Pacific nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for equal and full participation of all states, civil society and other stakeholders. - Welcomed the establishment of a new UN multi-country office in the Pacific region.
China on behalf of Cross-regional group of countries ¹⁰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ending poverty as a way to achieve 2030 Agenda and to promote and protect human rights.
United Arab Emirates on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-confrontational approach to human rights. - Need for sovereignty, integrity of the countries, non-selectivity, non-politicization - Promotion of the right to development is essential. UAE supports the adoption of a legally-binding mechanism.
Costa Rica on behalf of the Core Group on Human Rights and the Environment ¹¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights and the environment: the Core Group started an informal consultation process on a possible international recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

⁵ Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, and Estonia.

⁶ Bahamas, Nicaragua, Panama

⁷ Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, North Macedonia, and Belgium.

⁸ Burkina Faso, Colombia, Estonia, and New Zealand.

⁹ El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

¹⁰ Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic

¹¹ Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland and Costa Rica



Interventions made on behalf of Human Rights Council's Member States	
Pakistan	- Right to self-determination: Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
India	- Efforts of India to ensure, inclusive development for all. - Need to avoid politicization and polarization in the discussion of human rights issues.
Indonesia	- International solidarity and cooperation is essential. - National agenda of strengthening state-capacities.
Armenia	- Agenda for Sustainable Development: interdependence between upholding the human rights and carrying out the SDGs.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	- The right od development is of a crucial importance. - Support the work on the PMCS. - Importance of non-selectivity and non-politicization of the Council.
Republic of Korea	- Human rights education: contributes to ensuring a rights-based response to serious challenges, such as the COVID-19.
Nepal	- Technical support for developing and Least-developed countries. - Effective and timely implementation of SDGs.
Sudan	- Negative impact of universal coercive measures. - Economic and social rights, including the right to development, should be taken into account.
Philippines	- Need for extension of technical cooperation and of capacity-building assistance.
Nigeria	- Avoiding politicization and double-standards. - Fight against terrorism, addressing local conflicts and other acts of criminality – priorities of the Nigerian Government.
Interventions made on behalf of Observer States	
Iraq	- Special Mandate Holders should stick to their mandates and base their reports on credible sources.
Belgium	- Death penalty: need to provide full and accurate data. - Belgium explicitly reaffirms its commitment to universal abolition of the death penalty.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	- Principled position to totally reject politicization, selectivity and double standards. - Right to development: UN human rights mechanisms, including OHCHR are encouraged to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority.
Cuba	- Unilateral coercive measures: Cuba denounces US administration actions to use religion, as a means of attacking Cuba and putting it in a Special Vigilance List.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	- The poisoning of Russian opposition Alexei Navalny. - The UK supports the findings by Germany, France and Sweden that Mr Navalny was poisoned by Novichok. - The poisoning and the use of a banned chemical weapon should be investigated.
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	- The negative impact of use of the universal coercive measures on refugees and people on the move. - The dramatic impact of arm sales on the people of Yemen, Palestine, Syria. - Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, islamophobia are alarmingly on the rise. - Palestinian people living under the brutal regime need constant attention and support.
Uganda	- Pursuit of development and socioeconomic transformation: national efforts of Uganda.



Algeria	- Combatting racism and racial discrimination: national efforts of Algeria.
Russian Federation	- Inadequate global measures to combat COVID-19. - Need to respect traditional, cultural and historical values.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	- Right to development as the core element to ensure the enjoyment of human rights: need for poverty eradication.
Sweden	- More people live in countries with authoritarian tendencies than in countries with democratic progress. - Defence and promotion of democracy: a top priority of Sweden's foreign policy.
Azerbaijan	- COVID-19 and human rights: Azerbaijan's national efforts. - Right to development: NAM's active participation under the chairmanship of Azerbaijan.
Ireland	- Complete opposition to the use of the death penalty. - Terrorism and human rights: concern that civil society, as well as human rights defenders, may be affected by the abusive or discriminatory application of unduly broad counter-terrorism legislation.
Niger	- Rights of migrants, combatting terrorism: national efforts of Niger. - The death penalty not applied in Niger since 1976.
Georgia	- Sustainable Development Agenda: impossible to reach objectives in the Russia-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region. - Gender equality and rights of women and girls: national efforts of Georgia.
Republic of Moldova	- Strong supporter of the abolishment of the death penalty.
South Africa	- Universal abolition of the death penalty: national position of South Africa. Requests the Secretary-General on the way in which the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the question of the death penalty.
Syrian Arab Republic	- Right to development: support of the legally binding mechanisms. - Universal coercive measures: support to the developing countries subject to UCMs in order to achieve SDGs. - Need for non-politicization, non-intervention, non-selectivity of the Council.
Interventions made on behalf of UN Agencies	
UN Women	- Generation Equality Forum, planned by UN Women together with the governments of Mexico and France, has been postponed to the first half of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. - Over the next months, UN Women will launch a series of virtual consultations to enhance citizen engagement.
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	- Maternal mortality and morbidity: UNFPA's prevention efforts.



