



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 48th SESSION

Organizational Meeting

30 August 2021

The meeting was chaired by **H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan**, President of the Human Rights Council.

This year, for the first time, the September's session will last for four weeks: **13 September – 8 October 2021**. This is due to the continuous creation of new mandates by the Council.

Panel debates:

- **Biennial panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights**, under the theme "*Unilateral sanctions: jurisdiction and extraterritoriality*". 16 September 2021, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Presented by **Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM movement**.
- **Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**, under the theme "*The gender digital divide in times of the COVID-19 pandemic*". 27 September 2021, 4 to 6 p.m. Presented by **Chile**.
- **Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples**, under the theme "*The situation of human rights of indigenous peoples facing the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on the right to participation*". 28 September 2021, 10 to 12 a.m. Presented by **Guatemala**.
- **Half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for the realization of human rights**. 28 September 2021, 3 to 5 p.m. Presented by **South Africa**.
- **High-level panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward**. 29 September 2021, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Presented by **Slovenia**.
- **Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests**. 29 September 2021, 3 to 5 p.m. Presented by **Switzerland**.

Overview of the Programme of Work:

The 48th session will open with the **Oral updates** of the High Commissioner, followed by a **dignitary address** by the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, and a **dignitary address** by the Minister of Human Rights, Family and Women of Brazil, H.E. Ms. Damares Alves.

During the session, the Council will hold 26 Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures mandate holders and investigative mechanisms, 4 Interactive Dialogues with the High Commissioner, 5 Enhanced Interactive Dialogues, one Interactive Dialogue with Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, and one Interactive Dialogue with the Advisory Committee. The Council will also adopt outcomes of the UPR.

Three Special Procedures mandate holders are to be appointed by the Council.

Deadlines:

- **States:** the online system for inscription in the list of speakers for all General Debates, Interactive Dialogues and Panel Discussions will open on **Tuesday, 7 September at 4 pm** and will close **24 hours before the meeting**. Inscription and withdrawal after the deadline is possible by email: ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org.
- Inscription for the list of speakers for the Adoption of UPR Outcomes will open on **Monday, 20 September at 9 am** and will close on **Thursday 23 September at 6 pm**. No inscription will be possible after this deadline.
- **NGOs:** the list of speakers for all debates will open online **on Monday, 6 September at 2 pm**.
- List of speakers for Panel Discussions: states should rank panels in the order of their priorities when inscribing in the list of speakers.



Information on Resolutions and Other Initiatives:

- **European Union:** initiative on the human rights situation in **Burundi**. EU is engaging with the country concerned.
- **Costa Rica** (on behalf of the core group on the environment: Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland, Costa Rica): draft resolution on the **Right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**. The workshop on the same topic will take place on 31 August.
- **Uruguay** (on behalf of Fiji, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Uruguay): resolution on **cooperation with the United Nations**, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.
- **Netherlands:**
 - (on behalf of the Core Group on Yemen: Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, Ireland, Netherlands): resolution on renewal of the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on **Yemen**.
 - (on behalf of Argentina, Canada, Italy, Honduras, Montenegro, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia, Netherlands): resolution on elimination of **child early and forced marriage**.
- **Cameroon** (on behalf of the African Group):
 - resolution on technical assistance and capacity building in the field of the human rights in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**;
 - resolution on technical assistance and capacity building in the field of the human rights in **Libya**;
 - resolution "From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action **against racism, racial discrimination**, xenophobia and related intolerance";
 - side event "Commemorating the **20th anniversary of DDPA** and 75 years of UN against racism".
- **Mexico** (on behalf of Mexico and Guatemala): Resolution on the **human rights and indigenous peoples**.
- **United Kingdom** (on behalf of the Syria Core-Group: France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA): resolution on the human rights in the **Syrian Arab Republic**.
- **Republic of Korea** (together with Egypt, Romania, and OHCHR): virtual side event on **local governments and human rights** (1 October).
- **Azerbaijan** (in its capacity as the Chairman of the NAM): resolution on the **right to development**.
- **Japan:** extension of mandate of the Special Rapporteur in **Cambodia**.
- **Morocco:** side event on the **women's leadership** in contributing to social-economic development in the **southern provinces of Morocco** (16 September).
- **Marshall Islands** (on behalf of the Core Group on the human rights and climate change): side event together with IPCC, discussing the creation of the Special Procedure on **human rights and climate change**.
- **Thailand** (on behalf of the cross-regional group comprised of Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, ..., Turkey): resolution on enhancement of technical cooperation and technical building in the field of human rights, with a focus on **empowerment of women and girls**.
- **Timor-Leste** (on behalf of the Geneva-support group for Western Sahara): side event violation of the sovereignty of **Saharan people** (15 September).
- **Greece:** virtual side event "**Education against hate speech and discrimination**", with support of Germany, Sweden, World Jewish Congress (14 September).
- **Egypt:** resolution on technical assistance and capacity-building for **Yemen** in the field of human rights.
- **Czech Republic** (on behalf of Botswana, Indonesia, Peru, Netherlands, Czech Republic): resolution on **equal participation in political and public affairs**.
- **Cuba:**
 - resolution on the **use of mercenaries**;
 - resolution on promotion of **democratic equitable world order**.
- **Germany** (on behalf of Brazil, and a Core-Group of Austria, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Germany): resolution on the **right to privacy in the digital age**.
- **Latvia:** traditional joint statement on the genuine **cooperation with the Special Procedures** mandate holders, which will be delivered under agenda item 5.



- **Argentina:** initiative on the **rights of older persons:** ageism and age-based discrimination.
- **Croatia** (*on behalf of Costa Rica, Poland, Croatia*): will not present the resolution on conscientious objection to military service, as OHCHR was not able to prepare its third Quadrennial report on this topic.
- **Switzerland** (*on behalf of Belgium, Benin, Costa Rica, France, Mexico, Mongolia, Moldova Switzerland*): new draft resolution on the question of the **death penalty**.

Other matters:

- **Modalities of the Session:** will be similar to the Modalities applied during the 47th session. Will be further discussed and approved by the Bureau at the opening of the Session on 13 September.
- **Remote participation:** proper equipment and connection need to be used.
- **Accessibility:** the Task Force continues its work, chaired by H.E. Ms. Keva Lorraine Bain. A focal point on Accessibility within the Secretariat can be contacted when necessary. live captioning and sign interpretation are encouraged, as well as uploading the statements online.
- **Reprisals:** constructive, safe and respectful atmosphere is essential. Intimidation and reprisal can take many forms – and should not happen in any circumstances.
- **Documentation:** out of 87 reports for the 48th session, 48 reports are already available in all UN languages, and 21 are available in some of the official languages.