



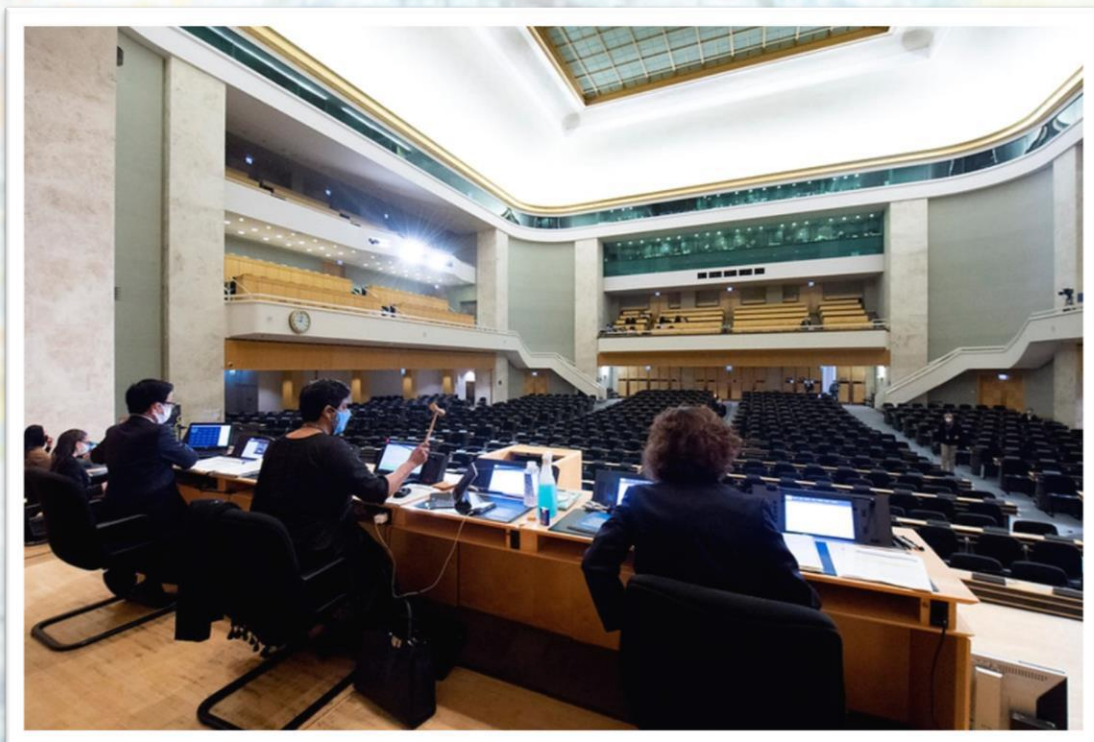
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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 46th SESSION

Summary Report by the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue

22 February – 24 March 2021



*Photo: Opening of the session by the President of the Human Rights Council, Nazhat Shameem Khan,
22 February 2021, UN Flickr*



From 22 February to 24 March 2021, the Human Rights Council (HRC) held its 46th regular session which took place in virtual mode. Over the course of the session, the HRC held a High-level segment (HLS), engaged with human rights experts during more than 30 interactive dialogues and listened to the presentation of nearly 90 thematic and country specific reports.¹ Together with the adoption of 14 outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Council also held six panels, with focus on themes such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the combat against racism and discrimination, the recourse to the death penalty as crime deterrent and the role of poverty alleviation in the promotion and protection of human rights, among others.

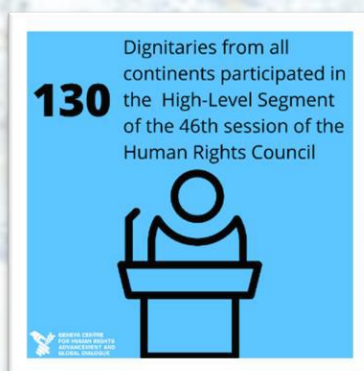
The HRC President of the 15th cycle, H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji), chaired the session along with four Vice-Presidents from all regional groups, H.E. Ms. Keva Lorraine Bain (Bahamas), H.E. Mr. Ali Ibn Abi Talib Abdelrahman Mahmoud (Sudan), H.E. Ms. Monique T.G. Van Daalen (Netherlands), and H.E. Mr. Yuri Borissov Sterk (Bulgaria).

