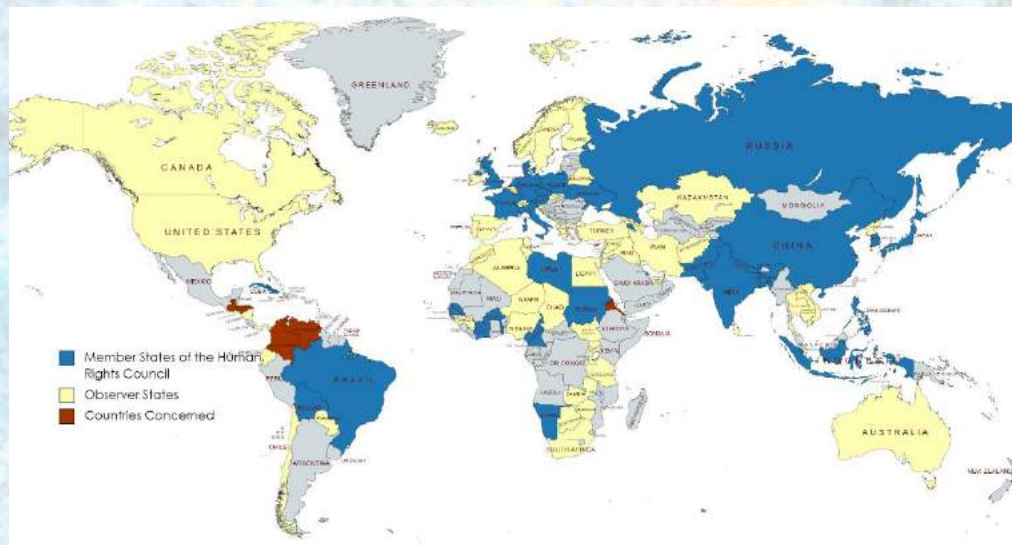




HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 46th SESSION

Item 2¹: General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

26 February 2021; continued 1-2 March 2021



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¹ Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

| | Main Points Raised (thematic issues or country / territorial concerns – <i>non-exhaustive</i>) |
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| Statements Made by the Countries Concerned | |
| Colombia | Issues raised: compliance with the Final Agreement and ensuring its implementation. Openness to international human rights scrutiny. The homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants had been steadily declining. The threats against social leaders . |
| Guatemala | The leadership of the High Commissioner's Office in the country by Mr Mika Kanervavouri deserves a special mentioning. Technical assistance and cooperation should be in line with the needs of the government. <u>Issues raised</u> : Promoting the rights of women and girls, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities ; safe and orderly migration ; fighting corruption and impunity . |
| Honduras | <u>Issues raised</u> : COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms ETA and IOTA generated new challenges especially for vulnerable groups . New national mechanisms : the Honduras Solidaria Program, Debt Relief Program, Agrocredit 8.7, Operation Force Honduras II. The National Reconstruction and Sustainable Development Plan is being formulated, to include human rights and gender equity as one of the cross-cutting axes. Commitment to the application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights . |
| Cyprus | <u>Points of concern</u> : the issue of missing persons; displaced persons , the hardships endured by the enslaved are overlooked; violating the right to freedom of religion or belief of the displaced Greek; opening the coastline of Varosha . |
| Eritrea | The allegations levelled by Eritrea's archenemies and the European Union and the Office highlighting the defamatory portrayal of sexual violence, looting and crimes by the Eritrean army in the pretext of Ethiopia's rule of law operations in the Tigray region of Ethiopia are baseless . Attempts to deflect attention from the high crimes perpetrated by the Tigray People's Liberation Front clique and downplay its culpability do not serve the cause of peace, security, human rights and development. |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | <u>Issues of concern</u> : unilateral coercive measures have intensified and have the devastating impact on human rights in Venezuela. Sanctions led to the forced migration of thousands of Venezuelans for economic reasons. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, these measures imposed by the United States were a crime against humanity. Despite the immense challenges faced by the country, Venezuela will diminish its cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner. |
| Joint Statements made by Member States | |
| Estonia (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries ²) | COVID-19 pandemic should not be used as a pretext to deny women and girls their rights but rather help to explore new ways to ensure their enjoyment of human rights including universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. |
| Portugal (on behalf of European Union ³) | - |
| Gabon (on behalf of a group of states) | <i>Statement made on behalf of 31 states supporting the full sovereignty of Morocco over its Saharan provinces.</i> The interaction of the Member States with the Council and the High Commissioner must maintain its bilateral character and be preserved from any instrumentalization. Welcomes the opening of consulates in Dakhla by several countries. |

² Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden

³ The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

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| Pakistan (on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)) | <u>Country situations of concern</u> : Palestine, Myanmar, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Nagorno-Karabakh. <u>Thematic issues of concern</u> : Xenophobia, Islamophobia and religious intolerance ; need to combat hate speech . |
| China (on behalf of a group of Like Minded Countries.) | <u>Thematic issues</u> : racism – 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; right to development – 35th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development; need to address inequality . |
| Uruguay (on behalf of a group of countries ⁴) | <u>Thematic issues</u> : exacerbated inequalities and discrimination . Budget constraints of the OHCHR has a negative impact on the ground, particular for the victims. Need to avoid a structural weakening of the Treaty Bodies . |
| Azerbaijan (on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement) | The importance for the High Commissioner of upholding the universality of and dealing impartially with all human rights, and respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic jurisdiction of States. |
| Netherlands (on behalf of a Group of Friends on R2P ⁵) | <u>Thematic issues</u> : Responsibility to Prevent : the essential need to address serious violations and abuses at an early stage. The significance of Human Rights Council's resolutions 44/14 and 45/31. |
| Brunei Darussalam (on behalf of ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations) | <u>National and regional efforts</u> : adopted the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan; established ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies and the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies. With the ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit in November 2020, ASEAN is committed to place women's leadership at the heart of the recovery. |
| Timor-Leste (on behalf on behalf of Geneva Support Group for Western Sahara ⁶) | <u>Country situation of concern</u> : Resumed armed conflict in the Non Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara , following the breach of the ceasefire by the Kingdom of Morocco in November 2020; intimidation and harassment of a high number of civilian Saharawi. |
| Germany (on behalf of over 40 countries) | <u>Country situation of concern</u> : Allegations of serious human rights violations and abuses and the humanitarian crisis in Tigray, Ethiopia and its regional implications. |
| Senegal (on behalf of a group of countries ⁷) | <i>Delivered a pledge-statement of the incoming Members of the Council.</i> |
| Statements made by the Member States | |
| 1. China⁸ | The National Security Law (Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) has been effective in restoring law and order and safeguarding national security in Hong Kong. |
| 2. Germany | <i>Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.</i> |

⁴ Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panamá, Paraguay, Peri and Uruguay

