

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner (21-22 June 2021)



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Photo Credit: Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, 47th Session of the Human Rights Council, 22 June 2021. UN Photo by Violaine Martin. Retrieved from UN flickr.

Presentation of the report¹ by the High Commissioner

Addressing the Council on the occasion of its 15th anniversary, **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, referred to the Secretary-General's [Call to Action on Human Rights](#), and echoed his words about the need for a [New Social Contract](#), underpinned by a [New Global Deal](#) of solidarity. She then updated the Council on the analysis and work of her Office to give effect to these initiatives, mentioning, in particular, the force of partnerships across the United Nations, and the need to approach civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as a compelling and mutually reinforcing synergy.

Ms. Bachelet also reminded that policies that build social justice help to develop stronger economies. A number of countries has seen better analysis of the impacts of national laws and policies on people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination:

- **Cambodia:** poverty has doubled during the pandemic, and now affects around 17.6% of the population. A new Country Team Human Rights Strategy will ensure support for rights-based development and pandemic-recovery work.
- **Serbia:** OHCHR human rights advisor, UN staff, Government agencies and civil society undertook an outreach to the Roma residents of more than 700 sub-standard informal settlements across the country to map their most urgent needs.
- **Argentina:** the UN Country Team was mobilised to respond to critical human rights concerns in north-eastern Formosa province. A joint assessment mission has been led by the UN agencies; consultations were initiated with the authorities on a UN joint strategic response programme, with special focus on indigenous and vulnerable people.

OHCHR's **Surge Initiative**, set up in September 2019, played a key role in upgrading the economic expertise of its field teams. A team of field-facing economists worked with UN economic and development personnel on advice for COVID-recovery strategies and the use of appropriate fiscal policies to maximise the resources available to States.

- **Guinea:** due to this technical and financial support, the field presence was able to undertake an assessment of the impact of the mining sector on human rights. Strong cooperation of all stakeholders resulted in ongoing policy reforms in the mining sector and management of natural resources.

¹ [A/HRC/47/54](#): Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Across ten countries in West and Central Africa – **Benin, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo** – OHCHR partnered with UNICEF and UN Women to set up surveys on the specific impacts of the pandemic on women and girls, including intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women – and suggest new ways to solve them.

Together with UNEP and UNDP, OHCHR is **leading interagency efforts to advance the human right to a healthy environment** by developing UN-wide guidance on protection of environmental human rights defenders; participation by children and youth in environmental decision-making; and supporting Country Teams and NHRIs' work in these areas.

- In the **Pacific**, OHCHR's Regional Office and UNEP provided capacity-building training for environmental human rights defenders.

Combatting inequalities and promoting rights to social protection, to health, education, is vital to establishing a New Social Contract. Countries that had invested in social protection have been better able to weather the crisis.

- **Ukraine**: the Human Rights Monitoring Mission developed detailed recommendations for the Government to remedy weak access to social protections – particularly for the poorest and socially excluded – and liaised with the UN Country Team to better integrate social protection in COVID response and recovery. A Country Team-wide policy paper aims to **contribute to the Government's ongoing reforms of the pension system** by ensuring a human rights and gender-based approach.
- In **Madagascar**, with the national Mining Code and related mining taxation processes undergoing revision in Parliament, OHCHR's Human Rights Advisor produced policy recommendations to raise additional revenues from mining companies to combat extreme poverty and contribute to sustainable development, including of local communities.

It is essential that the entire UN Country Team work with the **international financial institutions** to ensure that they fully uphold human rights in their financing and conditionalities.

- **Lebanon**: OHCHR has worked closely with the Country Team and national partners to raise concern about the impact of the economic crisis, pandemic and Beirut Port explosion on people's ability to meet basic needs. A UN Country Team Position to the IMF was prepared which proposed reform proposals through a strong human rights lens, insisting on the rights and needs of people in situations of vulnerability.

Ms. Bachelet reminded that, in her global update to the Council in February 2021, she had outlined aspects of the human rights situation in Algeria; Brazil and other countries of the Amazon and Pantanal regions; Cambodia; Chile; China; Comoros; Ecuador; Egypt; Ethiopia; Guinea; Haiti; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Jordan; Kashmir on both sides of the Line of Control; Kazakhstan; Lao PDR; Libya; Malawi; Mali; the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone; Pakistan; Peru; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Sudan; Syria; Tanzania; Thailand; Turkey; Uganda; the United States of America; Vietnam; and Yemen, as well as her concerns on action taken against organisations that protect migrants' rights in European countries, notably Hungary and Croatia. She re-affirmed her readiness to respond to any queries in follow-up to her February statement during the interactive dialogue.

She further update the Council on a few recent issues of significant concern, noting also that the situations in **Georgia, Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Ukraine** and **Venezuela** will be further addressed during this session, and that the situation in the **Occupied Palestinian Territory** was recently discussed in a special session.

Afghanistan: sharp increase in violence and civilian harm. The recent attack on a school in a Hazara area of Kabul – which killed 85 children – was especially shocking. In the six months since talks began between the Government and the Taliban, civilian casualties increased by 41% compared to the same period last year. The withdrawal of international forces is creating fear for the future – particularly among women, minority communities, human rights defenders and journalists. All parties should resume the stalled peace talks and to urgently implement a ceasefire to protect civilians. The independent role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission must be protected. The Council should increase its monitoring and to consider mechanisms for an effective prevention response.

Belarus: the situation continues to deteriorate, with severe restrictions on civic space. OHCHR continues to receive numerous allegations of arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment. OHCHR's examination of the situation in Belarus, pursuant to Resolution 46/20, is underway. Regrettably, the Government has chosen to discontinue the presence of OHCHR Senior Human Rights Adviser in Minsk.

Chad and Mali: recent non-democratic and unconstitutional changes in government, represent a significant challenge to human rights. The work to fight impunity should be strengthened; democratic transition processes should be fully participatory and inclusive; and both Chad and Mali should undergo a swift and full return to constitutional order.

China: a year since adoption of the National Security Law in Hong Kong SAR, on which OHCHR has expressed serious concerns. The upcoming trials will be an important test of independence for Hong Kong's judiciary. The High Commissioner continues to discuss with China modalities for a visit to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and hopes this can be achieved this year.

Colombia: nationwide protests have been ongoing since 28 April. From 28 April to 16 June OHCHR registered allegations of 56 deaths in the context of the protests – mainly in the city of Cali – as well as 49 alleged victims of sexual violence. OHCHR is also documenting human rights abuses by non-State actors and the effects of sustained roadblocks on human rights. High Commissioner welcomed the President's announcement of a zero tolerance policy for abuses by security forces. The full implementation of the Peace Agreement, including support for the historical transitional justice process, remains key in response to the current unrest.

Tigray region of Ethiopia: continued reports of serious violations of international humanitarian law and gross human rights violations and abuses against civilians by all parties to the conflict, including extrajudicial executions; arbitrary arrests and detentions; sexual violence against children and adults; and forced displacement. Credible reports indicate that Eritrean soldiers are still operating in Tigray and continue to perpetrate violations of human rights and humanitarian law. The humanitarian situation is dire, with reports of denial of humanitarian access in some localities, and looting of aid supplies by soldiers. An estimated 350,000 people are threatened by famine. The joint **investigation** with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in Tigray is underway, with teams on the ground since 16 May. The work is expected to conclude in August, and the findings and recommendations will be made public. Many parts of Ethiopia record alarming incidents of deadly ethnic and inter-communal violence and displacement.

Haiti: political turmoil continues, linked in part to disagreement about the organization of a referendum on a new Constitution, and the organization of elections in September. The authorities should guarantee the right to vote under secure conditions. The police reportedly did not intervene during a number of recent clashes between criminal groups in Port-au-Prince, which led to at least 50 deaths, the displacement of more than 13,000 people, and have aggravated already very limited access to basic services. The High Commissioner strongly condemned violent attacks against the Haitian National Police, with the deaths of 26 police officers since January.