As a result of the COVID-19-related restrictions, the entire 46th session was held online. For yet another session, side events could not take place inside the Palais des Nations. Furthermore, on 18 March, the HRC President introduced the extraordinary e-voting modality. This provisional voting system was subsequently accepted by the Council.

Current Membership of the Human Rights Council, 1 January - 31 December 2021:

AFRICAN STATES	LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN	ASIA-PACIFIC STATES	WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHER STATES	EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES
Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Gabon, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo	Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela	Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan	Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Armenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Ukraine

High-level segment (22-24 February)



At the beginning, the Council held a High-level segment (HLS), in which 130 dignitaries from all continents participated. During the HLS, as spokespersons of either their own country or on behalf of a group of States, dignitaries presented the efforts made to uphold human rights. Statements delivered covered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on deep-rooted social inequalities and on national economies, the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on affected countries, constraints on civil and political rights of ethnic minorities, restrictions on the right to free expression, and the consequences of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights. Country specific situations such as the human rights and humanitarian crises in Myanmar, Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Belarus, were also addressed.

¹ Which include, among others, the reports by the SRs on the sale of children, on the right to food, on albinism, on the rights of persons with disabilities, on foreign debt, on cultural rights, on the environment, on freedom of religion or belief, on counterterrorism, on human rights defenders, on torture, on violence against children, on children and armed conflict, on minority issues, as well as the reports by the SRs on Iran, on DPRK, and on Myanmar



The United States reaffirmed its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, with a focus on the fight against racism and discrimination. In addition, contrary to what was requested by some Arab region countries, the United States demanded the removal of the HRC agenda item 7 (Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories).

As to the climate crisis, among others, the Marshall Islands and the Pacific Islands Forum urged that the Council establish a mandate for a Special Rapporteur (SR) on human rights and climate change.

Panels (22 February-12 March)



On 22 February, the Council held its annual high-level panel on human rights mainstreaming, with focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fight against racism and discrimination. On this occasion, it was repeatedly denounced that the COVID-19 pandemic has unveiled and exacerbated pre-existent social fractures. Worldwide, vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and religious and ethnic minorities have suffered the most from the escalation of intolerance and xenophobia. At its 20th anniversary, the Durban Declaration, and its Programme of Action (DDPA) continues to be a fundamental point of reference in the elimination of racism and discrimination. As reiterated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms.

Michelle Bachelet, to eradicate social injustice, States should commit to the battle against all forms of intolerance, through the development and implementation of non-discriminatory measures, and the collaboration with civil society organizations, which have a crucial role towards the establishment of an inclusive society for all.

Following the UN Secretary-General and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' video messages, three panelists intervened in the discussion, namely Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, and Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences for UNESCO.

As to the biennial high-level panel on human rights violations in connection with the death penalty (23 February), it debated whether the use of the death penalty could serve to deter crime. During the panel, it emerged that there is no proven correlation between the use of the death penalty and crime deterrence. Indeed, rather than its severity, the certainty of punishment affects crime rates. According to what was stated by one of the panelists, the fair application of justice, the reduction of poverty and the strengthening of policing could prove to be more successful in the fight against crime. Four panelists, including the Minister of Justice of Chad and the Commissioner of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, participated in the dialogue.

On 26 February, in the meeting on the role of poverty alleviation in the promotion and protection of human rights, which was held at the initiative of China, panellists reiterated the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) no. 1 ("No poverty") of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To eradicate poverty, solid cooperation between the public and private sector should be enhanced, while all forms of poverty, which include child poverty, should be addressed. During the interactive dialogue, Germany also recalled that development and poverty eradication are not a precondition for the protection of human rights. Instead, the guarantee of human rights is instrumental for poverty reduction. Mr. Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, was one of the four panellists that joined the meeting.



The annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child held on 1 March focused on the rights of the child and the SDGs. The panel was divided in two sessions, focused on *“Securing a future for today’s children and the generations to come”* (morning), and *“The gaps and barriers affecting children. Follow-up on commitments”* (afternoon). Four panelists intervened during each of the sessions. In the morning session, it was reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the increase in the number of poor children (an increase of 142 million); while the close correlation between climate change and children’s rights was reiterated. To combat poverty and inequalities around the world, UNICEF has initiated enhanced social protection programs, which focus on the promotion and protection of children’s rights.

In the afternoon session, one of the panelists, Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, recalled that the achievement of the SDGs, the upholding of international human rights law and the protection of the rights of the child were interdependent. To meet the UN 2030 Agenda, children should hence be included in decision-making processes, and their voice should be heard.