⁵ Liechtenstein, Netherlands

⁶ Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cuba, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Timor-Leste , Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania , Venezuela, Zimbabwe

⁷ France, Mexico, Nepal, Ukraine, Malawi, Senegal

⁸ Statement delivered by the Secretary for Justice, Government of the Hong Kong H.E. Ms Cheng Teresa

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| | <p><u>Thematic issues</u>: shrinking space for civil society; impunity for human rights violations; climate change and artificial intelligence. Sufficient financing is an important prerequisite to enable OHCHR to succeed in facing these challenges. Germany will step up its voluntary contributions to the OHCHR by almost 50% to 11.5 Mio. USD in 2021.</p> |
| 3. France | <p><u>Thematic issues</u>: need to ensure favourable conditions for the work of civil society, journalists and human rights defenders.</p> <p><u>Country situations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iran: call to immediately release political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, such as Nasrin Sotoudeh. - Russia: call for the immediate release of Alexei Navalny. - Belarus: continued attacks against human rights defenders and journalists; deep concern at the allegations of violence and torture in detention. - Nicaragua: increasing restrictions on civil and political right. - Cambodia: call to reopen the political space. - Turkey: arrests and charges against representatives of civil society. |
| 4. Armenia | <p>Nagorno Karabakh: 44 days of war were marked by heinous violations of the IHL, targeted shelling of civilian settlements; torture of the Armenian prisoners of war (PoWs), killings and abductions of civilians, and barbaric destruction of the cultural and religious heritage. All the PoWs and abducted civilians should be immediately and unconditionally released, following the statement of the heads of states of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan of 9 November 2020.</p> <p><u>Other country situations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cyprus: Turkey is aiming at the annexation of the northern part of Cyprus against the will of the island's indigenous population. - China: Armenia maintains One China policy, commends China's efforts towards the promotion of the right to health and the environmental right, as well as its determination to eradicate poverty and to create job opportunities. |
| 5. Togo | <p><u>National efforts</u>: "Novossi" programme for people who lost their revenue; national solidarity fund. Togo supports macroeconomic and sectorial measures.</p> |
| 6. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | <p>Hong Kong is an integral part of China. There should be no interference in internal affairs of China. Detrimental effect of the unilateral coercive measures.</p> |
| 7. Libya | <p>The importance of COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX).</p> |
| 8. Indonesia | <p><u>Thematic issues</u>: COVID-19: the report fails to reflect inputs on good practices submitted by Member States in dealing with the socio-economic impact of this global health crisis. Freedom of expression and the right to peaceful protests: Indonesia's national efforts; need for a clear distinction between rightful acts of peaceful protests and wrongful assemblies to incite and support criminal acts. It is critical that the OHCHR continues working within the corridors of non-selectivity and non-politicization.</p> |
| 9. Senegal | <p><i>Senegal aligns itself with the statements of the groups to which It belongs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the appeals by the High Commissioner towards the new Social Impact. |
| 10. Russian Federation | <p><u>Thematic issues</u>: negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures. Need to avoid the politicization.</p> <p><u>Country situations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baltic countries and Ukraine: preventing the population from using certain language. - United Kingdom: discrimination of ethnic minorities, use of torture by the police. |

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| 11. Japan | <p><u>Country situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tigray Region: Japan will extend Emergency Grant Aid for people in need of humanitarian assistance, and expects the Ethiopian Government, concerned organizations, and other stakeholders to redouble their efforts to address the situation. - Armenia and Azerbaijan: Japan will extend Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis. Japan expects both countries to make efforts to improve the humanitarian and human rights situations in the two countries. |
| 12. Netherlands | <p>The need to respect, reach out and respond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect: all future Human Rights Council candidates should be formally required to participate in a candidate pledging event convened by the President of the General Assembly. - Reach out: adequate funding of the UN's human rights pillar is needed. - Respond: current pushback on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights is increased further by the COVID19 pandemic. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the right to safe abortion, are human rights. |
| 13. India | <p><u>National efforts:</u> support to farmers, including doubling their salaries. Jammu and Kashmir: the constitutional changes were an historic decision, and will contribute to full enjoyment of human rights by all people.</p> |
| 14. Namibia | <p><i>Namibia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group.</i></p> <p><u>Country and thematic issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guatemala: cooperation of the State with UN bodies is a constructive way of promoting respect for human rights. - The use of unilateral coercive measures remains a huge concern as evidenced by the negative impact on human rights, including the right to health, in targeted countries, such as Venezuela, Iran and Zimbabwe. - Western Sahara: the OHCHR should resume its technical missions and provide regular updates, including the rights of persons living under foreign illegal occupation. |
| 15. Denmark | <p><i>Denmark aligns itself with the EU statement. Denmark also refers to our statement regarding Venezuela and the Nordic-Baltic statements on Eritrea, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka.</i></p> <p><u>Country situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Burundi: the new Government should address issues of torture, impunity, corruption and sexual- and gender-based violence. - Ukraine: the dire human rights situation in the separatist-held regions of eastern Ukraine and in the illegally annexed Crimea and City of Sevastopol. Need for unhindered access of international human rights observers and monitors. - Turkey: non-implementation of rulings from the European Court of Human Rights, infringements of rights of faith based minorities and NGOs, charges against democratically elected politicians, human rights defenders and journalists. - Libya and Yemen: lack of accountability and rule of law. All parties to the conflicts must protect civilians, including migrants, refugees and IDP's, and ensure unhindered humanitarian access. |
| 16. Burkina Faso | <p><i>Burkina Faso aligns with the statements made by the groups it belongs to.</i></p> <p><u>Thematic issues:</u> the importance of multilateral cooperation. Terrorism and violent extremism: terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso since 2015 led to many human rights violations and to internal displacement of 1 million persons as of December 2020.</p> |
| 17. Pakistan | <p>Gross, systematic and continuing violations on the Illegally-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir meet all the elements of objective criteria for a human rights situation warranting the Council's attention and triggering its "prevention mandate".</p> |

