

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

14 – 15 September 2021

Contents

Statements Made by Countries Concerned.....	2
Statements made by High Dignitaries	3
Member States: Joint Statements	4
Member States: Statements made in national capacity.....	8
Statements Made by the Observer States.....	17
Statements Made on Behalf of the National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations	29
Rights of Reply	37

This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 2 that took place on 14-15 September 2021 at the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The statements provided by the speakers are not exhaustive.

Please also refer to the Geneva Centre’s other summary reports considered under Item 2:

Oral Update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet; Report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights and technical assistance in the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**; Oral update on the situation of human rights in **Afghanistan**, Oral update on promotion and protection of human rights in **Nicaragua**, and Oral update on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in **Sri Lanka** are [available here](#).

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

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Statements Made by Countries Concerned	
Afghanistan	<p>Contrary to the earlier cautious optimism, the situation of human rights in Afghanistan under the Taliban continues to deteriorate. The need for scrutiny and concrete action by the Council becomes more urgent. The announcement of the so-called “Caretaker Cabinet” undermines the Afghanistan’s unity, leads to intense tensions and reaffirms Taliban’s blatant disregard for the rights of Afghan women and Afghanistan’s international obligations. The Council should look beyond the Taliban’s statements and uphold collective demand for gender equality and protect the progress of the last 20 years. Journalists covering the protests all over the country face threats, brutal assaults and detention. The Taliban imposed new restrictions on media and assemblies. Atrocities were witnessed in Panjshir province perpetrated with the support of foreign fighters and intelligence. Afghanistan reiterates the call for accountability and immediate dispatch of the fact-finding mission to investigate and document the abuses of human rights committed in several provinces since 2020. The international community should condemn the Taliban’s suppression of peaceful protests and stand with the Afghan people for defending their rights. Urges the states to welcome refugees and migrants.</p>
Nicaragua	<p>Reiterates the position of Nicaragua expressed to the Council on 22 June 2021. Nicaragua has the right to live in Justice and Peace, without foreign interference, not submitting to the impositions of the Imperial Powers. Nicaragua comes to this Council to denounce the United States and the European Powers that are its accomplices, to denounce their immoral and indecent policy of aggressive, arbitrary, illegal, coercive and unilateral measures that violate all the instruments of International Law. What is said in this Council is defamation and denigrating communication. Nicaragua denounces the North American and European Imperialists and their interventionist policies and actions that violate International Law and the Charter of the United Nations.</p>
Sri Lanka	<p>Twelve years ago, Sri Lanka eradicated LTTE terrorism; restored peace, security and stability. Most recently, 16 LTTE cadres convicted of serious terrorist crimes were granted Presidential pardons. The progress made in the domestic processes includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Office on Missing Persons as its core function, is finalizing the list of missing persons in collaboration with other agencies. - The Office for Reparations has processed 3775 claims this year. - The Office for National Unity and Reconciliation continues its 8 point action plan. - The National Human Rights Commission is carrying on its mandate. - A steering committee on SDG 16 is working towards enhancing peace, justice and strong institutions. - A Cabinet Sub Committee was appointed to revisit the PTA and to bring it in line with international norms and best practices. A report will be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers at the end of this month. - A Commission of Inquiry headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court was established to address issues on accountability and missing persons and to revisit recommendations by previous Commissions. <p>Sri Lanka is maintaining vigorous engagement with civil society. It continues to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the appalling terrorist attack on Easter Sunday in 2019. Rejects the proposal for any external initiatives purportedly established by Resolution 46/1, as domestic processes are addressing the relevant matters. External initiatives embarked upon without the cooperation of the country concerned cannot achieve their stated goals, and are subject to politicization.</p>