Mexico: the high level of political violence was reported in the electoral context. At least 91 politicians and members of political parties – among them 36 election candidates – were killed during the electoral period which began in September 2020. There were also a number of other life-threatening attacks and threats against

politicians, their supporters, and civil servants engaged in election work. Political parties across the spectrum were affected, and women faced gender-based violence including sexual violence and smear campaigns. It is vital to ensure accountability for these acts and to guarantee their non-repetition. The High Commissioner welcomed the recent judgment of the Supreme Court of Mexico accepting urgent action recommendations of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances as legally binding on the authorities.

Mozambique: the growing conflict in the North, grave abuses of human rights by armed groups include the brutal killing of civilians, sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, child abductions and exploitation. Women and girls are reportedly particularly targeted. Serious human rights violations are committed by State security forces, supported by private security companies. Almost 800,000 people, including 364,000 children, have been forced to flee their homes by the violence, and face growing food insecurity. While there is a lack of effective mechanisms for oversight and accountability, it is important that all alleged violations, whether by private or public actors, be investigated and prosecuted. Killings and harassment of human rights defenders are alarming. The President of Mozambique has recently welcomed the opportunity to strengthen collaboration and engagement with the OHCHR and has pledged to address the human rights situation.

Russian Federation: Legislation restricting the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association should be brought in line with international human rights norms. The authorities should end labelling ordinary individuals, journalists, and NGOs as “extremists”, “foreign agents” or “undesirable organizations”.

Sri Lanka: further Government measures perceived as targeting Muslims continue, and so does the harassment of Tamils, including in the context of commemoration events. Recent appointments to the Office of Missing Persons and Office for Reparations, and steps to discourage investigations into past crimes, are further undermining victims' trust. Recent counter-terrorism regulations – which include the listing and/or prohibition of more than 300 Tamil and Muslim groups and individuals for alleged support of terrorism – do not advance reconciliation. Deaths in police custody continue. A thorough, prompt and independent investigation should be conducted. OHCHR will continue to engage with the Government.

Philippines: OHCHR is close to finalising the UN Joint Programme on human rights with the Government of the Philippines. The Government has taken steps in its internal review of alleged police killings. It is important that re-investigation of cases produces meaningful results. It is important to protect and ensure the full participation of civil society and the independent national human rights institution. The High Commissioner will update the Council further on this situation in September.

Interactive Dialogue: Statements by States

Costa Rica (on behalf of 59 states ²)	- Human rights situation in Nicaragua , persistent impunity for human rights violations since April 2018.
Cameroon (on behalf of the Group of African States)	The African Group encourages the High Commissioner to pay particular attention to the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the right of access for all to a safe, timely, effective COVID-19 vaccine; - the search for a fair and lasting solution to the debt crisis and related issues; - the effective and efficient monitoring of issues related to racism.
Norway (on behalf of a Cross-regional group of states ³)	- Fundamental pillars of democracy are being openly challenged by a number of States.
Netherlands (on behalf of 24 states ⁴)	- Human rights situation in Iraq and the need to ensure rights of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression and media freedom.
Egypt (on behalf of the Group of Arab States)	- The need for the Council and its mechanisms to adhere to the principles of universality, impartiality and objectivity , and to avoid selectivity and politicization in order to preserve its credibility.
Uruguay (on behalf of a group of countries ⁵)	- Importance of technical assistance and integration of human rights components in the Peace Missions.
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russian Federation: systematic crackdown on fundamental freedoms, political opposition, human rights defenders, independent civil society and media. Politically motivated sentencing of the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny. - Belarus: continuing deterioration of the situation, massive repression and human rights violations, systematic use of torture and dire detention conditions, reported cases of enforced disappearance; forced landing of Ryanair flight in Minsk and the detention of Raman Pratasevich. - China: call to respect human rights in Xinjiang and in Tibet, to allow access to Xinjiang for the UN High Commissioner. Call to act in accordance with international commitments, including with respect to Hong Kong.

² Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

³ Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italia, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Vanuatu.

⁴ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

⁵ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nicaragua: International human rights bodies must be authorised to return to Nicaragua, including the OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Call for the urgent release of all political prisoners and for ensuring conditions for a credible, inclusive and transparent electoral process. - Cameroon: grave human rights violations and abuses committed by both state and non-state actors in Cameroon especially in the North-West, South-West and the Far North regions. - Ethiopia: humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate since the outbreak of the armed conflict in Tigray. Support the joint investigation of OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. - Myanmar: deterioration of human rights situation since the military coup. We call for an inclusive dialogue of all relevant stakeholders, with the key role of ASEAN. - Lebanon: the authorities should deliver on their commitment to an impartial, credible, transparent and independent investigation, into the cause of the explosion in Beirut. - Saudi Arabia: continuous application of the death penalty, with the number of death penalties increasing in 2021. Saudi Arabia should implement the Royal Decree adopted last year limiting the use of death penalty for juveniles. Concerns about restrictive measures against human rights and women activists. - Turkey: as an EU candidate country and long-standing member of the Council of Europe, Turkey is expected to apply the highest democratic standards and practices; including by implementing the judgements of the ECHR.
Netherlands (on behalf of the countries of the Benelux ⁶)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condemn all forms of intimidation and reprisals against civil society actors.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the Core Group on Sri Lanka ⁷)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sri Lanka: lack of progress in addressing the legacies of war and to protecting human rights, including for those from religious minorities. Criminal proceedings against individuals pursuing some emblematic cases. Call for former CID director Shani Abeysekera's safety to be ensured. Deeply concerned about the ongoing use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act; the recent intention to introduce a rehabilitation process lacking adequate judicial oversight; restrictions on memorialization; and concerned over appointments to the Office on Missing Persons.
China (on behalf of a group of countries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseless accusations by certain countries using human rights as a means to interfere in the internal affairs of others, including for using human rights as an excuse for military interventions and using of universal coercive measures, while turning a blind eye to their own serious human rights problems. - The High Commissioner and OHCHR should carry their duties in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141 and within the framework of the UN Charter, respecting the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of states.

⁶ Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

⁷ Canada, Germany, North Macedonia, Malawi, Montenegro and the UK

Haiti (on behalf of 32 states ⁸)	- Support for the full sovereignty of Morocco over its Saharian provinces.
Timor-Leste (on behalf of Geneva support group for Western Sahara – a cross-regional group of states ⁹)	- The resumed armed conflict in the Non Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara is the source of additional widespread and serious violations of human rights and breaches of International Humanitarian Law rules in the illegally Occupied Territory.
China (on behalf of a group of countries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The true democracy brings political stability, social progress and well-being of the people, and contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights. - States should practice true multilateralism and enhanced cooperation instead of creating divisions and confrontation.
Russian Federation (on behalf of like-minded countries ¹⁰)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regret the increased practices by the OHCHR and HRC Special Mandate Holders to use the abusive and disrespectful language in its public statements and news releases. - Calling ordinary appointment procedure of the experts by Fact-Finding Mission goes far beyond the High Commissioner's credentials. - Request the High Commissioner and OHCHR to provide the Special Mandate Holders with additional advanced courses and training on the UN Staff Rules and Regulations and the IB package, in particular the Code of Conduct, in order to instill them a proper knowledge of the existing rules and accepted language norms.
Belarus (on behalf of a group of countries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet related issues are China's internal affairs that brook no interference by any external forces. - Oppose politicization of human rights and double standards.
China (on behalf of a group of countries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights violations against indigenous peoples in Canada, and the recent discovery of the remains of more than 200 children in a mass grave at a former residential school Residential School in Canada. - Discrimination of migrants in Canada, and inhuman treatment of them in the detention centres. - Concerned over the illegal killings of civilians by Canadian overseas military servicemen and systemic racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia within Canada. - Canada has also repeatedly used human rights as an instrument to promote its political agenda.
Canada (cross-regional statement on behalf of more than 40 countries ¹¹)	- Gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region . Credible reports indicate that over a million people have been arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang; the widespread surveillance is disproportionately targeting Uyghurs; reports of torture, forced sterilization, sexual and gender-based violence, forced separation of children from their parents by authorities, and forced labour.