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| 18. Republic of Korea | <p><u>Country and thematic issues:</u> the need for the coordinated cooperation between the concerned country and UN human rights mechanisms. The efficiency and effectiveness of UN human rights mechanisms should be enhanced. Adequate financing to the OHCHR is crucial. Freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly are under severe threat in many regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belarus: need for carrying out an independent and transparent investigation into all allegations of human rights violations. - Myanmar: necessary steps should be taken to protect freedom of expression and to restrain from using violence. |
| 19. Ukraine | <p><u>National concerns:</u> The critical situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine results from the fast spread of COVID-19 caused by Russia's failure to fulfil its obligations as an occupying power.</p> <p><u>Country situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia: crackdown on independent civil society and dissenting voices; arbitrarily detentions and curtailing of the exercise of the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. - The same patterns are regrettably observed in Venezuela, Belarus, Nicaragua, Myanmar. |
| 20. Bahrain | <p><i>Bahrain aligns with the statements by the groups it belongs to.</i></p> <p><u>National efforts:</u> in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing its National Human Rights Action Plan.</p> |
| 21. Cameroon | <p><u>National efforts:</u> A positive development and a considerable return to peace and harmony is under way, particularly in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, thanks to the Grand National Dialogue organized in Yaounde from 30 September to 4 October 2019 at the initiative of President Paul BIYA.</p> |
| 22. Nepal | <p><u>Thematic issues:</u> Equitable distribution, accessibility and affordability of the vaccine remain a critical concern.</p> <p><u>National efforts:</u> Nepal has already rolled out its vaccination program giving priority to vulnerable people. Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic, Nepal aims to graduate from the LDC status by 2022 and to reach middle-income country by 2030.</p> |
| 23. Austria | <p><u>Country situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethiopia, Tigray: need to deal with the imminent humanitarian crisis. Need for independent, effective and transparent human rights monitoring and accountability. Unhindered access to Tigray to be granted to the OHCHR and the High Commissioner. - Cameroon the situation in the North-West and South-West regions is deteriorating. - Sri Lanka: impunity for grave human rights violations persists twelve years after the armed conflict. Surveillance and harassment of civil society organisations, human rights defenders and independent media is intensified. Austria calls upon the leadership of Sri Lanka to re-engage in the comprehensive HRC-process started in 2015. - Nicaragua: concern about the restrictions on civil society space and media freedom in the country. Austria calls on Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with human rights mechanisms particularly ahead of the elections in November 2021. |
| 24. Italy | <p><i>Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.</i></p> <p><u>Thematic issues:</u> need to tackle all forms of inequalities and discrimination, with a strong focus on protecting the human rights of all persons in vulnerable situations. Civil society participation and human rights defenders should be supported.</p> <p><u>National efforts:</u> In 2020 Italy co-hosted the Coronavirus Global Response Initiative, co-launched the ACT-Accelerator and pioneered the Covax Facility. The priorities of the Italian Presidency of the G20 will focus on three pillars of action: People, Planet, Prosperity. Global Health will be another key priority. In May 2021, Italy will host the Global Health Summit in Rome.</p> |
| 25. Poland | <p><i>Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.</i></p> |

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| | <u>Thematic concerns:</u> COVID-19 exacerbated previously existing inequalities, and was used by oppressive governments to further curb civil society. A "hidden pandemic": a global escalation in domestic violence and the impact of the pandemic on mental health. |
| 26. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Reiterates its continuous cooperation with the OHCHR. |
| 27. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zimbabwe: on 1 February the UK announced sanctions against four security sector chiefs responsible for serious human rights violations under President Mnangagwa. - Cameroon: concerns about the protection of civilians, particularly following the appalling killing of children in Kumba, in October 2020, and a series of violent incidents in January of this year. - Uganda: concerns about the reported treatment of opposition candidates, their supporters, and the media around the 14 January Presidential and Parliamentary elections. - Nigeria: UK welcomes the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, following 2020's EndSARS protests against police brutality. UK is monitoring closely the judicial panels of inquiry established to investigate allegations of police brutality. - Vietnam: concerns about the treatment and imprisonment of journalists and human rights defenders. - Afghanistan: concerns about recent violence and an increase in targeted attacks on civilians. - UK also refers to its statements on Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Burundi and Venezuela that have been made, or will be made, at other dialogues during the 46th session. |
| 28. Sudan | <u>Thematic issues:</u> deepened inequalities; access to vaccines; increased poverty. <u>National efforts:</u> human rights-based approach in addressing the pandemic; release of prisoners; measures against COVID related domestic violence. Violence in Darfur is linked to the scarce resources. |
| 29. Cuba | Economic sanctions of the USA against Cuba can be considered a flagrant violation of international law. Cuba expresses its solidarity with Venezuela and Nicaragua . |
| 30. Bangladesh | <u>National efforts:</u> submission of national reports to 7 treaty bodies in the recent years. Effects of COVID-19 on vulnerable population and the country's efforts in combatting them. Rohingya people should be able to safely return to their country of origin. |
| 31. Côte d'Ivoire | <u>National efforts:</u> establishment of programmes for vulnerable people. |
| 32. Czech Republic | <i>The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.</i> <u>Thematic issues:</u> need to protect independence and integrity of the mandate of the High Commissioner; financial situation of the OHCHR. <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sri Lanka: early warning signals. Reconciliation and accountability among Sri Lanka's diverse communities cannot be achieved through distorting the independence of the judiciary. - Nicaragua: continued repression against political opponents, journalists and civil society. Czech Republic welcomes the initiative of the core group on the resolution addressing this situation during the current session. - Eritrea: the continued practice of indefinite National Service, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention and forced disappearances. |

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| 33. Philippines | <u>Thematic issues</u> : global action against racism, hate and inequality; inequity in access to medicines, as a result of unilateral sanctions; multilateralism forged by solidarity is imperative; OHCHR should strengthen impartiality and due diligence in its reporting process. |
| 34. Brazil | <u>National efforts</u> : Brazil is committed to the protection and sustainable development of the Amazon. Measures adopted to that effect: the reactivation of the National Council for the Legal Amazon; large-scale security operations launched against environmental crimes; operation "Green Brazil" 2; National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders was broadened to include environmentalists and media workers. Mining in indigenous lands can only be carried out with the authorization of the National Congress. <u>National measures</u> to combat COVID-19: one month after the start of vaccination, over 5 million people received their first doses. |
| Statements Made by the Observer States | |
| 35. Canada | <u>National effects</u> in combatting the negative impact of COVID-19: Canada is dedicated to ensure universal access to tests, vaccines and treatments. Some states have used the pandemic to persecute marginalized and vulnerable communities. |
| 36. Finland | <i>Finland aligns itself with the EU statement.</i> <u>Thematic issues</u> : women and girls' rights. <u>Country situations</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saudi Arabia: the release of Loujain Al Hathloul is positive but the concerns remain about the restrictions on political and civil rights as well as attacks against human rights defenders. - Sri Lanka: human rights defenders, journalists and other activists face intimidation and surveillance, Muslims and Tamils face discrimination and threats. Need for justice and accountability for war crimes. - Nicaragua: continued attacks, threats and harassment of women and human rights defenders. - Democratic Republic of Congo: increased limitations to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the media. |
| 37. Qatar | <u>National efforts</u> : Qatar intends to hold the first elections for the Shura Council in October 2021. Medical care services are provided without any discrimination. Equal access to vaccines is essential. <u>Country situations</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Libya and Yemen: all parties should move forward with the political process and national reconciliation. - Syria: the international community should end the state of division and to make real efforts to reach a political solution that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people, leads to a political transition in accordance with the Geneva Declaration and Resolution 2254, and ensures justice and accountability. |
| 38. Liechtenstein | <u>Thematic issues</u> : need to tackle the pandemic with a human rights-based approach. Shrinking civic space; concern about increasing reprisals against human rights defenders. |
| 39. Kuwait | <u>National efforts</u> : The State of Kuwait continues to adhere to its principles in defending human rights, especially the right to life and the right to health care, as well as support of humanitarian work around the world. To combat COVID-19, Kuwait made significant donations, which included \$ 40 million to the WHO in March 2020; \$ 100 million to fund research in the production of a vaccine; a grant from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development worth \$ 2.8 million to provide a new batch of medical equipment and supplies for hospitals in the Gaza Strip; \$ 5 million to support relief efforts related to Rohingya refugees, among others. |
| 40. Greece | <i>Greece aligns with the statement made by the European Union.</i> Cyprus : the report fails to address the responsibility of Turkey, as the occupying power of over a third of the territory of Cyprus, for gross and systematic human rights violations. Denial of the right of thousands of Greek-Cypriots to free movement, massive illegal |