<p>Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)</p>	<p>Since the High Commissioner's last report, the United States' Government has continued the imposition of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs). During her visit to Venezuela, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the UCMs, Ms. Alena Douhan, confirmed the damage caused by these measures on the well-being of the Venezuelan people. The negative impact was also recognized by the High Commissioner, while her report requested their lifting. Despite these attacks, social investment in Venezuela continues. More than 7.5 million families benefit from food distribution through the CLAP Program. The Great Venezuela Housing Mission has delivered more than 3,600,000 decent homes. Health, education, sports and culture programs remain totally free, even for migrants and refugees.</p> <p>With the support of the Venezuelan Government, more than 150,000 people who had migrated due to the negative impact of the illegal UCMs have returned to the homeland. The report presented shows the progress of cooperation and technical assistance between the OHCHR and the Venezuelan Government. In application of the Letter of Understanding initially signed in 2019, and renewed this September for one more year, the number of officials of the Office in the country was brought to twelve, to attend to the areas of technical cooperation that are now being expanded, including additional activities such as technical assistance for the third cycle of the UPR. Since September 2020, the Office has carried out twenty-four visits to detention centres and field missions in at least eight states of the country. A mechanism for raising concerns about individual cases and human rights situations was formalized. Likewise, the methodology project for the preparation of the second National Human Rights Plan was discussed. Regrettably, the report still shows politicized elements that negatively affect its objectivity and credibility.</p> <p>On 13 August 2021, in Mexico City, a dialogue process began between the Venezuelan Government and the opposition Unitary Platform.</p>
<p>Statements made by High Dignitaries</p>	
<p>Denmark – Mr. Jeppe Kofod, Minister for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>This is Denmark's last session as a member of the Human Rights Council. At times Denmark would have liked to see a bolder Council. Nevertheless, the Council has on many occasions stood firm, including acting on situations in Myanmar, Belarus and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Denmark leads on the fight against torture and in the fight for the rights of women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. It is also engaged in the promotion of rights of indigenous people, in the protection of civil society space and the protection of freedom of religion or belief, and will continue its efforts.</p>
<p>Italy - Hon. Benedetto Della Vedova, Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>This is Italy's last ordinary session as member of this Council: in these three years, it has worked tirelessly to raise the attention on the most serious human rights situations, and to promote some priority issues, including the fight against all forms of discrimination, the promotion of gender equality and the fight against all forms of violence against women. As an observer, Italy will keep human rights as a firm priority and spare no efforts to support and contribute to the work of the Council. In line with its "motto" - "Human Rights for Peace" - Italy believes that only when human rights are fully guaranteed to all, societies can really be peaceful, resilient and sustainable.</p>
<p>Tunisia – H.E Mr. Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad</p>	<p>Tunisia attaches the importance to cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. His Excellency the President of the Republic, has emphasized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The exceptional measures taken on July 25 are in accordance with the country's constitution, and in response to popular demands to intervene to put an end to the state of political tension and save the democratic path. - Freedom of expression and freedom of association have not been affected in any way. <p>The media in Tunisia is pluralistic and open to all regardless of their political or ideological affiliation. It is important to uphold the rule of law, combat corruption and ensure accountability.</p>

Member States: Joint Statements

<p>Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States²)</p>	<p>Afghanistan: the EU calls on those in positions of power and authority for the immediate restoration of security and civil order. Accountability for serious violations and abuses must be ensured and future violations must be prevented. Afghanistan is a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The EU will continue to seize the attention of the HRC on Afghanistan.</p> <p>Lebanon: the authorities should deliver on their commitment to an impartial, credible, transparent and independent investigation into the explosion in Beirut on 4 August 2020 in order to bring about the accountability. Calls for investigation of the brutal assassination of independent activist Lokman Slim. Important for Lebanon to organize transparent and credible elections in 2022.</p> <p>Mali: the EU welcomes the lifting of the restrictions imposed on former President Bah N’Daw and former Prime Minister Moctar Ouane. Calls for the full respect of the Charte de la Transition, entailing the organisation of transparent and credible elections by 27/02/22. The EU calls for the respect of rule of law and demonstrating through action the commitment to fight against impunity.</p> <p>Cameroon: concerned about the grave human rights violations and abuses committed by both state and non-state actors in the North-West, South-West and the Far North regions; calls for accountability. The deployment of an OHCHR team in 2019 and the enhanced cooperation between OHCHR and Cameroon were positive steps. Regrets that the report and follow up have still not been made public.</p> <p>Cuba: Cuban government should release all those arbitrarily detained. The EU joins the international calls on Cuban authorities to grant access to the country to the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders. Also calls on Cuba to finalize the ratification process of both the ICCPR and the ICESCR.</p> <p>Nicaragua: authorities must put an end to the crackdown on political opponents, independent media, civil society and human rights defenders. OHCHR and IACHR must be authorised to return to Nicaragua. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: continued efforts needed for reconciliation and accountability pursuant to Council resolution 46/1. Regrets the decision of the Government to no longer support the UN framework to address the legacy of the past conflict. Notes the declared intent of the Government to maintain a sustainable reconciliation process. Stresses the importance of amending the Prevention of Terrorism Act.</p>
<p>Italy (on behalf of a group of countries³)</p>	<p>Human rights situation in Afghanistan: the group is deeply concerned by the reports of serious international humanitarian law and human rights violations, and condemns all arbitrary and extrajudicial killings of civilians and peaceful protesters, violence against civilians, sexual and gender based violence, child, early and forced marriage and sexual slavery, as well as the destruction of critical infrastructure and looting of cultural heritage committed by the Taliban and/or terrorist groups. The protection of Afghan women’s and girls’ human rights must be an integral part of the political solution. Afghanistan is a State Party to many core international human rights treaties, including the ICCPR, the CEDAW and the CRC, as well as to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Accountability for serious violations and abuses must be ensured. There is an urgent need to set up an independent mechanism, that should have unhindered access to the Afghan territory, to investigate and promote accountability for violations and abuses committed by all Afghan parties, and to monitor the human rights situation. The Council must act in a manner commensurate with the gravity of the situation to prevent further deterioration of human rights.</p>

² Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

³ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, United States, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Israel, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Moldova, Georgia, Colombia, Ecuador, Norway, Republic of Korea, Chile, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, New Zealand.

<p>Gambia (on behalf of the Group of support of the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco⁴)</p>	<p>The group stresses that the interaction of Member States with the Council and the High Commissioner must retain its bilateral character and be protected from any instrumentalisation. The Group welcomes the opening, by many countries, of General Consulates in the cities of Dakhla and Laâyoune. The Sahara issue is a political dispute handled by the Security Council that recognizes the pre-eminence of the Autonomy Initiative presented by Morocco as credible and serious for a definitive political solution to this regional dispute over the Sahara. The resolution of this regional dispute will contribute to achieve the legitimate aspirations of the African and Arab peoples in terms of integration and development, which is considered as an objective that Morocco continues to pursue and for which it makes sincere and ongoing efforts.</p>
<p>Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation – OIC)</p>	<p>Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT) incl. East Jerusalem: The OIC welcomes appointment of the members of the Commission of Inquiry; urges the OHCHR to continue publishing data on business enterprises involved in activities related to Israeli settlements in the OPT.</p> <p>Bangladesh: calls on the Council to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, including through their safe and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar. Reiterates its full solidarity with Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingya crisis.</p> <p>Occupied Jammu and Kashmir: urges the Council to implement the recommendations addressed to it in the OHCHR’s two Kashmir reports. The international community should ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir.</p> <p>Azerbaijan: reaffirms its full support to the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild the de-occupied territories. Calls upon the international community to extend assistance to Azerbaijan for safe and dignified return of Azerbaijani IDPs. Condemns the damage and loss of properties, including religious sites by Armenia in the territories of Azerbaijan.</p> <p>Afghanistan: highlights the necessity for urgent humanitarian assistance. An inclusive political settlement is key to enduring peace, reconciliation, security and stability. Calls for international community’s sustained engagement with Afghanistan on political, economic, human rights and humanitarian tracks.</p> <p>The OIC remains deeply concerned over the growing incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia and religious intolerance, resulting in denigration of venerated religious personalities and symbols as well as restrictions on fundamental freedoms.</p>
<p>Ecuador (on behalf of Nicaragua core group⁵)</p>	<p>Nicaragua: the escalation of human rights violations as the November elections approach is particularly worrisome. The Group is deeply concerned by the reports of arbitrary detentions and general intimidation against political opponents, student and civil society leaders, journalists and human rights defenders. Urges the Government of Nicaragua to immediately release all political detainees, and refrain from reprisals and all acts of intimidation. The Group is troubled by the Government’s implementation of recently enacted laws that undermine political participation, media freedom, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, the separation of powers and the democratic system as a whole. The events that occurred in recent months, cast doubt on the legitimacy and would make highly difficult to assess the upcoming November 7th elections in Nicaragua as being free, fair and transparent. Nicaragua should bring to account those responsible for the human rights violations perpetrated since April 2018.</p>

⁴ Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Eswatini, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jordan, Liberia, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra-Leone, United Arab Emirates, Dominican Republic, Zambia, Maldives, Yemen.

