



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 47th SESSION

Highlights of Week 3 (5-11 July 2021)



The Interactive Dialogue with the **Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy**, Mr. Joseph Cannataci continued during Week 3 of the Council. He recalled his thematic work over his six year term, and presented his latest report which focused on Artificial Intelligence and privacy and children`s privacy. He also presented six Country Visit reports to Argentina, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, and United States. In his Concluding Remarks, Mr. Cannataci expressed his disappointment with the introduction by the Presidency, calling it “diplomatic fluff” and “a foolish attempt to cover up a mistake by the Bureau” which had decided to cancel his interactive dialogues during the 46th session of the Council even though he had submitted his reports. He also regretted that the Interactive Dialogue was neither “Interactive” nor “Dialogue” as the delegations were not listening.

Panel Discussions

The first panel of the **Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women** focused on **violence against women and girls with disabilities**. Apart from distinguished panellists, seven speakers delivered joint country statements, and several UN Agencies and NGOs, as well as the Minister of Justice of Namibia took part in the discussion. Speakers noted that double risks affecting those at the intersection between gender and disability were rarely addressed by national measures; while also saying that women with disability were up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence.

The second panel of the **Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women** focused on **gender-equal socioeconomic recovery** from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and H.E. Ms. Mónica Zalaquett Said, Minister for Women and Gender Equity of Chile, offered their Opening Statements. A number of joint statements were delivered, including by **Netherlands on behalf of the Cross-regional group of 65 states on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**.

Mr. Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee, and Mr. Toshiro Muto, Chief Executive Officer of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, were among the distinguished guests who delivered their remarks during the **Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal**, which this year focused on the **youth**. **Greece** delivered a joint statement on behalf of 75 states, and **Denmark on behalf of Nordic and Baltic countries** called for respect for all human rights, including the rights of migrant workers, minorities and LGBTI-persons, before and during major sporting events.

Item 4 – Interactive Dialogues



Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro - Chair of the **Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**, addressed the need to establish of an **independent mechanism on the missing** with an international mandate and in close consultation with survivors, families and the local organisations. This call was later echoed by **Croatia on behalf of Core group on Casualty Recording**. **Syria** said it rejected meetings and resolutions initiated by States that seek, through misinformation, to justify their interventionist policies.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented her Office’s report on the **human rights situation in Venezuela**. She noted the downward trend of alleged deaths in the context of protests



and security operations, and welcomed the imminent closing of all detention facilities run by intelligence services as announced by the President. **Brazil** delivered a joint statement on behalf of 56 states (Western and Latin American States), calling for the Venezuelan authorities to establish an OHCHR country presence. **Venezuela** condemned the contents of the report, saying it was the result of a selective approach based on double standards.



Ms. Anaïs Marin, Special Rapporteur on the **situation of human rights in Belarus**, said that the situation had continued to deteriorate. More than 35,000 people were arbitrarily detained in the recent year. **Belarus** was not present to take the floor as a country concerned. States taking part in the Interactive Dialogue (predominantly from Western Group) and civil society organizations called for the **renewal of the mandate** of the Special Rapporteur. Additionally, **Poland**, in a joint statement on behalf of 46 states, strongly condemned the forced diversion and landing of the civilian aircraft in Minsk on May 23. Ms. Marin also mentioned that she is collaborating with the OHCHR Core team and other Special Procedures mandate holders, and the Modus Operandi of the joint work is currently under discussion.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet also delivered her **Oral Update on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar**. In recent months, she said, the situation had evolved from a political crisis to a multi-dimensional human rights catastrophe. Nearly 900 people had been killed, and some 200,000 people had been forced to flee their homes. Ms. Bachelet said it was time for the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which her Office stood ready to support, to appoint a special envoy or team to get political dialogue underway, to deploy a form of monitoring presence on the ground, and address the human rights dimension.



Mr. Tom Andrews, the Special Rapporteur on the **situation of human rights in Myanmar**, while presenting his Oral Progress report, said that the international community was failing the people of Myanmar. He strongly advocated for a formation of an Emergency Coalition for the People of Myanmar – nations willing to stand with the people of Myanmar through meaningful, coordinated action. Both the Interactive Dialogue with the SR and the ID with the High Commissioner took place without participation of the country concerned, as the delegation of **Myanmar** did not participate in the Council meetings, pending a decision by the General Assembly.