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| | settlement, and systematic destruction of cultural and religious heritage in the occupied area are of great concern. 47 years after the Turkish invasion, many families of the Missing, in Cyprus and in Greece , continue to live with the traumatic uncertainty; the accountability is needed. |
| 41. Belgium | <i>Belgium aligns with the statement made by the European Union.</i> <u>3 threats:</u> 1) persistent blockages in modest funding requests for human rights mechanisms; 2) the relentless attacks on the independence of UN human rights mandate holders; 3) the selective promotion, or even the instrumentalization, of certain fundamental rights, to the detriment of others, such as freedom of expression. |
| 42. Iraq | <u>National efforts:</u> Investigative committees were formed to investigate killings, threats and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, and many violators were referred to the judiciary. Iraq witnessed demonstrations in October 2019 , with the resignation of the previous government and the formation of a new one. Iraq's top priority is to hold transparent, fair and free elections in October 2021, Iraq requested the Security Council to send an electoral observation mission. In Iraqi Kurdistan , peaceful demonstrations are protected by law. |
| 43. Switzerland | <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honduras: high level of attacks against human rights defenders; the recent constitutional change strengthening the ban on abortion. - Afghanistan: the government should double its efforts to prevent torture. - Sri Lanka: need to deal with the past; the additional action from the Council is needed. - Central African Republic: continued violence has detrimental consequences on the civilian population. - Chad: full respect for human rights in the context of the elections should be guaranteed. - Poland: the near-total ban on abortion will have a serious impact on those affected. |
| 44. Slovenia | <i>Slovenia aligns with the statement made by the European Union.</i> <u>Thematic issues:</u> Women's rights: greater risk of contracting the virus; gender-based violence, including domestic violence. Need for policies that include a gender-sensitive response. Rights of older persons: there is a need for a fundamental shift, including by adoption of a legal instrument to promote and protect rights of older persons. |
| 45. Jordan | <u>National efforts:</u> the issue of the Jordanian Trades Union is being considered by the independent Jordanian judiciary and is now in the appeals stage. Jordan is the second country in the world in hosting refugees, in relation to the number of inhabitants. |
| 46. Australia | <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myanmar: security forces should exercise restraint. Immediate release Sean Turnell and Aung San Suu Kyi. - Russia: immediate and unconditional release of Alexei Navalny and other anti-corruption advocates. - Belarus: concern about the use of violence and the absence of free and fair elections. - Hong Kong: continued arbitrary detention of democracy advocates is an attempt to silence the critical voices. - Venezuela and Nicaragua: call for free and fair elections. |
| 47. Ecuador | <u>National efforts</u> to tackle COVID-19: addressing the most vulnerable segments of the population, particularly, women and girls with initiatives "Purple Economy Plan", "Mission Women" project. Ecuador tabled a resolution on guaranteeing equitable and universal access to vaccines. |
| 48. Portugal | <u>Thematic issues:</u> domestic violence, gender equality in the COVID-19 context. |

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| | Portugal will table a resolution on the promotion and protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. |
| 49. Morocco | <u>National efforts</u> : guaranteed access to healthcare, free national vaccination campaign; a new framework law aimed at extension, by 2025, of the social protection benefits for all Moroccans. |
| 50. Maldives | <u>National efforts</u> : Maldives has adopted a new Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up. Juvenile Justice Act has been amended. Maldives will pursue an ambitious target to achieve zero emissions by 2030. |
| 51. Sweden | <p><u>National efforts</u>: Sweden pursues the “Drive for Democracy” and Feminist Foreign Policy. <u>Thematic issues</u>: sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, preventing and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, LGBTIQ persons’ full enjoyment of human rights.</p> <p><u>Country situations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iraq and the Philippines: concern about the silencing, arbitrary arrests, intimidation, harassment and even killings of human rights defenders, journalists, trade union representatives and peaceful protesters. - Hong Kong: peaceful protesters and political opposition candidates face repression. - Tanzania and Cuba: need to safeguard democratic space, including for civil society, dissidents and political opponents, and ensure the right to freedom of expression and opinion. - Yemen: women and girls face particular vulnerability. All parties must protect civilians. - Tigray and elsewhere in Ethiopia: alleged human rights violations and abuses must be fully investigated. |
| 52. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) | <p><u>Thematic issues</u>: country reports before the Council often deviate from the principle of objectivity and non-bias. OHCHR should stand against politicization, selectivity and double standards of human rights.</p> <p><u>Country situations</u>: China: the DPRK fully supports the measures taken by for safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and prosperity, and urges certain countries to refrain from using Xinjiang and Hong Kong related issues to interfere in China’s internal affairs.</p> |
| 53. South Africa | <u>Thematic issues</u> : 20th anniversary of the DDPA; inequality and discrimination; international solidarity and multilateral cooperation; need to leave no one behind; affordable, fair, equitable and timely access to vaccines as supported by the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator. South Africa also calls for the support of a temporary waiver of certain WTO TRIPS obligations. |
| 54. Iran (Islamic Republic of) | <u>Thematic issues</u> : the politicization of human rights; instrumentalization of human rights mechanisms; proliferation of country files in the Council. The urgency of health-care component in dealing with racism and racial discrimination; unilateral coercive measures. |
| 55. Malta | <p><u>Country situations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: prevailing lack of impunity and accountability. - Belarus: political crisis remains alarming; call for the immediate release of all political prisoners. - Sri Lanka: early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation. <p><u>Thematic issues</u>: migration: Malta continues to face several challenges as a frontline State.</p> |
| 56. El Salvador | <u>Thematic issues</u> : the importance of multilateralism; and guaranteeing universal, equal access to vaccines against Covid-19. |
| 57. Norway | <u>Thematic issues</u> : need for multilateral cooperation and a rules-based order; protection of human rights defenders. Ensuring sufficient and timely financing of the UN; ensuring civil society participation in UN mechanisms, without fearing reprisals. Concern about the continuing restrictions, attacks, threats facing human rights defenders, civil society, journalists, media workers, and even health workers. |