⁵ Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

<p>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the Core Group on Sri Lanka ⁶)</p>	<p>Sri Lanka: OHCHR to be granted the resources needed to implement resolution 46/1. Stresses the importance of a comprehensive reconciliation and accountability process. Notes Sri Lanka's declared intent to promote reconciliation and to ensure the continuity of the work of the Office of Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations. Calls on the Government to ensure the political independence of these institutions. Disappointed that even the limited progress made on accountability on key emblematic cases has regressed. Recent developments on the case involving the disappearance of 11 youths in 2008-2009 is of particular concern. Also deeply concerned about current human rights developments: increased limitations on civic space including reports of surveillance and intimidation of civil society groups, intimidation of journalists, and reprisals against those protesting peacefully. Reiterates the request made at the last session for independent and impartial investigations into deaths in police custody. The Government of Sri Lanka should bring its counter-terrorism legislation in line with its international human rights obligations. Also remains concerned about the ongoing detention of human rights lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah and the poet and teacher Ahnaf Jazeem under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.</p>
<p>Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement – NAM)</p>	<p>The High Commissioner should bare in mind the existing challenges and national context and circumstances of the Member States and exercise objectivity, independence and impartiality in her actions, favouring the constructive dialogue, as well as providing technical, financial assistance upon the request of the states concerned, with a view to support their actions and programs in the field of human rights.</p> <p>The NAM reaffirms its position on the need to respect the right of all to choose their values and principles, appropriate to their people for the protection and promotion of human rights, and the rejection of attempts to impose other values and cultures.</p> <p>The OHCHR's role is important in addressing the challenges arising from the unilateral coercive measures which have negative impact on the rights of people and individuals who wish to realize economic and social rights including the right to development.</p>
<p>Cameroon (on behalf of the Group of African States – African Group)</p>	<p>The African Group encourages Ms. Bachelet to continue to pay particular attention to the following issues :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the right for all to access safe, equitable, timely, effective and quality COVID-19 vaccines; - climate change, which should be followed up by existing mandate holders; - the need to reflect on the issues of good governance and the fight against impunity, which could also be addressed by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee ; - the search for a fair and lasting solution to the debt crisis and related issues; - effective and efficient monitoring of racism-related issues, in particular in the context of resolutions 42/29 and 47/21. <p>The African Group also stresses the need for an increase in the budget of the OHCHR, with a view to implementing the mandate entrusted to it by the UN General Assembly resolution 48/141.</p>
<p>China (on behalf of a group of countries⁷)</p>	<p>Peace and security is the basic prerequisite for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development. To achieve lasting peace and promote and protect human rights, all States should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, embrace the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First, we should practice true multilateralism, firmly uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order. We should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, refraining from imposing one's will on others. - Second, differences should be bridged through dialogue, consultations, and political negotiations.

⁶ Canada, Germany, Malawi, Montenegro , North Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