On 5 March, the HRC hosted its annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, with focus on *“Participation in sport under article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”*. It was announced that, to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had adopted its first Disability Rights Strategy. In her opening statement, the High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet recalled that sport contributed greatly to an individual's health and well-being and reinforced inclusion in the community. Equal access to physical activities and sport facilities for all, without discrimination, should hence be ensured. Four other panelists intervened during the debate, where it was reiterated that sport enhances persons with disabilities’ self-awareness and resilience, while bridging the divide between individuals and society. One of the panelists, Mr. Gerard Quinn, the SR on the rights of persons with disabilities, however stated that, to date, in the sport sector, three issues remained to be properly addressed, namely the underrepresentation of women and girls, the inclusion of the elderly and indigenous people, and the role of sport in peace building.

The debate on the Midterm Review of the International Decade of People of African Descent was held on 12 March. The panel focused on the role of youth in the fight against racial discrimination, and on the different forms of intersectional discrimination that affect young people. In her opening statement, Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, reiterated that twenty years after the DDPA, people of African descent still suffer from systemic racial discrimination. One of the panllists, Mr. Pradip Pariyar, Executive Chairperson of the Samata Foundation and Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum, also underlined that caste-based and racial discrimination should be considered alongside, since they both perpetuate patriarchy and exploitation. It was agreed that, to provide social justice to discriminated groups, the design and implementation of public policies should be led by the principles of recognition, redistribution, and representation.

In all meetings, the importance of raising public awareness, disseminating verified information and strengthening the rule of law, were common themes.



Item 2² Interactive Dialogues (24-25 February)

During its first week, the HRC held interactive dialogues on Eritrea, Sri Lanka, Nicaragua, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Belarus. It also engaged with the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen. On the human rights situation in Eritrea, the SR denounced the human rights violations against Eritrean refugees in the Tigray region, the non-independence of the judiciary, and the constraints on the freedom of religion. As for Sri Lanka and Nicaragua, restrictions on civic space, the discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, the failure to provide justice to victims of human rights violations, and the deterioration of the rule of law were issues considered.

The interactive dialogues on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and on Yemen focused on the continued human rights violations committed in both territories, on the lack of accountability for perpetrators, and on the need to provide justice to victims.

In the enhanced interactive dialogue on Belarus, 52 country delegations pronounced their statements. With reference to the period between 1 May and 20 December 2020, mass arbitrary detentions, alleged episodes of torture, and threats to political opponents, journalists and human rights defenders were denounced. To ensure justice and accountability, it was then recommended that thorough and transparent investigations be conducted promptly.



Item 2 General Debate (26 February-2 March)



On 26 February, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet presented an oral update on the human rights situation in over 50 countries around the world.³ Overall, constraints on civic space and personal freedoms (such as rights to freedom of expression and association, right to freedom of belief, among others) were some of the concerns raised. Threats to journalists and political opponents were also denounced, while the need to ensure the right to health for all was reiterated.

The High Commissioner also introduced her reports on Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Cyprus, Eritrea, and on the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In her report on Colombia, the High Commissioner addressed the negative impact that the

expansion of non-state armed groups has had on civilians. In Guatemala and Honduras, she observed the constraints on civil liberties and the lack of accountability for perpetrators of human rights violations, while in Cyprus, she noted the increased restrictions on the freedom of movement. In Eritrea, the High Commissioner reported that authorities had failed to uphold the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and religion, whilst in her report on Venezuela, she welcomed the development of

² Item 2: Annual report of the UN High Commissioner and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

³ Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda; Cambodia, China, India, Indian-administered Kashmir, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan region, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nagorno-Karabakh, Pakistan, Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam, Yemen; Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru; Hungary; Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Spain, United States



measures to guarantee some detainees' access to medical care. On the spread of the COVID-19 virus, she reiterated that, to overcome the current health crisis, international solidarity should be enhanced, and equal access to vaccines ensured to all.

That same day, following the High Commissioner's oral update, the General Debate was opened. During the Debate, 34 member States, 63 observer States, two United Nations organizations and 50 civil society organizations intervened, denouncing human rights violations such as attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, racial discrimination, the unfair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and sexual and gender-based violence. Concerns on country specific situations (Iran, Belarus, Turkey, Cyprus, Ukraine, Libya, Yemen, among others) were also expressed.