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| | <p><u>Country situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colombia: increase in killings of human rights defenders, social leaders and former guerrilla soldiers. - Guatemala: stalled appointments of magistrates for the Courts and the attacks on the Human Rights Ombudsman. - Venezuela: concern on the democratic and humanitarian space in the country. |
| 58. Egypt | <p>When attempting to assess human rights in Egypt, the High Commissioner relied on biased sources promoting an inaccurate descriptions. National efforts should be recognized and technical cooperation strengthened.</p> <p>Venezuela: Egypt values the efforts made by the government.</p> |
| 59. United States of America | <p><u>Country situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USA supports the High Commissioner's continued focus on the deteriorating human rights situations in Belarus, Burundi, China, the DPRK, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Nicaragua, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, and Yemen, among others. The USA will have more to say on several of these country situations throughout the Council session. - El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras: USA reiterates its commitment to working with the governments of to protect human rights, strengthen democratic institutions, and combat corruption and impunity. - Honduras: concern with increased reports of extrajudicial killings of environmental defenders and journalists. - Colombia: authorities should do more to end violence against social leaders, human rights defenders, ex-combatants and to protect its citizens, especially its most vulnerable (indigenous groups, members of racial and ethnic minority communities). |
| 60. Thailand | <p><u>National efforts:</u> providing indiscriminate treatment to all who contracted COVID-19, including migrants. <u>Thematic issues:</u> need for space for constructive dialogue, but ensure that the exercise of one's rights and freedom does not violate the interests of others.</p> |
| 61. Sri Lanka | <p><u>Country situations:</u> the importance of eliminating double standards and politicization in the consideration of human rights issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China: Sri Lanka recognizes China's efforts in promoting economic and social development, safeguarding human rights of people of all ethnic groups, in Xinjiang. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is an inalienable part of China. - Venezuela: Sri Lanka recognizes Venezuela's achievements in guaranteeing rights to free health and education for all including migrants and refugees, and its efforts at combating COVID-19. |
| 62. Spain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Thematic issues:</u> gender equality, rights of women and children. <p><u>County situations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Venezuela: the authorities should fully implement the recommendations of the High Commissioner set out in her previous reports, in particular in relation to the extrajudicial killings committed by the security forces. - Colombia: violence in certain regions and against groups of human rights defenders, social leaders and ex-combatants is one of the main challenges for the implementation of the Agreements with the FARC. - Honduras: the recent constitutional reforms prohibiting abortion in all circumstances are of concern. The Government should continue to combat impunity and corruption, and protect Human Rights Defenders. - Guatemala: sufficient budgetary and staffing of the Presidential Secretariat for Women should be ensured. |
| 63. Zambia | <p>OHCHR should address the pandemic related challenges with the view of narrowing the existing inequalities between countries.</p> |
| 64. Chile | <p>The need for multilateral order and strengthening of multilateral mechanisms, both on the regional and international level.</p> |

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| 65. Algeria | <p><u>National efforts</u>: Algeria supports popular representation, especially youth, promotes civil society, and establishes the ethics of the political process, by combating bribery relentlessly, ensuring transparency at all public levels.</p> <p>Western Sahara: concern about the resumption of armed conflict in the territory of Western Sahara between the parties to the conflict Morocco and the Polisario Front, which requires the establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor human rights and reactivate the technical missions in this region.</p> |
| 66. Albania | The pandemic, along with the suffering and disruption it has wrought, has also created an opportunity to build a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable world. The blueprint exists already: the universal human rights framework, the 2030, the Paris Agreement. |
| 67. United Arab Emirates | <u>National efforts to combat COVID-19</u> : the media played a pivotal role in explaining the paramount importance of taking the vaccine which is free of charge for everyone interested. Since the start of this crisis, the UAE has provided more than 1,700 tons of aid to more than 128 countries, from which about 1.7 million medical workers have benefited. |
| 68. Belarus | <p><u>Country situations</u>: increased bias in the Council's work towards country situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions regarding Xinjiang and Hong Kong in China, or human rights in Russia have been raised unreasonably. OHCHR reports on Venezuela, Eritrea, Sri Lanka and others are unfair. - The problems in the EU region, in the UK and other developed countries should also be addressed. |
| 69. Azerbaijan | The OHCHR should call for Armenia to fulfil its international human rights obligations and the ones stated in the Trilateral Statement. |
| 70. Paraguay | Need for equitable vaccination, access to health care, adequate housing and technology, particularly for the vulnerable groups. |
| 71. Syrian Arab Republic | The High Commissioner's update adopted a subjective narrative on Syria and ignored basic causes of the crisis, particularly terrorism, the role and responsibility of the regional and international parties that sponsored, financed and used terrorism, and the implications of the US , Turkish and Israeli military attacks. The High Commissioner should call for the lifting of unilateral coercive measures |
| 72. Tunisia | <p>Need to ease the debt-burden and financial pressures on developing countries. Tunisia renews its call to the parties to conflict to respond to the Secretary-General's call to stop all forms of fighting and comply with Resolution 2532, which was unanimously adopted by the Security Council in July 2020 at the initiative of Tunisia and France.</p> <p>The Members of the Council should protect the Palestinian people from all forms of discrimination, and implement their right to establish their independent and sovereign state on their land with East Jerusalem as its capital.</p> |
| 73. Luxembourg | <p><i>Luxembourg aligns with the statement made by the European Union.</i></p> <p>The pandemic has revealed and exacerbated structural injustices. The progress made in the last 70 years is threatened in the authoritarian countries.</p> |
| 74. Botswana | Need to harness effective medical treatments and equitable access to affordable vaccines as a global public good, thereby reinforcing the universal protection and enjoyment fundamental human rights. The High Commissioner's report has uncovered the gravity of sexual and gender based violence , harmful and discriminatory practices including child marriages , that should be replaced by protection of girls and women. Delivering justice to the victims of violations requires judicial independence to ensure that the rule of law is upheld, and that perpetrators are held accountable . |
| 75. Uganda | <u>National efforts</u> : since the outbreak of the pandemic the Government of Uganda has prioritized the protection of human life. On 18 November 2020 premeditated violent riots broke out following the lawful arrest of a presidential candidate who repeatedly breached the SOPs. Faced with violent rioters, law enforcement agencies took action and arrested suspects. Regrettably 54 people lost their |