⁷ Laos, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sudan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Third, we should persist in promoting sustainable development so as to achieve peace through development. - Fourth, we should respect the diversity of civilizations, promote dialogue among. - Fifth, we should address both traditional and non-traditional security threats in a coordinated manner.
<p>Timor-Leste (on behalf of Geneva Support Group for Western Sahara⁸)</p>	<p>The Group took note of High-Commissioner’s replay at last June Interactive Dialogue, when she asserted that her Office is following remotely the human rights situation in the occupied Western Sahara. The Group expresses hope that all serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law will be duly reflected in the next Secretary-General report to the Security Council on the situation in Western Sahara. The Group echoes the appeal recently launched by a group of Special Procedures, led by Ms. Lawlor, calling Morocco to stop targeting Western Sahara human rights defenders and journalists. Expresses deepest concern at the adoption by the Moroccan parliament of two bills that give domestic legal cover to a coastal area that belongs to the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara, which is also causing concern in Spain’s Canary Islands, where the government warned of overlaps with Spanish territorial waters. The Group continues to deem necessary to urgently dispatch an observation mission to the Occupied Western Sahara, to report to the Human Rights Council and to resume the technical mission to Western Sahara that was last on the ground in 2015. The Sahrawi people should be able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.</p>
<p>China (on behalf of a group of countries⁹)</p>	<p>The Group is deeply concerned about chronic human rights issues in the United States. The U.S. has seen the largest number of Covid-19 cases and death in the world. Systemic racism and racial discrimination has long existed in the U.S.. Africans and people of African descendant, Asians and people of Asian descendant, Muslims and other minority groups continue to suffer discrimination and harm, which is rooted in the abhorrent slavery and slave trade. In the past, the U.S. committed genocide against native Indians; at present, it still keeps infringing on their rights. The U.S. is also plagued with human trafficking and forced labor. The U.S. has spread lies and disinformation, pursued power politics, interfered in other countries’ internal affairs, and tried to impose its own values on others. It has frequently taken unilateral coercive measures, severely infringing on the human rights of the relevant countries. Wars waged by the U.S. have caused tremendous casualties and displacement of civilians. The crimes of killing civilians in Afghanistan by the U.S. troops and its allies must be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators must be held accountable. The Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights should continue to attend to the human rights situation in the U.S..</p>
<p>Austria (on behalf of Geneva Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists¹⁰)</p>	<p>The group expresses its deep concern over the desperate situation of journalists and media workers in Afghanistan over the last few weeks, and shares the concern expressed by various special procedures of the HRC with regard to the specific threats and systematic human rights violations and abuses faced by female journalists. According to recent information by <i>Reporters without Borders</i>, fewer than 100 of Kabul’s 700 female journalists are still able to exercise their work. The group strongly condemns this increasing level of intimidation and violence that journalists, media workers and other individuals engaged in informing the public endure in Afghanistan, and urges all actors in Afghanistan to protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Those who have committed acts of violence and violation of international human rights law against journalists and media workers must be held accountable.</p>

⁸ Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cuba, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Timor-Leste , Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

⁹ Bolivia, Belarus, Iran, Syria, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Venezuela.

¹⁰ Australia, Austria, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom.

<p>China (on behalf of a group of countries¹¹)</p>	<p>The Group expresses its deep concern that the United States and its allies have conducted military intervention in Afghanistan for 20 years, which severely undermined the sovereignty and territorial integrity, and violated the human rights of Afghan people. The U.S.-led military intervention in Afghanistan is the root cause of humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan. By April 2020, at least 470,000 Afghan civilians had been killed in the war waged by the U.S. and more than 10 million Afghan people were displaced. Afghanistan's neighbours have also been severely affected by the U.S. led military intervention. The crimes committed in Afghanistan by military personnel of the U.S. and its allies, such as killing of civilians and torture, must be thoroughly and impartially investigated. The perpetrators must be brought to justice and the victims deserve justice and remedy. The High Commissioner should continue to attend to severe negative impact of military intervention by the countries in question on the enjoyment of human rights of Afghan people.</p>
<p>Egypt (on behalf of a Group of Like-Minded Countries – LMG¹²)</p>	<p>The Human Rights Council and the OHCHR should always abide by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive dialogue, cooperation and transparency, as enshrined in the UN General Assembly resolution 60/251. The OHCHR should carry out its duties within the framework of the UN Charter and the UDHR, while respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic jurisdiction of States. It has to be guided by the recognition that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and has equal importance. The Office of the High Commissioner should rely solely on objective facts, and give the concerned state the opportunity of commenting on them. The Office should make sure that the relevant NGOs are acting in good faith and free from politically motivated stands or contrary to the provisions of the UN Charter.</p>
<p>Member States: Statements made in national capacity</p>	
<p>1. Germany</p>	<p><i>Aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>Germany repeats its call on Member States and the Secretary General to ensure the adequate funding of the UN's human rights pillar. Germany increased its voluntary support for OHCHR to 11.5 million USD in 2021 and provides 50% of it without any earmarking. Welcomes the plans to digitize the so far paper-based processes of the Treaty Bodies' communications procedures.</p> <p>Afghanistan: Germany supports a broad and preventive monitoring of the human rights situation in Afghanistan by the HRC.</p> <p>Lebanon: the absence of the rule of law and widespread impunity rob the Lebanese people of the accountability they deserve. The proper conduct of the elections next year will be significant milestones to measure progress.</p> <p>Turkmenistan: calls on Turkmenistan to live up to and implement the numerous human rights treaties it is a party to.</p> <p>Uganda: concerned about the recent suspension of 54 NGOs, among them several human rights organisations.</p>
<p>2. France</p>	<p><i>Aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>Afghanistan: France condemns all human rights violations committed in Afghanistan. It will continue to follow very closely the developments and the fulfilment of the commitments made by the Taliban, in particular with regard to the respect of the rights of women and girls and the preservation of humanitarian access. France condemns the <i>coups d'état</i> in Myanmar, Mali and Guinea and calls for respect for democratic processes. In Myanmar and Belarus, France calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all</p>