Interventions made on behalf of Civil Society Organizations

National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universal healthcare and primary education should form an integral aspect of post COVID-19 economic recovery plans. - The Council to consider a resolution calling for debt cancellation and moratorium on debt servicing/repayment.
Soka Gakkai International , on behalf of 21 organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights education.
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd on behalf of 7 NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maternal mortality and morbidity: Obstetric fistula.
Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII on behalf of 7 NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maternal surrogacy.
International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) (Joint Statement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Death penalty: right to effective legal representation.
United Schools International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terrorism and terrorists organizations in Pakistan.
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact of arms transfers on human rights.
Pan African Union for Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights of Pashtun people in Pakistan. Terrorism in Pakistan.
Stichting CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality , Joint Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sexual exploitation and abuse of girls in Nigeria.
Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condemns air strikes by Saudi Arabia targeting civilians.
Centre Europe - tiers monde (Joint Statement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situation of human rights in Brazil.
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights of indigenous peoples in Philippines.
International Association of Crafts and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights of Kashmiri people.
Fundacion para la Mejora de la Vida, la Cultura y la Sociedad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The discrimination of Scientologists in Germany.
International Commission of Jurists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terrorism and human rights: human-rights approach to be applied to victims.
Friends World Committee for Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Death penalty: effect on children of sentenced to death or executed parents.
Center for Environmental and Management Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights of Kashmiri people.
World Muslim Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights of Kashmiri people.
International Yezidi Foundation for the Prevention of Genocide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message from victims of DAESH: protection of children from being recruited. - The situation in Sinjar should be examined.
Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message on behalf of Asma Arian (Qatar): plea to free Sheikh Talal bin Abdul Al-Thani.
Edmund Rice International Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poppy growers and drug manufacturers in the Indo-Myanmar region: affect on indigenous children and youth.
Asociacion HazteOir.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact of COVID-19 measures on human rights in Spain.
Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Custodial violence in India.
Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violations of Ethiopian migrant rights in Saudi Arabia.



Federation for Women and Family Planning (Joint Statement on behalf of 15 organisations)	- Meaningful civil society participation.
Chinese Association for International Understanding	- Measures to combat COVID-19.
Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health	- Situation in Yemen and declining human development.
China NGO Network for International Exchanges	- Protecting of human rights during COVID-19 pandemic.
Partners for Transparency	- Enforced disappearance in Qatar.
International Human Rights Association of American Minorities	- Hazardous waste disposal and indigenous peoples rights.
Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme	- COVID-19 and need for more solidarity for vulnerable people. - Economic consequences of the pandemic.
World Environment and Resources Council (WERC)	- Enforced disappearances of Sindhi people.
United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation	- COVID-19 and consequences on the right to development.
International Fellowship of Reconciliation	- Criminalization of civil organizations in the Mediterranean. - Juvenile cadets: need for minimum age for recruitment. - Nuclear weapons.
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence	- Universal coercive measures: impact on the right to development.
Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience	- Freedom of religion: Shincheonji churches
Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos – IDDH (Joint Statement)	- Human Rights education in Brazil
Villages Unis (United Villages)	- Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances in Yemen.
Right Livelihood Award Foundation (Joint Statement)	- Arbitrary detention and arrests in Saudi Arabia: Right Livelihood laureates.
International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists	- Indirect discrimination of Jewish and Muslim people: bans on slaughtering of animals.
International Service for Human Rights (Joint Statement)	- Migrants rights: situation in Lesbos, Greece. - Criminalization of those who protect migrants.
Action Canada for Population and Development	- Racist and sexist policies and practices in sport: black women and women of colour.
Association Ma'ona for Human Rights and Immigration	- Human rights situation in Yemen.
Franciscans International (Joint Statement)	- Right to healthy environment.
Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA)	- Situation in Yemen.
International-lawyers.org	- Arbitrary detention: asylum seekers in USA, arbitrary detentions in Iraq.
Solidarité Suisse-Guinée	- Human rights of children in Yemen.
International Lesbian and Gay Association (Joint Statement)	- Capital punishment: LGBTI people. - Need to adopt national policies that combat violence, discrimination and stigma based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics.
OCAPROCE Internationale	- Situation in Cameroon.



Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée	- Situation in Yemen.
Sikh Human Rights Group	- COVID-19: The negative impacts of the lockdowns.
Ingenieurs du Monde	- Situation in Venezuela.
POINT OF ORDER: Venezuela	“The speaker is out of order, we are dealing with Item 3.”
Ingenieurs du Monde (statement resumed)	- Situation in Venezuela.
POINT OF ORDER: Cuba	“This NGO is politicizing the Council and using abusive language.”
Ingenieurs du Monde (statement resumed)	- Situation in Venezuela: questioning Venezuela’s membership in the Council.
Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain	- Freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia.
CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation (Joint Statement)	- Terrorism and human rights: the impact on civil society and civic space.
Human Rights Information and Training Center	- Situation in Yemen: arbitrary detention and release of prisoners.
Iraqi Development Organization	- Rights of Yemeni people.
iuventum e.V	- COVID-19: containing the crisis.
World Jewish Congress	- COVID-19: no place to conspiracy theories.
European Centre for Law and Justice	- Prosecution of religious minorities, including Christians, in China.
Universal Rights Group	- Environment and human rights.
World Evangelical Alliance	- Well-being of minorities: national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic.
Alsalam Foundation	- Repression of civil society in Bahrain.
Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)	- Acts of repression against people in Nicaragua.
International Muslim Women's Union	- Violations against women in Jammu and Kashmir, including sexual violence.
International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	- Enforced disappearances in Iraq.
Zéro Pauvre Afrique	- Human rights of the Yemenis.
Synergie Feminine Pour La Paix et Le Developpement Durable	- Deterioration of humanitarian situation in Yemen.
United Nations Watch	- China’s mass detention of ethnic Uighurs.
POINT OF ORDER: China	“The statement of the NGO has nothing to do with the Item under discussion.”
United Nations Watch (statement resumed)	-
Servas International	- Ending inequalities, relocating resources. - Self-determination is crucial.
Women's Human Rights International Association	- Need for accountability for 1988 prison massacre in Iran.
Jubilee Campaign	- Death penalty for blasphemy.
Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment	- Rights of people in Baluchistan.
International Humanist and Ethical Union	- Effects of arbitrary detention.
Le Pont	- Genocide of Tamils.
Society for Development and Community Empowerment	- Human rights of Tamils.
Tamil Uzhangam	- Human rights of Tamils.



Africa Culture Internationale	- Right to development.
World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations	- Good governance. Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups.
International Career Support Association	- Rights of people in Hong Kong: missing people. - Using of Mongolian for teaching abolished.
Society for Threatened Peoples	- Crimes against humanity in the Uyghur region of China.
Association Elmostakbell pour le développement	- Situation in Jammu and Kashmir.
Association Culturelle Tamouls en Fance	- Human rights of Tamils.
Action of Human Movement (AHM)	- Human rights of Tamils.

Rights of Reply:

- **India** (in reply to statements made by Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir),
- **China** (in reply to the statement by the NGOs that referred to the situation in Xinjiang and Hong Kong),
- **Iraq** (in reply to the statement by two NGOs on the conditions in the Iraqi prisons),
- **Brazil** (in reply to the statement by an NGO on freedom of expression and human rights education),
- **Iran** (in reply to the statement by an NGO on the judicial system of Iran),
- **Pakistan** (in reply to the statement made by India).

Full recording of the General Debates is available on the UN WebTV: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).