⁸ Morocco, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, The Maldives, United Arab Emirates, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Dominica, Zambia, Equatorial-Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Yemen.

⁹ Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cuba, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

¹⁰ Belarus, Burundi, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela.

¹¹ Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine, US.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urge China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers, including the High Commissioner, and to urgently implement the CERD's 8 recommendations related to Xinjiang. - Deeply concerned about the deterioration of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong under the National Security Law and about the human rights situation in Tibet.
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of placing SDGs and human rights-based economic recovery efforts as a top priority, especially in developing countries. - The State of Qatar intends to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, on 23-27 January 2022. - The State of Qatar has pledged to provide support to the High Commissioner for the period from 2021 to 2023.
Liechtenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomes the OHCHR's tireless efforts and the important work of the special procedures. Reiterates its full support for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office.
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recently, the remains of children were located near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. Canada has historically denied the rights of Indigenous peoples through assimilationist policies and practices. Indigenous peoples still face systemic racism, discrimination, and injustices. - Canada remains steadfast in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and addressing the issues identified in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. It is also committed to supporting survivors, their families, communities, and all those impacted by the legacy of residential schools.
Cuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impartiality and universality in the treatment of human rights must prevail in the work of the OHCHR. - Concern about the execution of actions under the so-called prevention agenda, which is highly susceptible to politicization and selectivity, as well as largely dependent on political interests and financing from developed countries.
Luxembourg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of a visit by the High Commissioner to the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China. - Economic, social and cultural rights form an indivisible whole with civil and political rights. - Concerns about democratic retreat and civic space in many countries, such as Russia or Cambodia. - Ethiopia and Eritrea should cease violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including actions aimed at starving the civilian population.
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support OHCHR, Germany has increased its voluntary contribution to 11.5 million USD, 50% un-earmarked. - Commended the safe and effective work of the Council and the Treaty Bodies during the pandemic. - Concerned about the situation of human rights in a number of countries including Belarus, China, Myanmar, Syria and occupied parts of Ukraine, which will be referred to separately. - Egypt: human rights defenders continue to be harassed. - Ethiopia's Tigray region: grave and widespread human rights violations, including SGBV, are deeply worrisome. - Russia: repression and persecution of civil society activists, including Alexey Navalny. - Illegally annexed Crimea and occupied parts of eastern Ukraine: people's freedom is restricted by a foreign power. - Venezuela: people deserve that their country finally embarks on a credible path to a democratic future. - In DPRK: the suffering of the people at the hands of a merciless regime continues.

Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep belief in the universality and interdependence of human rights, and constructive dialogue among all countries. - Cannot accept principles that contradict the values of their culture and the teachings of our Islamic religion. - Strongly condemns the Israeli forces' continued occupation of Palestinian lands - Concerned about the spread of "Islamophobia", hate speech, discrimination and violence.
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The distribution and access to vaccines for COVID-19 must be transparent, equitable, universal and timely. - China: reaffirms the strict adherence to the principles of International Law, including respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in internal affairs, and reiterates its recognition of the "one China" principle.
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts: in May 2020, the right to use of the Slovenian, Hungarian and Italian sign languages in areas with official language minority communities have been enshrined in the Slovenian constitution. Recent amendments to the Penal Code have redefined sexual consent in line with the concept that "only yes means yes".
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern over the increased restrictions to the freedom of expression, assembly and association in the world, including the arrests of human rights defenders and journalists in Bangladesh, Iraq and Iran; ongoing restrictions in Russian Federation; excessive use of force during the demonstrations in Colombia. Right to peaceful assembly in Hong Kong should be respected. Excessive use of force in the Jau prison in Bahrain. In Afghanistan the security situation is increasingly unstable, the situation of minorities, such as the Hazara community, is worrisome. In Nicaragua, the November elections should be fair and free. Concerns over the hostilities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strongly condemned the coups d'état in Mali and Myanmar. - Myanmar, Belarus and Nicaragua: call for the immediate and unconditional release of the arbitrarily detained, including journalists. - Lebanon: the fight against impunity in Lebanon is a fundamental priority. - In the Middle East, only the two-state solution will allow a lasting response to the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians and Israelis. - Independent international observers, including the High Commissioner, should have free, effective and unimpeded access to Xinjiang. - Central African Republic: the independent expert must enjoy all the security essential to the implementation of his mandate.
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights should not be politicized to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states or for naming and shaming. - National efforts by Viet Nam in combating the COVID-19 pandemic while ensure effective enjoyment of fundamental human rights.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	<p>High Commissioner's report on the work of the OHCHR acknowledges joint and fruitful work with UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Global Study on the role of NHRIs in COVID-19; - developing national action plans to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in more than 15 countries; - the Checklist for a human rights-based approach to socio-economic country responses to COVID-19; - the work at national level in South Sudan, the DRC, Uzbekistan, and countries of Central Asia. <p>UNDP's new Strategic Plan supports a rights-based, green and inclusive recovery and closer inter-agency collaboration.</p>
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appreciates the continued technical assistance and capacity building support to ensure the ongoing functioning of its human rights institutions, particularly on business and human rights during the reporting period. - National efforts of Sierra Leone's: response to the COVID-19 is consistent with national and international human rights obligations.

Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct concepts and terminologies that are applicable in a particular national context should be used. Respect for socio-cultural and historical diversity and territorial integrity is fundamental. - Call for the OHCHR to work in a fair and objective manner, guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive dialogue and cooperation.
State of Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disappointed that the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel has not been addressed during the High Commissioner's presentation.
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is paramount that vaccines are made available universally and without discrimination, as public health goods. - Portugal's multilateral efforts: presidency of the Council of the EU; the Social Summit, in May 2021 in Porto. - Fully supports the international recognition of the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The practice of politically motivated arbitrary arrest, detention, sentencing of foreign nationals. - Myanmar: call on the military regime to refrain from further violence, engage in dialogue, release all those arbitrarily detained and return Myanmar to the path of democratic transition. - China: support the High Commissioner's request to visit Xinjiang, call on China to allow access to investigate the numerous and credible reports of human rights violations against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. - Australia will speak separately on human rights situations in Tigray, Syria, Belarus, Venezuela and Eritrea.
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New technologies and digital spaces will provide better means for monitoring, reporting abuse and supporting human rights defenders. - As the Chair of the Freedom Online Coalition, Finland also believes that the Internet provides a unique platform for individuals to exercise their rights more fully, and to seek, receive and impart information through any media and regardless of frontiers.
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 pandemic has hit hard the socio-economic development, particularly, of the developing countries. - Realization of ODA commitments by the developed countries is crucial for a sustainable and inclusive recovery. - A human-right based approach towards COVID-19 vaccination must be adopted. - Migrants are disproportionately affected by the pandemic; OHCHR should play an active role to ensure migrants' equal right to vaccines.
Costa Rica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of advancing in the recognition of the human right to a healthy, clean, safe and sustainable environment. - Concerns regarding the persistence of forms of racism towards different populations.
Republic of Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spikes in violence and discrimination based on race, including those against Asians. The pandemic must not justify hatred and stigma for any race or group of persons.
Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts: Fiji ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict in March 2021.
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belarus: massive repression has created a climate of fear in general public. Interception, arrest and alleged torture of journalist Raman Pratasevich. Call for immediate release of all those unlawfully or arbitrarily detained, including journalists, human rights defenders and activists. Independent and transparent investigation into all reported human rights violations is essential.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russian Federation: recent legislative initiatives signed into law contribute to targeting independent voices and further curtail political pluralism in Russia. Dismayed by the sentencing of Russian opposition figure Aleksei Navalny and call for his release. - Myanmar: strongly condemns the military coup and the following violence against peaceful protesters and civilians. Reiterates its call for the rule of law and the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained. - Nicaragua: concern about the crackdown on political opponents, independent media and civil society. We call for the immediate release of dissidents and political contenders.
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to recognize and commend the resilience efforts of African countries and welcome the support of partners. - National efforts: the President of Senegal has launched several calls for at three levels: 1. a reform of the rules for financing and granting export credits; 2. a new spirit of partnership; 3. new paradigms for a "new deal", in the absence of a Marshall Plan for Africa.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice of politicization, selectivity, double standards and confrontation persists in the international human rights arena. - The human rights situation of the West, including the deep-rooted racism, police brutality, gun-related crimes, maltreatment of minorities or migrants, human trafficking and sexual violence, torture, has not become a subject of proper debate at the Council. - Japan: committed unprecedented crimes against humanity in the past such as forced abduction of Koreans and forced sexual slavery. - The DPRK strongly urges HRC and OHCHR to uphold the guideline of its work as well as the principles of respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. - National efforts of the DPRK to fully promote and protect human rights. - The DPRK urges certain countries to refrain from using Xinjiang and Hong Kong related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of expression and the media must be ensured and oppression of human rights defenders and journalists must be prevented. - Japan will express its position on specific human rights situations in the relevant sessions. - This month marks the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council's endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It is increasingly important to promote and protect human rights in business activities, including in supply chains. - Japan has formulated its National Action Plan in order to enhance the promotion of human rights. - The issue of abductions by DPRK is a top priority of the Japanese Government. Japan counts on the understanding and cooperation of the international community for the resolution of this issue.
Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of joint collective efforts to combat the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as of adherence to the principles of international cooperation.
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a member of the UN Security Council, Estonia has stressed the importance of promotion and protection of human rights as a crucial tool for conflict prevention and early warning. - Prevention together with accountability is the key in avoiding deterioration of human rights.
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is regrettable that the Office did not succeed in visiting Nagorno-Karabakh. The spokesperson of the UN Secretary General has clarified that Azerbaijan hindered UN access to Nagorno-Karabakh. - Azerbaijan refuses to repatriate Prisoners of War. The extrajudicial execution of Armenians identified by the High Commissioner and the Special Procedure Mandate Holders, remain unaddressed.

Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts: Iraqi government cooperates with the OHCHR in Baghdad and provides the necessary facilities and support in order to carry out the mandate entrusted to it. One aspect of cooperation is the establishment of workshops on draft laws that the Iraqi government intends to enact, such as the draft law on the protection of diversity, the draft law on protection from domestic violence, and promotion of human rights in the context of combating terrorism. - Continuing cooperation with the OHCHR requires efforts to build sustainable trust, and this matter is subject to adherence to the human rights principles of universality, impartiality, non-selectivity, and depoliticization.
Syrian Arab Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interventions in the internal affairs of states, and resorting to imposing unilateral coercive measures have led to the creation of mobile humanitarian crises, increasing rates of poverty, unemployment and social and economic disparities within and between states. - Welcomes the High Commissioner's renewed calls for universal access to vaccines as a global public good, debt relief and the lifting of sanctions to support countries in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and enabling health systems to combat the pandemic. - The discussions and reports of the Council should adhere to the principles of universality, impartiality and objectivity.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>(delivered by an Uyghur scholar)</i>: the development and progress of Xinjiang's human rights cause are obvious to everyone around the world, and have received positive comments from the international community. No anti-China forces can undermine the excellent situation of stability and unity in Xinjiang.
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation, solidarity, multilateralism and cooperation with civil society is needed. - Concern about the budgetary restrictions, directly affecting the work on the ground by the High Commissioner.
Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about the rise of terrorism and violent extremism. - The recent attack on the night of June 4 to 5, 2021 in Solhan, northern Burkina Faso, killed 132 women, men, children and the elderly.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts: India has undertaken targeted policy interventions to empower the vulnerable sections of society in order to improve their access to education, housing, healthcare, social protection, sanitation, water supply and to provide them good governance and opportunities for development. - India has made a voluntary contribution of USD 400,000 to UN Trust Funds, with a hope that this will ensure effective participation from SIDS and LDCs in the Council.
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myanmar: support to the role ASEAN is playing in finding a lasting solution to this crisis. - Occupied Palestinian territories: the need for a meaningful two-state solution. - Belarus: continuous suppression of civil society. Call for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners. - As a frontline State Malta continues to face several challenges in the area of migration, that to a large extent are the result of inadequate solidarity and support. Malta continues to take our obligations under international human rights law very seriously. - Shares the High Commissioner's concern on the effects of Covid-19, on focus on climate change, and pushing for a green recovery.
Republic of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of human rights in the digital age and Internet, and implement the international framework in cyberspace. Human rights should stay in the core of governments' frameworks for the use of digital technologies. Supports the creation of Hub for the human rights and digital technology. - Appreciation for the OHCHR's technical assistance and support in strengthening capacities.

Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts of the Maldives to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. - China has been an important partner; importance of mutual respect, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Maldives reiterates its strong commitment to the “One China” policy.
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Algeria: massive violations continue. - National efforts: Morocco has maintained the pace of implementation of the National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights, with important achievements in this regard.
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of technical cooperation and capacity building projects, provided that they are commensurate with the actual needs of the beneficiary countries. - The need for the Council's deliberations and the activities of the Special Procedures to be objective, free from selectivity, politicization and double standards.
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is essential that human rights and gender equality are at the core of national strategies. - Civil society should have a prominent role in both pandemic response and post-pandemic rebuilding. It is unacceptable that those who seek to defend fundamental rights are exposed to threats and violence. The worrying trend of restrictions and attacks against human rights defenders, civil society and media, must be reversed. - The OHCHR, together with the Ethiopian Commission for Human Rights, plays an important role in investigating alleged human rights violations in Tigray. The human rights situation in Tigray should be placed on the formal agenda of the Council.
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomes the holding of the 30th extraordinary session of the HRC and attaches the utmost importance to the results of the work of the Fact-Finding Mission. Invites the High Commissioner to publish the updated database of companies involved in activities directly or indirectly related to the Israeli occupation settlements. - Situation of refugees from Western Sahara has not been addressed. The right to self-determination of the Saharawi people must be protected and that the decolonization process must be finalized. OHCHR should send an observation mission, to resume technical missions and to implement a technical cooperation program with the Polisario Front.
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing instrumentalization of human rights and selective approaches. A tendency to normalize certain protracted human rights situation, such as in Occupied Palestine, and systematic racism and racial discrimination in Western countries; or to pass over certain other cases, such as war crimes in Afghanistan by NATO forces or mass killings of indigenous children in Canada. - Vaccine nationalism shows how far we are from the human-rights approach. - Intensifying universal coercive measures against huge populations in the developing countries – crisis of solidarity.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The insistent claim of some States to instrumentalize human rights in order to criminalize developing countries is worrying. - Xinjiang: object of illegal unilateral coercive measures that violate the right of its people to development and the highest possible welfare. - Call for the Office to strengthen and prioritize cooperation on human rights, as well as the fight against unilateral coercive measures.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts of the Lao PDR to ensure progressive realization of the SDG and human rights obligations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hong Kong and Xinjiang related issues are China's internal affairs. Reiterates the Lao PDR' support for "One China Policy". A significant progress has been made in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and social order in Xinjiang.
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kyrgyzstan supports the aspiration of the international community to conduct constructive interaction in order to provide technical assistance to states as the main bearers of obligations to protect human rights. - International human rights mechanisms should not be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of the state, and should be considered in a global context based on the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-politicization.
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Egypt looks forward to strengthening cooperation with the OHCHR with regard to technical cooperation and capacity building programs. - There is no international consensus on the application of the death penalty. Egypt regrets that the OHCHR has adopted a non-neutral vision in this regard. The delegation also regrets the use of some controversial and non-consensual terms in the reports.
United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome the High Commissioner's work on Belarus, Burundi, China, the DPRK, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen, among others. - Urge the High Commissioner to speak against atrocities in Xinjiang, China. - Condemn Belarus's detention of Raman Pratasevich. Call for his release – and of all political prisoners unjustly detained. - Deeply concerned by the HR abuses in Tigray, Ethiopia. Support the joint OHCHR / ECHR investigation. - Condemn the military coup in Myanmar and call for cessation of violence. - The strongest support for the work of Special Procedures and the OHCHR's support to their work.
Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reaffirm the principles that guide the work of the Council – principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality, transparency and justice – including when discussing the issues related to human rights situation in China.
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turkey: the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention is troubling. - Belarus: the recent state hijack of the Athens-Vilnius flight indicates the complete disregard for human rights and international law. - Libya: the presence and actions of foreign forces, fighters and mercenaries and the disregard for basic principles of international law hinder efforts to build stability.
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asked the High Commissioner, whether the OHCHR is considering to adapt its functioning to some new ways of operation that were "imposed" on us by COVID-19 restrictions.
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledges the support provided by the OHCHR in the preparation of Namibia's national report for its third cycle UPR and thanks for the support in preparing reports for the treaty bodies. - Calls on the Office to resume its technical missions, and to regularly update the Council on situation of human rights in Western Sahara. - Urge the Office to always try and publish all mandated reports in a timely manner: the report requested by resolution 43/1 on human rights and people of African Descent has not yet been published by the Office.
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks you for the technical assistance provided to South Africa in the past year. - Reiterates that abuse of the agenda of the Council for political gains, in a selective manner and with double-standards runs counter to the founding principles of the Human Rights Council.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The delegation encourages members of the Council to have a victim-centered approach to human rights.
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeting and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, including in Belarus, Turkey, Iran and Egypt. - Myanmar: repression and violence against peaceful protests. - Russian Federation: the ruling that organizations related to Alexei Navalny as “extremist” is a further alarming step towards a shrinking space for civil society and the outlawing of a genuine political opposition. - China: recent erosion of democratic elements of the electoral system in Hong Kong; arrests of pro-democracy activists and politicians. Reiterate previously expressed concerns regarding Xinjiang. - Tigray: reports on serious violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law. Encouraged that the joint mission of OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has started its operations.
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latvia is a staunch supporter of free, independent, responsible and pluralistic media. - Many States continue to restrict and censor the media, and persecute, arrest, detain, torture and even kill journalists and media workers. - States must do their utmost to prevent violence, threats and attacks against journalists and ensure accountability for crimes committed.
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Azerbaijan appreciates cooperation of OHCHR with the Office of the Ombudsperson of Azerbaijan, Bar Association of Azerbaijan, and Baku State University. Azerbaijan has increased its unearmarked voluntary contribution to OHCHR’s budget. - Mines planted by Armenia in Azerbaijan, continue to threaten lives of population of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan calls upon the High Commissioner to urge Armenia to immediately hand over maps of minefields to Azerbaijan. - Issues brought to the attention of the Council, including those related to China, must be approached in full conformity with the principles of respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states.
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite Sri Lanka’s continuous efforts to present accurate facts to the OHCHR, none of this is reflected in the statements that are made by the OHCHR on Sri Lanka. The references to Sri Lanka made by the High Commissioner are based on inaccurate and misleading information. Owing to the modalities of the current session with no general debates and extremely limited speaking time, the Government of Sri Lanka will not get the space to effectively respond to the allegations contained in the High Commissioner’s statement. - Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet related matters are China’s internal affairs that brook no interference by external parties. - Commends China’s efforts in promoting economic and social development, maintaining social stability and safeguarding human rights of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang; and supports China’s implementation of the “one country, two systems” policy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomes the level of cooperation established with the OHCHR in Sudan. - National efforts: Sudan declared its agreement to accede to the Convention against Torture, and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the CEDAW. It also ratified the Freedom of Association Agreement and the Protocol on Forced Labor.
Belarus	<p>Destructive tendencies in the work of the Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inadmissibility of using disrespectful terminology in relation to UN member states, especially in news reports. Secretariat and Special Procedures mandate holders must remain neutral and maintain a respectful dialogue; - increasing loss of autonomy of the Office in its relations with States. OHCHR is a conductor of EU approaches and policies, including towards Belarus;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasingly pronounced nature of double standards.
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shares the concerns by the High Commissioner about rising inequality, and increasing pressures on democratic and civic space. - Will make statements under the relevant IDs on the human rights situation in Belarus, Myanmar and Occupied Palestinian Territory. - Tigray: welcomes the ongoing Joint Investigation by the OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, into allegations of serious violations of international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, including widespread reports of SGBV.
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The human rights situation in “Indian Occupied Kashmir” has further deteriorated. - The request to the High Commissioner to ensure the report on the Jammu and Kashmir a an exercise of the prevention mandate.
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In many countries around the world, from Myanmar to Belarus, the will of the people has been ignored. - In Uganda, Algeria, Nicaragua, Colombia, in both post- and pre-electoral context, Belgium calls on the authorities to guarantee the right to peaceful assembly, to respect freedom of expression and to conduct impartial investigations.
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts of Botswana to mitigate the severity of COVID-19, protect livelihoods and ensure the recovery path.
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts by Nigeria: remains undaunted in addressing its multiple security challenges. The Nigerian Economic Sustainability Plan has been yielding positive results. - Reiterates its call for non-politicisation of human rights issues and avoidance of double-standards, respect for sovereign equality of nations, as well as strong commitment to multilateralism and international solidarity.
Côte d’Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The High Commissioner should continue her efforts for a constructive dialogue with the countries concerned, in order to avoid polarization of debates on human rights issues. - The Council should remain faithful to principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization, in the context of the examination of the human rights situation in certain countries, in particular in China, with the situation in Xinjiang, the question of the administrative and security management of Hong Kong and that of Tibet.
Timor-Leste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The High Commissioner’s report includes Timor-Leste as one of the spotlights, specifically with respect to Timor-Leste’s efforts to better integrate disability. - The strong cooperation and engagement with the UN Human Rights team in Dili is worth mentioning. Last year, Timor-Leste focused on providing human rights training for the national army and strengthening the knowledge and raising awareness of the Public Administration’s workers on the prevention of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities.
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Values OHCHR’s advice on the legislation on disabled persons. National efforts: Georgia spears no effort to increase social benefits for persons with disabilities and continues harmonizing its domestic legislation in line with the relevant convention. - “Russia-occupied Georgian regions” of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali: the violation of the right to life, torture and ill-treatment, kidnapping and arbitrary detention, restriction of freedom of movement, and blatant forms of ethnic discrimination. The urgent need for access of the OHCHR and international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms to both occupied regions. The High Commissioner and Council should demand the immediate release of Georgian citizen, Zaza Gakheladze.

