



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 47th SESSION

Organizational Meeting of the 47th Session of the Human Rights Council

7 June 2021

The meeting was presided by **H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan**, President of the UN Human Rights Council. The main objectives of the meeting:

1. Review the draft Programme of Work (living document, available on Extranet)
2. Consider the proposed Extraordinary modalities
3. Share information on draft resolutions and other initiatives

A new Vice-President of the Council from the African Group, **H.E. Ms. Ebyan Mahamed Salah** (Somalia), was elected in order to replace H.E. Mr. Ali Ibn Abi Talib Abdelrahman Mahmoud who, for personal reasons, had to stop performing his duties.

The 47th session is scheduled to take place **from 21 June to 15 July 2021**. For the first time, the June session will **continue into its 4th week** due to the fact that new mandates were created, such as Interactive Dialogues and panel discussions, that require additional meeting hours.

Deadlines:

For states:

The online system of inscription for the list of speakers for all **IDs and Panel discussions** will open on **Tuesday, 15 June, at 4 pm** and will close **24 hours before the meeting** in which the debate is scheduled to start. After this, delegations can still inscribe or withdraw by sending an email to hrclistofspeakers@ohchr.org

- The online system of inscriptions for the adoption of the **UPR outcomes** will open on **Monday, 21 June, at 9 am** and will close on **Thursday, 24 June, at 6 pm**. No inscriptions will be possible after that.
- For **panel debates**: states will need to inscribe ranking the panels in order of priorities.
- The deadline for **draft proposals** to be considered is **Friday, 2 July, at 1 pm**.

For NGOs:

- the list of speakers for **all debates** will open online on **Thursday, 17 June, at 2 pm**.

7 panel discussion will be held during the 47th sessions:

- **High-level panel discussion on the multisectoral prevention of and response to female genital mutilation** (23 June 2021, 10 am-12 pm) – introduced by **Cameroon** on behalf of the group of African states. Confirmed participation of H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso.
- **Panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** (29 June 2021, 4-6 pm) – introduced by **Norway**.
- **Panel discussion on the human rights of older persons in the context of climate change** (30 June 2021, 10 am-12 pm) – introduced by **Viet Nam**.
- **Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women:**
 - o Panel 1: **Violence against women and girls with disabilities** (5 July 2021, 10 am-12 pm) – introduced by **Canada**.
 - o Panel 2: **Gender-equal socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic** (6 July 2021, 10 am-12 pm) – introduced by **Chile**.



-
- **Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal** (7 July 2021, 10 am-12 pm) – introduced by **Greece** on behalf of the main sponsors¹. *Theme: The potential of leveraging sport and the Olympic ideal for promoting human rights for young people.*
- **Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building** – introduced by **Thailand**, on behalf of the main sponsors. *Theme: Technical cooperation to advance the right to education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.*

Programme of Work:

- The session will begin with the presentation of the **Annual Report by the High Commissioner** on Human Rights.
- **No general debate** will be held during the 47th session. The reports of the High Commissioner, Secretary General and the Subsidiary bodies will be considered during the relevant debates of the 48th session.
- The Council will hold **25 interactive dialogues** (IDs) with special procedure mandate holders and mechanisms, **6 interactive dialogues** with the High Commissioner and **1 interactive dialogue** with the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General.
- The Council will adopt **14 outcomes of the UPR** and elect **7 mandate holders of Special Procedures**, including the unforeseen vacancy of the Independent Expert on foreign debt. The concerned regional groups should appoint the members of the **Consultative Group** without delay.

The **three-year Programme of Work** (2021-2023) has recently been updated and posted on Extranet. The **voluntary yearly Calendar for thematic resolutions** is regularly updated by the Bureau before each Council session. The updated Calendar will be posted on Extranet prior to the 47th session. As far as the **country resolutions** are concerned, the delegations should share the initiatives to ensure transparency and predictability of the Council's work.

Draft Resolutions and Other Initiatives:

- **Cameroon**, on behalf of the **African Group**: menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality, elimination of harmful practice of accusation of malicious use of witchcraft.
- **Viet Nam** on behalf the Core Group²: human rights and climate change, with the focus on all persons in vulnerable situations.
- **Cuba**: international solidarity; 2022 Social Forum.
- **Ukraine**: cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights.
- **Pakistan** on behalf of the **OIC**: women rights of Muslim minorities in Myanmar.
- **Brazil** on behalf of the **Core group**³: human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS.
- **United Kingdom** on behalf of the **Syria Core Group**⁴: the situation of human rights in Syrian Arab Republic with the thematic focus on the missing people.
- **European Union**: renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteurs on Belarus and Eritrea.
-

¹ Brazil, China, Congo, Cyprus, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Greece

² Bangladesh, Philippines and Viet Nam

³ Portugal, Mozambique, Thailand, Colombia and Brazil

⁴ France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States



- **Morocco** on behalf of a **Cross-Regional Group**⁵: negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.
- **Azerbaijan**: enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights.
- **Republic of Korea** on behalf of the **Core group**⁶: new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.
- **Mexico**: human rights and migrants, with a focus on vulnerable migrants.
- **Ecuador** together with **Peru**: impact of arm transfers on human rights.
- **Ireland** on behalf of the **Cross-Regional Core group**⁷: civil society space.
- **United Arab Emirates** with **United Kingdom**: realizing the right to equal education by every girl.
- **Estonia** on behalf of the **Core group**⁸: preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.
- **Sweden** on behalf of the **Core group**⁹: human rights on Internet.
- **Canada**: accelerating efforts on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, with a specific focus on women and girls with disabilities.
- **Portugal**: right to education.