Item 3⁴ Interactive Dialogues (2-9 March)

In its second week, the HRC addressed issues such as the sale and sexual exploitation of children, the right to food, the freedom of religion and countering terrorism. Special Rapporteurs on human rights and the environment, on the situation of human rights defenders, and on the rights of persons with disabilities also presented their reports.

On the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, it was denounced that the current socio-economic crisis has heightened the risk for children to be victims of sale and sexual abuse. Due to the current health crisis and the emergence of new technologies, the online distribution of child sexual abuse material has also dramatically increased. As to the freedom of religion, the SR focused its intervention on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred, the manifestation of which has increased due to the spread of anti-Muslims stereotypes in mainstream media and academia. To counter such narrative, which stems from historic socio-cultural inequalities, proper nondiscrimination measures should be developed and implemented.

The interactive dialogue with the SR on the right to privacy, originally scheduled for 5 March, was cancelled.

"Water pollution, water scarcity, water-related disasters and damage to healthy freshwater ecosystems have major impacts on a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, water, sanitation, food, an adequate standard of living, development, culture, and the rights of the child", with these words, Mr. David R. Boyd, the SR on human rights and the environment, reiterated that safe water and healthy aquatic ecosystems are crucial to ensuring the right to a healthy environment, which political authorities should safeguard through ad-hoc constitutional provisions.

Interactive dialogues on torture and on violence against children were also held. Mr. Nils Melzer, the SR on torture, reiterated that independent and impartial investigations of alleged episodes of torture should be conducted, and that States should commit sincerely to the fight against torture. On the other hand, Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, denounced that an increase from 40 to 70% in episodes of domestic violence has been witnessed in countries with ad-hoc helplines. In view of these statistics, she then urged that experts in the fields of education, health, and justice work closely together, and that children be actively involved in the development of policies to end child abuse.

During the HRC's fourth week, on 15 March, the SR on minority issues, Mr. Fernand de Varennes, presented his thematic report on hate speech, social media and minorities, and the report on his country visit to Kyrgyzstan. In his intervention, the SR urged the international community to produce a treaty to counter anti-minority hate speech in social media.

⁴ Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development



Item 3 General Debate (9-10 March)

The General Debate on Item 3 focused on the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, and socio-cultural rights, including the right to development. During the Debate, nine thematic reports, the report on the third intersessional meeting on the 2030 Agenda, and the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights were presented. These reports were then followed by 20 joint statements made by States and 17 statements made by member States, where country specific situations (such as the ones in Iran, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, among others) and thematic issues (such as child marriage, climate change, right to freedom of peaceful assembly, unilateral coercive measures) were addressed. 21 observer States, three United Nations organizations, one National Human Rights Commission and 104 civil society organizations also took the floor.

Item 4⁵ Interactive Dialogues (9-12 March)



The human rights situations in Iran, Burundi, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Venezuela, Syria, South Sudan, and Myanmar were under consideration during the HRC's third week.

Mr. Javaid Rehman, the SR on Iran, expressed his concerns on Iran's high death penalty rate and urged the State to establish a moratorium on death penalty, as a first step towards its abolition. He then reported that human rights defenders continue to be subject to arbitrary detention, and that religious minorities (particularly the Baha'i community) are continuously harassed.

As to the human rights situation in Venezuela, on 10 March, Ms. Marta Valiñas, Chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) on Venezuela addressed the challenges faced by the IFFM during its mandate, while, the day after, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet presented her oral update on the country situation. In both interactive dialogues, it was denounced that the Venezuelan people's human rights continue to be violated, and that political opponents, journalists, and human rights defenders continue to be subject to intimidation. The UN High Commissioner also reiterated that extra-judicial executions, hunger and poor hygiene conditions remain problems to be tackled.

On Myanmar, the SR Mr. Thomas Andrews stated that, even before the military coup, the Myanmar government and military forces had undermined its people's right to life, to bodily integrity and to freedoms of expression, assembly, and association. He then accused the Myanmar military of crimes against humanity and urged the international community to act together and impose sanctions against the Myanmar military junta. The SR urged the member States to form a Coalition for the People of Myanmar, whose aim would be to investigate the reported human rights violations and support the civil society.

Item 4 General Debate (12-15 March)

The General Debate on Item 4 was preceded by the presentation of the UN High Commissioner's report on the implementation of the Group of Independent Experts' recommendations on the DPRK, and by the Secretary General's oral update on the UN initiatives in Myanmar.