Argentina	- Concerns about the human rights situation in Nicaragua and arrests of political figures of the opposition.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about the human rights implications of COVID-19: while some exceptional measures remain necessary to tackle the pandemic, these must not be used as a cover for repression. - Tigray region of Ethiopia: targeting of civilians, extra-judicial killings, widespread sexual violence, and the conduct of hostilities which have directly contributed to famine conditions. - Mali: following the coup, democratic, constitutional rule should be restored and the conditions set out by ECOWAS should be fulfilled. - Russian Federation: a further deterioration in political freedoms and a mounting repression of civil society. - Belarus: Lukashenko's brutal campaign of repression against the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Belarusian people. - Xinjiang: the High Commissioner should keep the Council updated on whether she or her Office have been granted unfettered access to the region. Beijing's systematic undermining of rights and freedoms in Hong Kong should be monitored. - UK will raise their strong concerns about Myanmar in the separate dialogue.
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Ukraine, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission has been working on the invitation of the Ukrainian Government to monitor human rights situation with particular attention to Crimea and Donbas against the backdrop of external aggression and occupation. - Ukraine is grateful to the OHCHR for the technical assistance, including for its inputs to the updated National Human Rights Strategy recently adopted in Ukraine and the draft law on minorities. - Regrettably, no progress has been made in enforcing the occupying Power to comply with its obligations as a duty bearer under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turkey delivered medical supplies to 158 countries and urges member states to refrain from vaccine nationalism. - Israel continues to act with absolute impunity in the occupied Palestinian territories. The international community has the responsibility to protect the Palestinians. - China: Turkey attaches importance to the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Uyghur Turks and other Muslim minorities. Turkey respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but calls for more transparency on the situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Turkey joins the international call for a meaningful, full-fledged and unrestricted visit of Madame High Commissioner to the region. - Xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, anti-semitism and hate speech are on the rise. - Syria: people continue to face multiple crises. COVID-19, economic problems and ongoing military offensives by the regime forces and terrorist attacks on the civilian population have deteriorated the already unbearable situation in the country.
Afghanistan	- For the people of Afghanistan , the foundational right is the Right to Peace. OHCHR should stress the necessity of preservation and protection of human rights values in the peace process.
Cabo Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All parties should abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter: universality and impartiality. - Calls upon all states to uphold multilateralism, solidarity and collaboration.
Ethiopia	- Domestic situation in Ethiopia : The Federal Police and the Office of the Attorney General are conducting a credible investigation into alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law during the law enforcement operation. The Government ensures the smooth

	operation of the joint investigation by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the OHCHR. The investigation should proceed naturally; all parties should respect the process's integrity. Ethiopia is embracing a new democratic dispensation, as evidenced by the just concluded election.
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomes the support provided by OHCHR to the G5 Sahel Joint Force in the implementation of its regulatory framework relating to human rights and international humanitarian law, which has led to the creation of victims and events tracing, a mobile unit of trainers and a solid training program. - The work of the Council must be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China: efforts to promote socio-economic development , to maintain social stability and to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all of its citizens within the regions of Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet. China has taken a series of measures in response to threats of terrorism and extremism in the Xinjiang region. Zimbabwe supports China's implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy in Hong Kong. The Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Special Administrative Region is fully in line with the right of every country to safeguard its national security. Tibet, like the rest of China, has made impressive strides towards the eradication of poverty and in laying the ground for sustained and rapid socio-economic development. In this context, the living standards of all ethnic groups in Tibet have been greatly improved.
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building opportunities should continue for the promotion and protection of human rights Thailand. - The Thai Government has adapted its mode of cooperation to work with the OHCHR and UN agencies to conduct human rights-related activities such as a joint study on "SLAPP Laws and related measures" between the Ministry of Justice and the UNDP as well as "human rights defenders school" and workshops with the OHCHR.
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belarus and Myanmar: continued absence of the rule of law and accountability. - Myanmar: concerned about escalated violence against population, including ethnic and religious minorities. - Israel/OPT: welcome the establishment of the Commission on Inquiry and look forward to its reporting. - Ethiopia: look forward to the findings of joint OHCHR / EHRC report.
Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts by Kazakhstan: following the Decree signed by President Tokayev on 9 June 2021, the Government approved the Plan of priority measures in the field of human rights aimed at improving interaction with UN treaty bodies and special procedures; ensuring rights of victims of human trafficking, and people with disabilities; the list of jobs prohibited for women; ensuring rights to freedom of association and expression. - Kazakhstan has made a contribution of 15,000 USD to the budget of the OHCHR and 15,000 USD to the UPR voluntary fund to support activities of the Office of High Commissioner.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender equality, respect and development for women's and girls' rights will be Spain's priority during this session. - Nicaragua: call for immediate release of the figures of opposition.
Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courts are an independent branch of government and any interference in their activities, or attempts to put pressure on them is unacceptable. - Disagree with the continuing attempts to arbitrarily expand the mandate of OHCHR by including in its sphere of activity issues that are not directly related to human rights.
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippines has contributed its biggest voluntary funding to support technical cooperation, capacity-building assistance, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - States should consider more grounded and effective options for HRC actions, outside the more familiar toolbox of panel discussions, country report, and unilateral mandates.
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hungary attaches great importance to the thematic work of this Council: protection of children and their rights, elimination of violence against women and girls, protection of the rights of national, ethnic and linguistic minorities as well as the support of persecuted ethnic and religious communities, such as persecuted Christians.
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regarding the consideration by the Council of the human rights situation in specific countries, Uruguay wishes to ratify its commitment and support for the mandate given by the UNGA to this body through Resolution 60/251, which entrusts it to deal with the situations in which human rights are violated, including gross and systematic violations. The fulfillment of this mandate must be carried out in an objective and non-politicized manner, in accordance with the principles of sovereignty of states, respect for its territorial integrity, non-intervention in its internal affairs and respect for the norms of international law.
Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unilateral coercive measures seriously violate the human rights of the populations affected by them. - Burundi congratulates China for the efforts made and the results achieved in the fight against the COVID-19. Reiterated commitment to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and the non-politicization of human rights. Burundi reaffirms its support for the principle of One Country, Two Systems and matters relating to Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet are solely China's internal affairs. Welcomes the adoption and implementation of the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
Marshall Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the 44th session, the Marshall Islands together with a group of SIDs and LDCs, urged the Council to strengthen its climate work and establish a dedicated new special procedure on climate change and human rights. Since then, a lot has been undergone: engagement with other Special Rapporteurs to avoid duplication, discussing language, looking at extraterritorial obligations, geoengineering, corporate accountability, market-based measures, and the financial drivers of climate change. There is the growing momentum in the Council for this call and for more ambition on climate. HRC must play an active role especially this year of the COP.
United Republic of Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congratulate the OHCHR for pursuing its mandate, while agilely adapting to the new circumstances, particularly through remote human rights monitoring and online delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support. - Respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states and non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states represent basic norms governing international relations. - Strongly opposes the perennial practice of interference of internal affairs of countries like China under the guise of human rights defense. Issues related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet are China's internal affairs and brook no interference by any external forces.
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights situations in Palestine, Tigray and Nicaragua have worsened. - Mexico's national efforts: combatting corruption and impunity are the national priorities. - Committed to maintain a constructive dialogue with OHCHR and to work together on issues of the rights of persons with disabilities, elimination of violence against women and girls, enforced disappearances, and rights of people on the move. - All countries should defend multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation, and avoid the politicization of the Council's discussions.

Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panama thanks the OHCHR for the support provided in the preparation of reports for the treaty bodies, the technical assistance in matters of business and human rights, the strengthening of capacities on the rights of migrants and the technical cooperation in relation to with the human rights of LGBTI people.
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congratulates the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for having virtually organised the Seminar for Africa, co-hosted by Mauritius and Burkina Faso as well as induction courses prior to the Human Rights Council's session. Member States should continue supporting the Fund. - Organisations, including WTO and WHO, should not work in silos.
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National human rights situation: Colombia reiterates the full respect of freedom of expression, association and the right to peaceful protest. Most of the protests have been peaceful. Any complaint of excessive force is being duly investigated and will be sanctioned. The protests are not related to the peace accords.
Tunisia	<p>Tunisia stresses the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement of all international parties in designing and implementing strategies to respond to and recover from the epidemic; - Establishing all means to ensure equitable access to vaccines; - Reducing the indebtedness of developing and least developed countries. <p>The Council should protect the rights of the Palestinian people. Tunisia welcomes the Independent Investigation Commission established under Resolution S-30/1, and stresses the importance of enabling it to have all financial and logistical means to carry out its mandate.</p>
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advancing human rights standards will be a priority of Albania's membership to the UNSC in 2022-2023. - Support for an OHCHR that functions with integrity, independence and transparency, and call on all States to fully collaborate with the OHCHR and the Special Procedures.
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National efforts of Cambodia to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sweden is one of the largest supporters of the OHCHR. - Belarus: freedom of expression and assembly are further restricted. Russian Federation: democratic space continues to be threatened followed the court ruling banning the activities of Navalny's anti-corruption organizations. Russia and Belarus should release those arbitrarily detained. - China: human rights situation remains concerning, especially in Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Swedish citizen Gui Minhai must be released. - Tigray, Ethiopia: call for accountability for human rights violations. - Egypt: civil society needs safe space. - Philippines: intimidation of journalist should end. - Iran, Saudi Arabia: harassment of human rights defenders must end. - Israel / Palestine: the importance of ceasefire.
Bolivia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National human rights situation in Bolivia. The delegation thanks the High Commissioner for her support and for addressing the situation of Bolivia in her report.
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National human rights situation in Mali: there are positive trends since the establishment of new government.

Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Italy's multilateral efforts: the presidency of the G20; partnership with the United Kingdom in the framework of the CoP26; "Rome Declaration", signed at the Global Health Summit on 21 May by Italy and the European Commission. - Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups; the need to continue pursuing a human rights based and gender-transformative approach. - Deep commitment to strongly advocate for gender equality and women empowerment.
Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China: important progress in safeguarding the security of its people. - The importance of multilateralism, solidarity and collaboration.
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Humanitarian situation in Mozambique's Northern Province of Cabo Delgado: terrorists armed groups are attacking villages and committing serious violations of human rights. The Government is working closely with the UN Team in Mozambique and other international partners. The Government has invited a senior officer of the OHCHR to visit the country and organize a training course for the Armed and Defense Forces.
Iceland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regret over Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. - Ethiopia's Tigray region: reported human rights atrocities, including the killing of civilians and widespread SGBV. Call for an end to the violence and for unfettered humanitarian access to all parts of Tigray to prevent large-scale famine and loss of life. The Government of Ethiopia should ensure accountability. - Philippines: appreciation for the High Commissioner's update on the UN Joint Programme on human rights in the Philippines; looking forward to her updating the Council further in September.
Eritrea	<p>The report of the High Commissioner lacks verifiable information from credible sources. Three observations are evident as examples in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the allegations that the Eritrean Defence Forces continues to commit crimes in Tigray is untrue and unsubstantiated. - the part of the report relating to the Law Enforcement operation in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia is one-sided and devoid of credible information and pre-empts OHCHR's work that is underway in cooperation with Ethiopia; - the concern of the High Commissioner on the on-going trials under the law of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong is premature and negatively affects the outcome of legal proceedings of a judicial body.

Interactive Dialogue: Statements by Non-Governmental Organisations

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethiopia: the situation in Tigray is serious and demands multilateral attention. The commencement of a joint OHCHR/Ethiopian Human Rights Commission investigation is a positive step, but other options can be explored. The High Commissioner is encouraged to report on her assessment of the situation and formulate recommendations, including on criminal accountability. For this assessment to be formally presented to, and discussed at, the Council needs to adopt a resolution requesting such a debate. Together with partner NGOs, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project has issued a call for such a resolution. - Tanzania: after President Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in, she indicated that she would uphold freedom of expression and due process. The speaker said they welcomed these steps and were ready to deepen dialogue and cooperation with Tanzanian authorities, including in Geneva, ahead of Tanzania's third Universal Periodic Review.
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<p>International Service for Human Rights on behalf of a number of international, regional and national-level organisations and networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights violations across China, Uyghur and Tibetan regions, as well as Hong Kong have become increasingly severe over the last years, while Chinese authorities have consistently denied meaningful access to the region. Major research reports published by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International in the last two months independently reach the conclusion that the Chinese government is committing crimes against humanity against its Turkic Muslim population. The international community, this Council, and OHCHR cannot remain silent. The unfettered access to all regions of China is not a prerequisite for effective monitoring, public reporting and accountability. Ongoing negotiations should not delay urgently needed action. Civil society stands ready to be an ally in your efforts to better understand, document and engage on the situation in China. The likelihood of reprisals against defenders, both in the country and in exile, is high. The victims and communities urgently need increased resources and innovative responses from the High Commissioner, OHCHR, and the United Nations as a whole.
<p>Human Rights Watch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For more than two-and-a-half years, the High Commissioner has been seeking unfettered access to Xinjiang: while Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang have continued to be arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared, subjected to torture and forced labor; children have been separated from their families; cultural and religious persecution continued. China has had the opportunity to ramp up its propaganda, pressure states into endorsing its narrative, and bury the evidence of its crimes. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have published findings that the Chinese government is committing crimes against humanity in Xinjiang. - Systemic racism and police violence: this session will be a test of the US's stated commitment, reinforced by President Biden's January 2021 Executive Order, to addressing racial inequities and the systemic racism that remain deeply entrenched in the United States. The Council should put in place a mechanism that would investigate systemic and structural racism in law enforcement, including the root causes of law enforcement's excessive use of force and other human rights violations against Africans and people of African descent, and carry forward the demands from families of victims of police violence and civil society in the US and around the world. - Since the outbreak of conflict in Tigray in November 2020 grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have occurred, including: massacres of civilians; widespread rape and sexual violence against women and girls; forced displacement; arbitrary detentions; widespread destruction and pillage of hospitals, schools, factories, and businesses; destruction of refugee camps; and attacks and intimidation of humanitarian workers and journalists. The region is now facing a severe man-made famine. Call on the Council to adopt a resolution at this session to ensure international scrutiny of this human rights crisis. - Climate change should be elevated in the work of the Council through the establishment of a dedicated special procedures mandate.
<p>American Association of Jurists on behalf of a group of 295 organisations including the Sahrawi National Commission of Human Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systematic and serious violations of human rights and breaches of the International Humanitarian Law are committed by the Kingdom of Morocco in the Occupied Non Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara. Harassment, beating, torture, rape, arbitrary arrests, arbitrary house arrests and arbitrary detention are the common human rights violations. In the past 6 months, more than 720 incidents have been recorded. Regret the persistent silence observed by the OHCHR in relation to the situation prevailing in Western Sahara, and call upon the UN High-Commissioner to implement the commitments made by the Office at the World Humanitarian Summit, in particular by publicly condemning serious violations of International Humanitarian Law and serious and systematic human rights violations occurring in Western Sahara and would like to have clarification on the reasons impeding the Office to renew the Technical Missions to Western Sahara initiated in 2015.