Item 6 UPR Adoptions

	Recommendations received	Recommendations supported	Recommendations noted	Additional clarifications
Micronesia	154	141	13	N/A
Lebanon	297	179	93	25
Mauritania	266	201	65	N/A
Saint Kitts and Nevis	165	69	96	N/A
Australia	344	177	167	N/A
Saint Lucia	165	113	49	3
Nepal	233	196	37	N/A
Oman	264	208	49	7
Austria	317	236	81	N/A
Rwanda	284	160	124	N/A
Georgia	285	257	28	N/A
Sao Tome and Principe	161	148	13	N/A
Nauru	156	132	24	N/A
Myanmar: the consideration of the report was postponed to the 48th session of the Council.				

ITEM 7 – Interactive Dialogue



Mr. Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur for the **situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel** since 1967, presented his thematic report in which he explored the question: are the Israeli settlements in violation of the absolute prohibition against settler implantation in the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The report concluded that the illegality of the Israeli settlements is one of the most settled and uncontentious issues in modern international law, while the Israeli settlements do amount to a war crime. The delegation of the **State of Palestine** took part in the discussion, while **Israel** was absent during the Interactive Dialogue.

ITEM 10 – Interactive Dialogues

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivered the OHCHR thematic report on “**Arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment in the context of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine** from 2014 to 2021”, underlining that there has been little accountability for violations committed on either side of the contact line, as very few perpetrators had been brought to account, while remedy and reparation, such as compensation and rehabilitation, for victims, were woefully absent. She also introduced the Secretary-General interim report on the “**Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine**” covering key human rights development between 1 July and 31 December 2020, which indicated that the human rights situation in Crimea had not improved. Both reports are based on the work of our Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. **Ukraine** invited States to join the Crimean Platform, a new mechanism initiated by the President of Ukraine to enhance the international response to Russia’s illegal occupation of Crimea, to be launched in Kyiv on 23 August.



Mr. Yao Agetse, the Independent Expert on the **situation of human rights in the Central African Republic**, delivered his oral update on technical assistance and capacity building in the field of human rights. He was not able to conduct field missions but compensated for the lack of field visits by regular consultations with actors and institutions operating in the field. He saluted the formation of the new Government of H.E. Henri-Marie Dondra. The process of national reconciliation and the extension of state authority throughout the national territory require the cessation of the activities of armed groups as part of a converging effort by the international community, he said. The **Central African Republic** said a National Commission of Inquiry was established on 4 May 2021 in order to render justice.

Presentation of Reports

Item 3

Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director of Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR, presented **a number of reports under Item 3**. The Office had **adopted its first United Nations Human Rights Disability Rights Strategy**. The analytical report of the High Commissioner on the **administration of justice** considered how prison overcrowding had exacerbated health risks during the pandemic. **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women** had presented an approach by the voices of the UN Trust Fund’s 2020 portfolio of 150 grantee civil society and women’s rights organizations. The **Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR** provided travel assistance to delegates from 10 States. Ms. Hicks also presented the report on **international cooperation** in the field of human rights; while the Council had before it four notes of the Secretariat on the following reports: the quadrennial report on conscientious **objection to military service**; the report on good practices for establishing national normative frameworks that **fostered access to information held by public entities**; the High Commissioner’s report on the effects of **artificial intelligence**



on the enjoyment of the right to privacy; and the summary report of the High Commissioner on the one-day intersessional meeting on the **prevention of genocide**.

Item 5

Mr. Surya Deva, member of the **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprise**, presented the report on the 9th session of the Forum on Business and Human Rights held virtually from 16-18 November 2020 under the theme of **preventing business human rights abuses** as the **key to sustainable future** of the planet. Some 4,000 participants had come from a wide range of backgrounds, participating in nearly 30 thematic sessions and focused on issues such as the climate crisis and business and human rights; the business and human rights agenda and the anti-corruption agenda; and way forward to prevent and address xenophobia and racism. Due to COVID-19, **the next Forum** will also be held virtually with the theme on **setting out an ambitious roadmap for the next decade**.

Other developments

28 draft resolutions have been submitted on topics including the Syrian Arab Republic, Myanmar, Belarus, Eritrea, Tigray, digital technology and human rights, climate change and human rights, and the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic; they will be considered on 12 and 13 July. Additionally, more than **50 written amendments** to the draft texts have been submitted by Russian Federation, China, Eritrea and other states.

On 9 July 2021, on the request from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Haiti, the Council held **a moment of silence** for the **sudden passing of the President of the Republic of Haiti, H.E. Mr. Jovenel Moïse**.

The President of the Human Rights Council submitted for the attention of the Council the **list of candidates proposed for the open vacancies of special procedure mandate holders**, namely Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt, IE on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism, Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, SR on violence against women, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (members from Asia-Pacific States and Eastern European States), WG on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (member from Western European and other States).

Geneva Centre's reports on selected HRC47 meetings are [available here](#). UN reports submitted to HRC47 [are available here](#).

All pictures in this report: screenshots from UN WebTV.