⁵ Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention



While the delegation of Myanmar, as country concerned, issued a statement in reply to the UN High Commissioner's report, the delegation of the DPRK was absent. 11 joint statements, 26 member States' statements, and 41 observer States' statements were then pronounced. 110 civil society organizations also intervened during the Debate. Concerns on country specific human rights situations (in Belarus, China, Myanmar, Ukraine, Egypt, Venezuela, South Sudan, among others) and on thematic issues (such as access to vaccines, racism, terrorism, women and girls' rights) were raised.

Item 5⁶ General Debate (17-18 March)

As for the General Debate on human rights bodies and mechanisms, it was stressed that UN mandate holders should be provided with all the resources needed to perform their activities, and that threats to those that cooperate with them should be promptly condemned and duly investigated. In addition, the recommendation of the Forum on Minority Issues concerning the acknowledgment of LGBTI people as persons particularly vulnerable to online hate speech was welcomed. 5 countries and 38 civil society organizations issued their statements.

Item 6⁷ Universal Periodic Review and General Debate (16-18 March)



From 16 to 18 March, 14 UPR outcomes were adopted. The countries concerned were Belarus (155/266 recommendations accepted), Malawi (186/232), Liberia (166/218), Panama (146/181), Mongolia (170/190), Maldives (187/259), Andorra (60/104), Honduras (203/223), Bulgaria (193/233), Marshall Islands (163/171), the USA (174/347), Croatia (194/224), Libya (181/285) and Jamaica (120/170).

During the General Debate on the UPR, it was reiterated that intimidations against non-governmental organizations and individuals that work with the UN human rights mechanisms should be addressed properly, and that, in the context of the UPR, countries should adhere to

the principles of universality and transparency. 6 joint statements, 19 countries' statements and 19 civil society organizations' statements were pronounced. The United Nations Population Fund also intervened in the Debate.

Item 7⁸ General Debate (18 March)

The General Debate on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories was opened by the UN High Commissioner, who introduced her three reports on the international human rights law violations perpetrated by Israel, the State of Palestine, and the de facto Gaza authorities, especially in the period from November 2019 to October 2020. In her speech, the UN High Commissioner expressed her concerns over the persistent lack of accountability for the perpetrators of such crimes.

Whereas the delegations of the State of Palestine and Syria intervened as countries concerned, the delegation of Israel did not participate in the Debate. 5 joint statements, 42 country statements and 31 civil society organizations' statements were issued.

Item 8⁹ General Debate (18-19 March)

⁶ Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms

⁷ Item 6: Universal periodic review

⁸ Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

⁹ Item 8: Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action



During the General Debate on the follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it was emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated preexisting social inequalities, particularly affecting women and girls, and developing countries. To honor the Vienna Declaration, the international community should hence enhance multilateral cooperation and ensure that the COVID-19 vaccines be distributed equally to all countries. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the right to education and the exchange of reliable information should also be guaranteed.

10 joint statements, 23 countries' statements and 48 civil society organizations' statements were delivered.

Item 9¹⁰ General Debate (19-22 March)

Prior to the start of the General Debate, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA presented its report, which was followed by the UN High Commissioner's oral update on systematic racism. The Debate on the follow-up to and implementation of the DDPA focused on the increase in online hate speech, on the rise in episodes of physical assaults against persons of African descent, and on the need to reform the law enforcement system worldwide. It was also reiterated that the spread of the COVID-19 virus could further undermine the effective implementation of the DDPA, unless the access to vaccines is ensured for all.

48 States, one regional organization and 50 national human rights institutions and civil society organizations participated in the Debate.



Item 10¹¹ Interactive Dialogues (19-22 March)

Under item 10, interactive dialogues on the human rights situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Mali, in Ukraine, and in the Central African Republic were held.

During the enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in her keynote statement, Ms. Michelle Bachelet expressed her concerns over the escalation of inter-community violence and over the widespread impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations. On the human rights situation in Mali, the Independent Expert (IE) on Mali, Mr. Alioune Tine, denounced that in the northern and central regions of the country, civilians continue to be victims of violence by extremist groups and armed self-defense community groups. He also reported that an increase of 47% in gender-based violence had been documented in the period between January and July 2020, compared to the period between January and July 2019.