¹¹ Russian Federation, Bolivia, Burundi, Venezuela, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

¹² Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Syria, Thailand, Venezuela, Yemen.

	those arbitrarily detained. France also condemns the increasing restrictions on civil and political rights in Nicaragua and Cambodia , and reiterates the importance of the fight against impunity and access to justice in Lebanon .
3. Indonesia	As the world's largest archipelagic nation, Indonesia fully shares the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner in relation to the existential threats posed by climate change . Indonesia will continue to support all efforts, in all fora, to enable Member States to have greater policy choices towards a greener, human rights-based, fair, and equitable economic development. Inclusivity and the meaningful participation of all segments of society - including those in vulnerable situations - in the design and application of such environmental policies, remains to be key. Indonesia remains committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, despite the lack of concrete progress in the deliverance of results-based payment by some of its partners in bilateral REDD+ arrangements.
4. Armenia	Armenia stands firmly by High Commissioner and her call to reinvigorate joint action to address the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution, and nature loss . Further commends the High Commissioner and her Office for organizing on 10 February 2021 one-day intersessional meeting on the prevention of genocide . Greatly values determination of the High Commissioner to seek access for the OHCHR to Nagorno-Karabakh . Monitoring and reporting of the OHCHR from the field can prevent the violations in future. The human rights of the civilian Armenian population living in the close vicinity to the border have been continuously violated by Azerbaijan. Calls for the meticulous examination and scrutiny of this situation by the OHCHR. Armenia expresses appreciation to China for its efforts towards the promotion of the right to health; and reiterates its adherence to One China policy.
5. Mexico	Climate change has severe impacts on the exercise of a wide range of human rights. The "dry corridor" and the increasingly frequent meteorological phenomena are compromising the livelihoods and productive activities of millions of people. Mexico has established Programs for Preventive Measures and Drought Mitigation, and a Comprehensive Development Plan to strengthen the resilience of communities and food security in the region. Afghanistan : calls to guarantee the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in all decision-making processes. Calls for the full respect of international law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. Nicaragua : calls to implement the recommendations of the Office, and to ensure full respect for civil and political rights in the context of the November elections. Venezuela : Mexico hosts the negotiation and dialogue facilitated by the Kingdom of Norway, between the Government of Mexico and the Unitary Platform. Expresses hope that this process will lead to a solution for the benefit of the Venezuelan people. It is essential to avoid politicization and guide the assessment of national situations by observing the precepts of the UN Charter.
6. Japan	Afghanistan : all stakeholders, including the Taliban, should ensure the safe departure of those who wish to leave the country. Humanitarian access for medical personnel and others must be respected. All stakeholders should comply with their obligations under international human rights law, including for the protection of the human rights of women, children and minorities, and ensuring the safety of journalists and respect to freedom of expression. Venezuela : particularly concerned about illegal arrests, arbitrary detention and torture. Urges the Government to work with OHCHR to address the challenges voiced by the international community. Nicaragua : expects the parties involved to resolve the political conflict peacefully, while respecting fundamental principles such as human rights and democracy. The presidential elections in November should be conducted in a free and fair manner.