Side Events and other Initiatives:

- **8 June**: virtual side event on the detention centre “Isolation” in Donetsk (Ukraine).
- **15 June**: high-level panel on new and emerging technologies (Austria and the Republic of Korea together with Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, and the OHCHR).
- **23 June**: side event on the MeToo movement; side event on the transgender violence (United States)
- **24 June**: side events on human rights in digital era (Switzerland).
- **29 June**: side event on sustainable territorial development (Morocco).
- **29 June**: virtual event on the representation of women in the human rights bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations (Mexico).
- **2 July**: Strengthening the role of the UN system on drug policy (Switzerland).
- **5 July**: Recent developments on peaceful assembly and demonstrations (Switzerland).
- **7 July**: Workshop on the legal aspects of recognizing of the right to environment (Costa Rica together with Morocco, Slovenia, and the Geneva Academy).
- “Economic violence is violence: helping women to get back on their feet” (Israel, together with Argentina, Germany, Kenya, UN Women, an NGO “Women’s spirit”).
- High-level panel discussion on new and emerging technologies (Denmark).
- Sustainable recovery pledge (Denmark and the Core-Group)
- Joint statement on the negative impact of disinformation on human rights as a part of the ID with Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression Donetsk (Ukraine).

Proposed Extraordinary Modalities:

- The 47th session of the Human Rights Council is scheduled to take place in **Room XVIII**.
- State delegations are strongly encouraged to send **pre-recorded video statements** or deliver their statements through live link via the **Zoom platform**.

⁵ Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Poland, United Kingdom, Morocco

⁶ Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Republic of Korea

⁷ Chile, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia

⁸ Colombia, New Zealand, Estonia

⁹ Brazil, Nigeria, USA, Tunisia, Sweden



- State delegations who face technical difficulties, as well as countries concerned with a reports or dialogue, could **exceptionally deliver their statements from Room XVIII**.
- Delegations can raise **points of order** without being in the room by raising hand in Zoom.
- Delegations would be able to exercise their **rights of reply** remotely, in the same manner as during the 46th regular session, by sending a request to hrclistofspeakers@ohchr.org.
- **Special procedures mandate holders, members of investigative mechanisms and panellists** who are unable to travel to Geneva would be strongly encouraged to send pre-recorded video messages and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
- **NGOs** are invited to submit pre-recorded video statements for interactive dialogues, panels and UPR adoptions. The full official name of the NGO should be displayed within the video.
- **Side events** cannot take place inside the Palais des Nations. In case NGOs decide to organize virtual events, information on such events could be listed on the OHCHR civil society webpage along with a statement indicating that the events are not official Council events.
- Delegations would be invited to organize their **informal consultations** and group meetings **virtually** using the WebEx platform. The representatives of the members of the core group of a draft resolution would have the opportunity to lead the virtual informal consultations from Room XXVI or another available room.
- Delegations wishing to organize **virtual informal consultations** and group meetings on the UNOG-provided WebEx platform should contact the relevant focal point within the Council secretariat (Mini Kumar: mkumar@ohchr.org).
- The same **health and safety measures** that were applied during the 46th regular session of the Human Rights Council would continue to be applied in a very strict manner.
- These modalities would apply exclusively to the 47th regular session during the period when COVID-19 restrictions prohibit in-person meetings with more than 100 participants and **would not serve as a precedent**.

Taking into consideration the development of the COVID-19 situation and the Swiss regulations between now and 13 July 2021, the Bureau agreed to keep under consideration the **modalities for voting** and to reconvene to discuss this issue with the view to making a proposal at the end of June.

The Bureau underscored that the proposed extraordinary modalities for the 47th session would be **revisited** should the host country and UNOG restrictions be further eased to the extent that it would be possible for at least one delegate per Member and Observer State as well as a number of International Organizations and NHRI/NGO representatives to attend the session.

H.E. Ms. Keva Lorraine Bain. is serving as a Chair of the **Accessibility Task Force**. There is a focal point on accessibility in the Secretary that can be contacted if necessary.

A need to maintain the climate of trust and safety, avoiding any act of **intimidation or reprisals**, against individual or groups who cooperate or have cooperated with human rights mechanisms at the UN.

Out of **64 reports to be presented** during the 47th session, 38 reports are available in all languages and 20 are available in some languages and will be posted in the coming weeks.

Full video-recording of the Organizational Session (7 June 2021): [UN WebTV](#)