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| | lives. An investigation into each of these deaths is ongoing to ensure accountability. Need to pay attention to the vulnerable groups including refugee, migrants and other persons on the move and in particular their equitable access to treatments and vaccines. |
| 76. Nigeria | <i>Nigeria aligns itself with the statement of the African Group.</i> <u>National efforts:</u> Nigeria has been facing security challenges occasioned by terrorists' activities, armed banditry and other acts of criminality, especially attacks on schools. Nigeria is deeply concerned on the recent abductions of school children in some parts of the country. Nigeria reiterates its commitment to the protection of children against all forms of violence. The Nigerian security forces, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders are working assiduously with a view to addressing the country's security challenges. |
| 77. Turkey | High Commissioner's remarks on Turkey are disappointing and untouched from the realities on the ground. The new law 7262 aims to implement the Security Council Resolutions as well as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on countering the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. All allegations cited against Turkey vis-a-vis Cyprus are categorically rejected. The problem stems from Greek Cypriot administration's and OHCHR's reluctance to communicate and cooperate with the Turkish Cypriot side, even on humanitarian matters. The report ignores the violations against Turkish Cypriots including racially motivated attacks on individuals and Muslim heritage sites. |
| 78. Cyprus (point of order) | <i>In response to the statement made by Turkey:</i> Need to uphold to the United Nations terminology. |
| 79. Afghanistan | In Afghanistan , targeted killings by the Taliban and other terrorists, directed at our journalists, human rights defenders, scholars, and others are in the rise. Brutal targeted killings, using pressure-plate IEDs and sticky bombs continue during the peace negotiations. The perpetrators and the enablers of these deplorable acts should face the full force of national and international justice. Afghanistan values the work of the OHCHR in the country and requests that the capacity of unite in KABUL be further strengthened to carry out independent and impartial monitoring, documentation of the incidents civilian casualties including those of the recent of targeted killings. |
| 80. South Sudan | The global challenges created by COVID-19 require immediate response to effect changes in the economic and social livelihoods in order to promote and protect the human rights and leave no one behind. Distribution of vaccine should to be equitable. South Sudan appreciate Xinjiang 's efforts in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| 81. Cambodia | <u>National efforts:</u> The High Commissioner's report failed to append Cambodia 's renewal of the operational presence of the OHCHR's field office last December, but entertained allegations based on one-sided reports. OHCHR should adhere to the principles of non-selectivity and non-politicization. In Cambodia, vibrant media freedom remains nurtured through the presence of nearly 2,000 traditional and digital media outlets, operating without censorship. Nearly 6,000 registered CSOs operate in the country. All legislative and administrative measures are enforced within the boundaries of the law. |
| 82. Iceland | <u>Country concerns:</u> Ethiopia: human rights violations and abuses and the humanitarian crisis in Tigray are of particular concern. Call for the full and unhindered access to the region, so relief can be brought to those in need and reports of violations and abuses investigated. Sri Lanka: an intensification of discrimination against ethno- religious minorities, with increased surveillance and monitoring of Christian places of worship and government mandated cremation. Algeria: forced closures of Protestant churches and other places of worship, as well as arbitrary application of COVID-19 restrictions. India: Christians and other ethno- religious minorities are being targeted for their beliefs seem to support this worrying trend. |

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| | Nagorno-Karabakh: international humanitarian law must be respected and the provisions of the November cease-fire agreement on the exchange of PoWs and the repatriation of human remains should be fully implemented. |
| 83. Ireland | <i>Ireland aligns with the statement by the European Union.</i> In Ireland : attempts to de-legitimize the democratic elections are worrying. Using the of COVID-19 certain countries attempt to push back on the most fundamental freedoms. The pressure on the civil society is increasing. COVID-19 intensifies vulnerabilities globally. |
| 84. Panama | COVID-19 crisis has resulted in loss of life and livelihoods, increased violence, particularly against women and other vulnerable groups, and hampered access to education and health; and revealed the digital divide and the pre-existing structural causes of inequality and discrimination. Panama agrees with the High Commissioner on the need to adopt a human rights-based approach in COVID-19 response and recovery measures, taking into account the SDGs and being better prepared to face other crises, including the climate emergency. |
| 85. Georgia | The Russia-occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali : the urgent need for access of the OHCHR and international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms to both regions of Georgia where the Russian Federation is exercising effective control as it was unequivocally confirmed by the ECHR judgment. Georgian citizen, Zaza Gakheladze, was shot, wounded and illegally detained by the Russian occupation forces last July. |
| 86. Niger | <u>National efforts</u> : The Nigerien Government took important measures to break the chain of transmission, strengthen the resilience of communities and preserve respect for human rights. These include, among others, relieving the congestion in prisons, support for the resilience of the education system and the reduction of economic impacts in sensitive sectors, and strengthening of assistance to people in vulnerable situations, including internally displaced persons, migrants and refugees. The government has drawn up a plan to vaccinate 47% of the population. |
| 87. Nicaragua | <u>Country situations</u> : Venezuela : Nicaragua recognizes the efforts of Venezuela to collaborate with the International Community and the UN Mechanisms. The increase in illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed against Venezuela affects the human rights of the Venezuelan people. Nicaragua reaffirms its total solidarity with Venezuela and Cuba . |
| 88. Lao People's Democratic Republic | <i>The Lao PDR aligns itself with the statements of the groups it belongs to.</i> <u>National efforts</u> : the rights to freedom of expression of Lao citizen are guaranteed in the Constitution, Article 44, Law on Media and other related laws. However, if a person uses the online media or any type of media to disseminate fake news, hate speech, disinformation against the nation, the organization and individuals, that person will be responsible for his/her actions. <u>Country Situations</u> : - Hong Kong and Xinjiang : these are China's internal affairs. Significant progress has been made in maintaining peace, stability and social order in Xinjiang, which paved the way for economic development and improving the livelihood of the people in Xinjiang Autonomous Region. Laos reiterates its support for "One China Policy" and recognizes Hong Kong as an inseparable part of China in accordance with the "One Country, Two Systems" principle. |
| 89. Vanuatu | Xinjian and Hong Kong in China : the progress already achieved should continue under "One Country Two Systems" guidelines. |
| 90. Burundi | <u>Thematic issues</u> : multilateral cooperation ignored by some countries; unilateral coercive measures imposed. Xinjian and Hong Kong in China : Burundi welcomes the measures taken by China to fight terrorism and violent extremism in the Xinjiang region and promote economic and social development and human rights in the region. The power to legislate on security issues is the |