	<p>Sri Lanka: while there is room for improvement in the areas of national reconciliation and human rights, the Government is taking various measures including investigation by the Commission of Inquiry and payment of compensation. Sri Lanka should continue to take voluntary actions, and the international community should support Sri Lanka in this effort.</p>
<p>7. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)</p>	<p><i>Venezuela aligns itself with the statements made by Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM, and China on behalf of the LMG.</i></p> <p>Concerned about the consistent attempts of some states to instrumentalize the human rights in the developing countries. They lead media campaigns and impose terrible unilateral measures.</p> <p>China works to foster the prosperity of all people in its country, including in Xinjiang. Hong Kong and Xinjiang are China's internal affairs.</p> <p>Nicaragua: during the November elections, the country will reaffirm its democracy which will strengthen peace and justice.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: abides by the commitment of the Sri Lankan government towards human rights, peace and reconciliation.</p> <p>Afghanistan: expresses support to all the parties that will contribute to lasting peace.</p> <p>The OHCHR should combatting unilateral coercive measures.</p>
<p>8. Senegal</p>	<p><i>Senegal aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the groups to which it belongs.</i></p> <p>As we mark the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, Senegal remains deeply concerned about the growing incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia and religious intolerance. The Council and its mechanisms must continue to play their role in combating hate speech both offline and online. In addition to the right of access for all to a vaccine against COVID-19, and the search for a fair and lasting solution to the debt crisis and related issues, should be given priority. Effective and efficient monitoring of issues related to racism as a whole must be pursued in order to curb the excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement agencies. against people of African descent.</p>
<p>9. Republic of Korea</p>	<p>Afghanistan: the reprisal attacks against human rights defenders and journalists are especially worrisome as well as the growing restrictions on women's rights to education, work, and freedom of movement. All actors should adhere to the obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law and to facilitate unimpeded and safe humanitarian access.</p> <p>Tigray region: thousands of civilian casualties have been reported, more than two million people displaced. Allegations of extra judicial killings and widespread sexual violence against women and girls must be thoroughly investigated. Looks forward to the final report of the joint investigation of the OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission that is expected to be published on 1 November.</p> <p>Myanmar: it is important to ensure accountability for the human right violations; expresses full support for the mandates of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: acknowledges the ongoing efforts by the Sri Lankan government to enhance its human rights situation and to ensure accountability Sri Lanka, in close cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms. The government should continue to work toward building national reconciliation and pursuing transitional justice.</p>
<p>10. Austria</p>	<p>Afghanistan: Any retaliation against those who have supported the building of a democratic Afghanistan is unacceptable. Particularly concerned by a roll-back of gains achieved over the past twenty years, including the rights of women and girls and will closely monitor how any future government ensures the rights and freedoms.</p> <p>Yemen: people are still forced to endure one of the worst human rights and humanitarian crises worldwide. Deeply concerned about the impunity for the perpetrators. Fully supports the renewal of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen during the current Council session. Reaffirms its full support to the UN-led process working towards a negotiated political solution to achieve sustainable peace.</p>