On the human rights situation in Ukraine, Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated that, in eastern Ukraine, the imposition of COVID-19 related constraints on the freedom of movement has had a negative impact on the most vulnerable groups, and that episodes of torture by the law enforcement continue to be reported. In the interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic, the Deputy High Commissioner welcomed the government's commitment to provide justice to victims of human rights abuses through the establishment of the Truth, Justice,

¹⁰ Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

¹¹ Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building



Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. On the other hand, she denounced the serious human rights violations witnessed in the country before the 2020 December general elections.

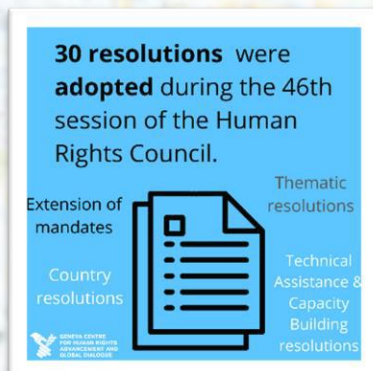
Item 10 General Debate (22-23 March)

The General Debate on Item 10 was preceded by the presentation of the High Commissioner's reports on the situation of human rights and technical assistance in Afghanistan, and on technical cooperation programs. On the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Mr. Mahamane Cissé-Gouro, Officer-in-Charge of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of the OHCHR, noted that, since the start of the peace process, particularly human rights defenders and journalists have been subject to harassment. Ms. Azita Berar Awad, Member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, also intervened to provide updates on what had been discussed in the Board's fifty- and fifty-first sessions held in May and November 2020.

During the General Debate, it was reiterated that both States and international organizations should contribute to promotion of human rights, and that technical assistance is crucial to ensure people's fundamental rights.

11 joint statements, 49 country statements, and 27 national human rights institutions and civil society organizations' statements were issued. The United Nations Development Coordination Office also participated in the Debate.

Decisions and Conclusions (23-24 March)



In its 46th session, the HRC adopted 30 resolutions. Under Item 2, three resolutions on Sri Lanka, on Nicaragua, and on the Occupied Palestinian Territory were endorsed, while under Item 3, 14 resolutions¹² and one decision¹³ were adopted. Resolutions on the human rights situations in DPRK, in Iran, in Belarus, in Myanmar, in Syria and in South Sudan were approved under Item 4. A resolution on South Sudan was also passed under Item 10.

As to the new resolution on the human rights situation in Belarus, 14 amendments, which had been submitted and co-sponsored by Belarus, the Russian Federation and China, were all voted and rejected.

¹² On human rights, democracy and the rule of law; on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; on the freedom of religion or belief; on human rights and the environment; on the effects of foreign debt; on the mandate of the SR in the field of cultural rights; on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights; on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation; on the mandate of the IE on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism; on promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights; on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to COVID-19 pandemic; on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; on the roles and responsibilities of police and other law enforcement officials; on the mandate of the SR on the right to privacy; on the right to food

¹³ On the high-level panel discussion on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and Small SIDSs in the work of the Human Rights Council



3 Item 7's resolutions,¹⁴ one Item 9's resolution¹⁵ and 3 Item 10's resolutions¹⁶ were passed. One resolution, previously considered under Item 7, was moved to Item 2.

On the COVID-19 pandemic, the HRC reiterated that equal access to vaccines should be ensured to all, and announced that, on this issue, a half-day panel was scheduled to be held during the HRC's forty-ninth session. It also acknowledged the liquidity needs of developing countries to address the negative effects of the current health crisis.

For 14 resolutions a vote was requested; the resolutions were voted and subsequently adopted.

The Council extended the mandates of the SR on human rights and the environment (three years), of the SR on cultural rights (three years), of the SR on the right to privacy (three years), of the SR on the situation of human rights in the DPRK (one year), of the SR on the situation of human rights in Iran (one year), and of the SR on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (one year). The mandate of the IE on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism was renewed for a further period of three years, while the mandates of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, and of the IE on the situation of human rights in Mali were extended for another year.

Six Special Procedure mandate holders were also appointed. Margaret Lokawua (Uganda) became the new African member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Sheryl Lightfoot (Canada) was chosen as the North American member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Morris Tidball-Binz (Chile) became the new SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) was appointed as SR on the situation of human rights in Cambodia; Catherine S. Namakula (Uganda) was chosen as the new member from African States of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; and Priya Gopalan (Malaysia) became the new member from Asia-Pacific States of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

¹⁴ On human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

¹⁵ On combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief

¹⁶ On technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights; on technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan; on cooperation with Georgia