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| | sovereign functions of each country. Burundi welcomes the adoption and implementation of the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and reiterates its firm attachment to the principle of non-interference. |
| 91. Chad | <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sahel region: security challenges still remain. - China: Chad encourages the policy of respecting the "one country, two systems" principle with respect to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States should be ensured. |
| 92. Slovakia | <i>Associates itself with the statement by the European Union.</i> <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belarus: the Human Rights Council should react to the violations of human rights. - Russia: detention of Alexei Navalny; right to freedom of expression and assembly. - Nagorno-Karabakh: international humanitarian law should be fully respected. |
| 93. Viet Nam | <u>National concerns:</u> The right to freedom of expression should not be misused . The reports misrepresent the reality in Viet Nam. |
| 94. Guinea | <u>National concerns:</u> Human rights are ensured in Guinea, that is why there are no political prisoners. |
| 95. United Republic of Tanzania | <u>National concerns:</u> the national elections held in October 2020 were free and fair; protection of refugees. |
| 96. Kazakhstan | <u>National concerns:</u> the suspensions and administrative charges with regards to NGOs have been lifted. |
| 97. Zimbabwe | <u>Thematic issues:</u> need for multilateral cooperation including the equitable and timely access to safe, efficacious and affordable vaccines by all countries; call for the removal of the unilateral sanctions. |
| 98. Barbados | <u>Thematic issues:</u> need to reenforce multilateralism; climate change and its effect on the Caribbean region and its people. Need to ensure the non-interference in the internal affairs of Sovereign States. Barbados respects China's "one country, two systems" in the Hong Kong region. |
| Statements Made on Behalf of the United Nations Organizations | |
| Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | FAO calls for the governments to focus on the food needs of their vulnerable populations, social protection programmes, keep global food trade going, maintain the domestic supply chain and support local farmers. FAO has developed a COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme in this regard. |
| UN Women | UN Women encourages a COVID-19 response that is inclusive, with women at the table. UN Women's flagship Generation Equality campaign calls for women's right to decision-making in all areas of life. It calls for equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to all forms of violence against women and girls and health-care services that respond to their needs. UN Women is supporting Member States in shaping national action plans for women, peace and security that respond to the pandemic. |
| Statements Made on Behalf of Civil Society Organizations | |
| 1. International Commission of Jurists | Importance of access to justice in the realization of all rights. State failures in ensuring human rights compliant access to COVID-19 vaccines (specifically for Tanzania, Burundi, Eritrea, Madagascar, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica) |

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| 2. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project | Human rights situation in Ethiopia's Tigray region. |
| 3. World Organisation Against Torture | Killings of human rights defenders and pacific protestors in Colombia . Overcrowding in Colombian jails. |
| 4. International Lesbian and Gay Association⁹ | LGBTIQ rights: rise in hatred, discrimination and violence. Aggravated violations of right to health, right to work, right to food and access to adequate housing, secure employment, and to public participation. Exclusion from civic space in pandemic responses. |
| 5. Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos¹⁰ | Denounces Brazil's human rights situation during the pandemic, its ineffective response and unequal access to the vaccine. |
| 6. Right Livelihood Award Foundation | Human rights violations in Western Sahara occupied by Morocco . |
| 7. Human Rights Watch | The need to address global inequalities in basic rights; reform healthcare systems; ensure equitable access to vaccines; lift unnecessary restrictions on civic space; curb authoritarian overreach; and address the impact on marginalized groups. <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laws-of-war violations and serious human rights abuses in Ethiopia's Tigray region. - China's mockery of its obligations as member of the HRC. - Human rights crackdowns in Egypt and Russia. |
| 8. International Federation for Human Rights Leagues | <u>Country situations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violation of fundamental rights in Egypt - Systematic human rights violations in China |
| 9. International Service for Human Rights | Systematic human rights violations in China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turkic peoples held in concentration camps, subject to torture and sterilisation. - Torture of human rights defenders and journalists. - Disappearance of foreign nationals. - Mass detention of Uyghurs. |
| 10. Centre Europe - Tiers Monde¹¹ | Massacre of human rights defenders in Colombia . Effective implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia |
| 11. International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians) | Human rights situation of prisoners : The promiscuity and unsanitary conditions that prevail in most jails have made it impossible to comply with the minimum sanitary rules necessary to prevent the spread of the virus. |

⁹ Joint Statement with: International Service for Human Rights, OutRight Action International, Swedish Federation of LGBT Rights - RFSL

¹⁰ Joint Statement on behalf of the UPR Brazil Coalition

¹¹ Joint Statement with FENSUAGRO, La Vía Campesina, CETIM, FIAN International, Amigos de la tierra internacional

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| for the Abolition of Torture) | |
| 12. African Green Foundation International | Support of a domestically developed accountability and reconciliation process and recognition of the danger of any international intervention which can seriously damage ethnic harmony and the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka . |
| 13. Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship | Attacks against journalists, activists, and other civil society actors worldwide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Cuba: systematic violations of freedom of expression. - In Turkey: government's continued politically motivated assault on civil society. - Deterioration for freedom of expression in certain countries across East Africa (especially in Uganda). |
| 14. Swedish Association for Sexuality Education | Penalization and criminalization of abortion in all instances in Colombia . |
| 15. Il Cenacolo | Human rights defenders imprisoned and killed in Algeria . Human rights violations carried out in Algeria. |
| 16. Oidhaco, Bureau International des Droits Humains - Action Colombie | Human rights violation in Colombia : Massacres of human rights defenders and forced displacements in Colombia in 2020. Extrajudicial killings and sexual violence by public forces. Ineffective implementation of the Peace Agreement. Police brutality on pacific protestors. |
| 17. Friends World Committee for Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discrimination based on migration status and racism. - Call on all States to provide effective COVID-19 vaccines to all regardless of migration status. |
| 18. IDPC Consortium¹² | Human rights situation in the Philippines : Human rights situation related to the anti-drugs campaign. Reimposition of the death penalty for drug offences Extrajudicial killings. Need for drug policies that are evidence- and human rights-based. |
| 19. Center for Justice and International Law | Massive killings of human rights defenders and impunity for these crimes in Colombia |
| 20. Conselho Indigenista Missionário - CIMI | Situation of indigenous people in pandemic in Brazil |
| 21. Caritas Internationalis | Ensuring easy and equal access to the vaccines. Promote the local production of vaccines in Africa, Latin America and Asia within the next six months. Undertake the debt remission of the poorest countries and allocate funds to strengthen their national health systems. |
| 22. Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) | Continued systematic and institutionalised violation of the rights of migrants crossing the Balkan route to Europe. |
| 23. Colombian Commission of Jurists | Massive killings of human rights defenders, forced displacements, and increased sexual violence from public forces in Colombia . |
| 24. Peace Brigades International | Increased vulnerability of human rights defenders (killings, attacks, and criminalized cases) in Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras . |

¹² Joint Statement with Harm Reduction International and NoBox Philippines.