International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism on behalf of seven organizations which form TB-Net (NGO Network on UN Treaty Bodies)	- Welcome that all treaty bodies have started piloting online reviews of States parties in the current absence of in-person meetings. The limited number of online reviews that can be undertaken in a single treaty body session has led to a sharp increase in the backlog of State party reports. To prevent significant protection gaps, it is critical to stem the growing backlog and avoid delays to other activities of the treaty bodies. OHCHR should identify concrete steps that would enable in-person meetings to be resumed no later than the autumn sessions of 2021. States should support and cooperate with the treaty bodies and OHCHR in such efforts including through providing sufficient resources.
Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience	- Mr. Dalibor Močević, a Croatian and Bosnian national of Serbian descent, is a victim of human rights violations in Croatia. Ethnically motivated discrimination and hatred is widespread among the population and political parties that base their ideas on nationalism and xenophobia, especially towards the Serbs. Such treatment is especially evident in the region of Dalmatia and other places which are particularly Catholic.
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) on behalf of more than ten organizations echoing the open letter endorsed by dozens of civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations	- It is now time for the Council to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change . This would elevate the Council's work on climate change in a systematic way, support States and people most impacted by runaway climate change, foster international cooperation, and promote respect for human rights in climate responses. In 2019, the Marshall Islands affirmed, on behalf of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the urgency of creating such a mandate - a call supported by Bangladesh and 56 other States from all regional groups at the last session of the Council. States should establish a new Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change at this session of the Council.
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)	- The alarming situation of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Afghanistan . In 2020, there was a five-fold increase in killings of HRDs compared to 2019. Armed attacks by the Taliban against government forces have surged in 2021 and the Taliban regularly issue threatening statements against civil society. The Joint Commission for the Protection of HRDs established in December 2020 is still not operational. The government is failing to adequately respond to threats and attacks against HRDs. As impunity for such killings prevails, the cycle of violence is continuing in 2021. This alarming pattern is forcing HRDs to self-censor, in some cases to leave the country and is creating a climate of fear that silences activists. WILPF urges this Council to: establish a robust monitoring mechanism that can regularly report on the situation; call on Afghanistan to ensure impartial, independent and timely investigations into killings of HRDs, and to bring perpetrators to justice; call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire; call for the protection of HRDs and of women and girls' rights as key benchmarks in the peace process.
Franciscans International on behalf of 306 undersigned organisations	- Colombia : the situation in the country confirms the need for continued monitoring and provision of technical assistance by OHCHR. Throughout the eight weeks of mass protests, there have been reports of flagrant human rights violation. The protests are rooted in structural demands linked to the respect for human rights, and other concerns including poverty, inequality, growing social injustices, impunity, systemic racism and systematic violence against human rights defenders. They are also a result of the continued failure to fully implement the 2016 Peace Accord. The Council should call on Colombia to cease the use of violence and to respect the right to peaceful protest; to independently investigate human rights violations committed in this context; to accept the visit of the Special

	Procedures; and facilitate the building of social consensus around structural demands. The High Commissioner, through her Office in Colombia, should prepare a report on the human rights violations committed during the protests.
Amnesty International (AI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippines: now that the Prosecutor of the ICC has formally requested to open an investigation into suspected crimes against humanity, the Council should launch its own comprehensive investigation. - Tigray region of Ethiopia: Amnesty International has documented crimes which appear to include war crimes and crimes against humanity. There are also numerous credible reports of women and girls being subjected to sexual violence, including gang rape by Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers. AI welcomes the important resolution adopted by the African Commission on 12 May, establishing a Commission of Inquiry, and urges the Council to take action to support, bolster and create synergies with these efforts. - China: AI supports the joint statement delivered by ISHR in this regard. A major new report released by Amnesty documents the mass internment, torture and persecution of Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which appear to meet the threshold of crimes against humanity. Also concerned by the erosion of rights protections in Hong Kong through the application the National Security Law for Hong Kong. The High Commissioner should fulfil her independent mandate to closely monitor and publicly report on China's sweeping rights violations; member states should take long-overdue concrete action to address the situation. - Pushbacks and collective expulsions are illegal, and have grave consequences for the lives and rights of migrants, including refugees and children. The Council should establish a mechanism for independent monitoring and verification of pushbacks and collective expulsions, and the accompanying violations used to enact them.

Interactive Dialogue: Questions to the High Commissioner

Questions addressed to the High Commissioner (non-exhaustive):

- *What in your view could be done in international cooperation to support people's right to peaceful assembly in their aspirations for democracy and how to adequately respond to the oppressive authoritarian regimes' violence and repressive actions against societies? (Estonia)*
- *What are the views of the HC on the actions that each state should take with a view to promoting respect for human rights in business activities? (Japan)*
- *How can states ensure constructive participation of civil society, including women's organisations in the rebuilding after the pandemic? (Norway)*
- *Is the OHCHR is considering to adapt its functioning to some new ways of operation that were "imposed" on us by COVID-19 restrictions. (Slovakia)*
- *How can the UN State best support the effectiveness of Special Mandate holders? (United States of America)*
- *As we navigate a way through this next phase of the pandemic, what steps can States take, to support the meaningful participation of civil society in the recovery process? (Ireland)*
- *The Annual Reports of your office reflect this grounded direction pursued by your leadership. What actions do you think the Council can consider to support the delivery of such practical solutions? (Philippines)*
- *In recent months, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have published findings that the Chinese government is committing crimes against humanity in Xinjiang. High Commissioner, when will you present your assessment to the Council, so that it can consider appropriate action? (Human Rights Watch)*

Interactive Dialogue: High Commissioner's Concluding Remarks

The OHCHR strives to base its work on **verified facts**; the **access to the countries** is essential to be able to verify the allegations. States should support the independence of **Special Procedures** as their role is essential in responding to human rights challenges. States' full cooperation with them, including through accepting the visits or responding to their communications. The **Coordination Committee** is a key facilitator of the dialogue between the Special Procedures and other stakeholders.

In response to the question made by the United States, the High Commissioner said that constructive engagement with Special Procedures is critical for their effective functioning. The Member States should invite the mandate holders for country visits, engage in substantive discussions, respond substantively to questions and recommendations, show intolerance to attacks, fights reprisals, provide support to the Coordination Committee. It is critical to continue to **financially support** the office for it to be able to support Special Procedures. The states that have concerns about the implementation of the **Code of Conduct** can address them to Coordination Committee. There is a shortfall in resources to support Special Procedures and the prospect for 2022 remains concerning.

Without adequate resources, the **treaty bodies** are falling behind in their work. Steady increase of individual complaints and urgent action request, the current capacity of the OHCHR is far from sufficient, which is the consequence of the lack of sufficient staff in the Office to analyse and prepare documents for the review. The **individual complaint procedure** can last up to six years in most Committees (compared to two years in 2012). A **digital case management system** would be crucial to facilitate the submission of documentation, including petitions, and communication between the parties, to track the progress on cases and to upload decisions. **Digitalization** needs of the Office have been put forward as part of the Office's strategy of "building back better".

OHCHR's work on **business and human rights**: priorities on accountability and remedy. OHCHR is increasingly engage directly with companies, including on country-level.

Civil society participation: all governments should create the conducive environment for participation of all people. OHCHR will continue to publicly speak on the rights to freedom of assembly and association. OHCHR has been mandated to organize a panel on current challenges and good practices on peaceful protests in September 2021.

Protection of human rights defenders: need to invest in a specific mechanisms. Protective networks have been found effective.

OHCHR work in specific countries: OHCHR continued to remotely monitor the human rights situation in **Western Sahara** and the Tindouf camps. Member States should agree on a Special Envoy. OHCHR continued to monitor the situation in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**. OHCHR is ready to provide the necessary support to the Commission of Inquiry. It is essential to re-build Gaza. The Office has received information from several business enterprises; the Office has made preliminary assessment of these communications. As for the publication of the database, the issue remains of resource requirements. The discussions have resumed with **China** regarding the visit; in the meantime the Office continues its assessment of the human rights situation in Xinjiang. High Commissioner's recent report to the Human Rights Council provides a number of recommendations to the government of **Sri Lanka**.

Full recording of this meeting on UN WebTV: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).