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| 25. VIVAT International (Joint Statement) | Guaranteed provision of vaccines to the indigenous people in Brazil . Ineffective healthcare response by the Brazilian government to protect black and indigenous people's lives during the pandemic. |
| 26. United Nations Association of China | Hong Kong, China : Peaceful protests will definitely come back after COVID, on issues like housing or social welfare, but not on independence, or acts endangering our national security. |
| 27. Presse Embleme Campagne | Devastating impact of the pandemic on press freedom. Covid-19 has a disproportionate effect on the profession of journalism: death of at least 830 journalists in one year due to the coronavirus. |
| 28. American Association of Jurists (behalf of a group of more than 270 organisations) | Systematic and serious violations of human rights and breaches of the International Humanitarian Law committed by the Kingdom of Morocco , the Occupying Power of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara . |
| 29. International Buddhist Relief Organisation | Let Sri Lanka find innovative and pragmatic solutions driven by the domestic context by safeguarding the country's national interest, cultural and religious values guided by the provisions of the Constitution. |
| 30. CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation | In the context of COVID-19 measures, protest rights have been violated and restrictions on freedom of expression continue as states enact overly broad emergency legislation that limits human rights (especially in Sri Lanka, Nicaragua, India, and Myanmar). |
| 31. Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation | Continuing oppression by the Sri Lankan Government against the Tamils including militarization, indefinite detention and surveillance of political prisoners and civil society activists, and Sinhalisation of Tamil areas. |
| 32. ESCR-Net - International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | Unfair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across low-income countries including Uganda which has not received any vaccines yet. |
| 33. International Planned Parenthood Federation | The implementation of a "constitutional shield" against the possibility of legalizing abortion and equal marriage in Honduras , which was approved and ratified last month by the National Congress of Honduras. |
| 34. World Evangelical Alliance | COVID-19 pandemic exacerbation of religiously-motivated stigmatization and violence in many countries especially in India and Sri Lanka . |
| 35. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom | Women human rights defenders' killings , increased femicides during the pandemic, re-integration of women in the framework of the peace agreement in Colombia . |
| 36. International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination | Accountability for unlawful use of force and other violations of international human rights law, specifically towards Palestinian prisoners authorized by the Israeli Ministry of Defense. |

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| 37. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil¹³ | Increased militarization of borders and criminalization of Venezuelan migrants by military forces of Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil. |
| 38. Partners For Transparency | Exacerbation of human rights violations during the pandemic in Palestine. |
| 39. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (Joint Statement) | Arbitrary arrests in Algeria: weaponizing of the pandemic against civil society and the unrelenting criminalisation of fundamental freedoms. |
| 40. Chinese Association for International Understanding | Harmonious environment among ethnic minorities in China. |
| 41. Amnesty International | Frontline workers face reprisals for speaking up to shape or criticise the COVID response, while minorities and marginalised communities have faced further discrimination. Unequal distribution of the vaccines. - Human rights situation in the Tigray region in Ethiopia. - Increased human rights violations in the Philippines over the past months. |
| 42. International Fellowship of Reconciliation | Human rights situation in Eritrea, Colombia and Western Sahara. Increasing cases of criminalization of solidarity with individual cases of people being charged with aiding and abetting illegal immigration because they provide first assistance to migrants or rescue them. |
| 43. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development | Governments across Asia have used COVID-19 pandemic to impose excessive restrictions and legitimise existing restrictions on fundamental freedoms and civic space (these are: India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand , among many others). Ongoing human rights crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. |
| 44. International Youth and Student Movement | Climate change as a major threat to the realization of all human rights for all, for present and future generations. |
| 45. Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH) | Killings of the peace agreement's signatories and of human rights defenders in Colombia. |
| 46. iuventum e.V | The importance of the compilation of the minimum standards and the good practices of different States' response to COVID. |
| 47. Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul¹⁴ | Failure of Sri Lanka to investigate, crimes of Genocide, war crimes and the growing calls by Tamil families , civil society groups and Tamil National Political Party across the North-East for Sri Lanka to be referred to the International Criminal Court. The need to name a special rapporteur on Sri Lanka. |
| 48. Action of Human Movement (AHM) | Sri Lankan successive regime acts of genocide against Eelam Tamils and the killing of more than 147.000 peoples within 8 months. |

¹³ Joint Statement with CDHIC, Conectas, Dejusticia/Movimiento Acción Migrante, Observatorio Ciudadano, Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados Colombia, Servicio Jesuita Refugiados Latinoamérica y el Caribe, CODHES, CAREF

¹⁴ Joint Statement with Association for the Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances

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| 49. Society for Development and Community Empowerment | Sri Lanka: The rally demanding international justice for genocide reiterating the fundamental principles, the Right of Self-Determination and Eezham Tamils' nationhood. |
| 50. Jubilee Campaign | How the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and discrimination . Crackdown on religious minorities especially in Nepal, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Pakistan . |

Rights of Reply

- **United Arab Emirates** (In reply to the statement made by Iran)
- **Cameroon** (In reply to the statement made by the EU)
- **Uganda** (In reply to the statements made by a number of countries regarding the presidential election)
- **Saudi Arabia** (In reply to the statement made by the EU and the High Commissioner)
- **Ethiopia** (In reply to statements made by a number of countries during the General Debate on Item 2)
- **Morocco** (In reply to statements made by a number of countries, including Algeria)
- **India** (In reply to the statements made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC)
- **Cambodia** (In reply to the statements made by Portugal, the EU and France)
- **Cuba** (In reply to the statement made by Sweden)
- **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (In reply to the statement made by the US)
- **Iraq** (In reply to the statement made by Sweden)
- **Philippines** (In reply to statements made by several countries during the General Debate on Item 2)
- **Colombia** (In reply to statements made by several countries regarding the killings of human rights defenders)
- **Brazil** (In reply to statements made by a number of NGOs regarding the management of the COVID pandemic)
- **Armenia** (In reply to statements made by Azerbaijan and Pakistan on behalf of the OIC)
- **China** (In reply to statements made by Australia, Sweden, the US, a number of NGOs and the High Commissioner)
- **Cyprus** (In reply to the statement made by Turkey)
- **Pakistan** (In reply to the statement made by India)
- **Azerbaijan** (In reply to the statement made by Armenia)
- **Iran** (In reply to statements made by the US and France)
- **Venezuela** (In reply to the statement made by Colombia)
- **South Sudan** (In reply to the statement made by the USA)
- **Armenia** (In reply to the last statement made by Azerbaijan)
- **Azerbaijan** (In reply to the last statement made by Armenia)

Full recording of the General Debate on Item 2 is available on the UN WebTV:

[Part 1](#) (26 February 2021, 3:27:50), [Part 2](#) (1 March 2021, 1:18:39),

[Part 3](#) (1 March 2021, 1:00:34), [Part 4](#) (2 March 2021, 1:01:52).