	<p>Nicaragua: the recent repression of political opponents, civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and attacks on media freedom cast a long shadow on the upcoming elections in November this year. The authorities should immediately seize such measures.</p> <p>South West and North West regions of Cameroon: deeply concerned by the continued violence. Calls for both the Cameroonian government and separatist armed groups to end the violence and engage in a dialogue. The deployment of an OHCHR team in 2019 and the enhanced cooperation between OHCHR and the Government of Cameroon were positive steps. Encourages the High Commissioner to make the findings of the OHCHR 2019 mission public, and to provide regular updates to the Council.</p>
11. Argentina	<p>The monitoring of national situations is an essential tool for the prevention of violations. Such monitoring should be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, avoiding the politicization of this body.</p> <p>Afghanistan: all political actors in Afghanistan, particularly those who control power, should fully respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law, adopting urgent measures to protect people at imminent risk, particularly women, girls and boys, and other groups in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>Nicaragua: the government should allow the OHCHR to enter its territory in order to fulfil its mandate, which includes technical advice.</p> <p>Venezuela: the way out of the political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis can only be achieved through an inclusive political dialogue. Strongly supports the negotiation process in Mexico between the Venezuelan government and the opposition.</p> <p>The technical assistance provided by the OHCHR should be reinforced by establishing a permanent Office in the country that facilitates the implementation of the recommendations made by the High Commissioner in her reports.</p>
12. Netherlands	<p><i>The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>As a member of this Council, the Netherlands reiterates the need to <i>Respect, Reach out and Respond</i>.</p> <p>Respect for human rights is crucial for safety and sustainable peace. Respect also means fostering a culture of accountability and justice for victims and survivors of human rights violations.</p> <p>Afghanistan: calls on the interim government to provide safety and security to the Afghan population, including members of vulnerable groups. Accountability for serious violations and abuses must be ensured, future violations must be prevented.</p> <p>Venezuela: the human rights situation remains critical. Venezuelan authorities should facilitate OHCHR's permanent and undisturbed presence, and implement its recommendations.</p> <p>Reach out. It is of utmost importance that the voices of civil society are represented in this room. OHCHR should always respond to reprisals and set up clear UN protocols.</p> <p>Respond. The credibility of this Council depends on the quality of its membership. Those member states who have not yet had the possibility to take a seat in this Council should also consider putting forward their candidacy.</p>
13. Bahrain	<p><i>Bahrain aligns itself with the statements of regional and political groups it belongs to.</i></p> <p>Willingness to engage in consultations and a fruitful cooperation with the OHCHR, to achieve greater partnership through providing technical assistance and capacity building in the field of promotion and protection of human rights.</p> <p>Need to encourage cooperation and solidarity among countries in order to promote human rights, and to provide assistance and support to the victims of violations.</p>
14. Cuba	<p>Cuba strongly rejects the comment made in the intervention of the European Union. The EU should deal with the serious human rights violations, exacerbated during the pandemic, in their respective countries. In the work of the OHCHR, impartiality and universality, as</p>

	<p>well as the fight against politicization and selectivity, must be a priority. The High Commissioner should continue her efforts to ensure respect, a balanced approach, objectivity, dialogue and cooperation. The item 2 of the Agenda should not be used to promote agendas against countries of the South for political reasons. Cuba reiterates its firm condemnation of the the imposition of coercive measures and the promotion of fourth generation wars. Cuba voices its solidarity with Venezuela, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka in the face of the interventionist agenda that is maintained against those countries. It condemns the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States against Cuba.</p>
15. Uruguay	<p>Uruguay wishes to reiterate its concern over the trend towards deterioration in the human rights situation in the world, including in Latin America. Uruguay shares the High Commissioner's concern on the accelerated deterioration of human rights situation in Nicaragua. Firmly rejects the growing impunity, the violation of procedural guarantees and the use of laws with ambiguous criminal concepts to arrest political leaders of the opposition and possible electoral candidates, as well as the escalation of the persecution against human rights defenders and journalists in this state. Reiterates the importance of Nicaragua guaranteeing the independent investigation of all human rights violations committed since April 2018. Nicaragua should review its position of non-cooperation with the UN human rights system, engage in a constructive dialogue with the OHCHR, making use of its technical assistance when necessary.</p>
16. Russian Federation	<p>Venezuela: The current humanitarian situation is a direct consequence of the use of unlawful UCMs which is worsening the economy. There is a disregard of Venezuela's readiness to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms. The problems of Venezuela can only be resolved within the framework of the national constitution and without outside interference.</p> <p>Nicaragua: the wave of external pressure on Managua pursues as its one goal to remove the lawful government from power through the use of political manipulation, supported by illegal financial and humanitarian restrictions.</p> <p>Afghanistan: the priority now is humanitarian assistance and post-conflict recovery. Given the socio-economic situation, aggravated by COVID-19, and the risks of a worsening migration situation, the world community should work together without shifting blame.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: Notes the commitment of the Sri Lankan authorities to address a set of human rights issues, and to build up cooperation with the HRC. Investigation of violations and holding perpetrators to the account should be resolved without international interference. The high Commissioner should pursue the efforts of depoliticized communication with states. Russia will support these efforts.</p>
17. India	<p>India expresses its disappointment over the High Commissioner's unwarranted remarks on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which do not reflect the ground reality. Any shortcomings in upholding human rights must be addressed in a transparent and impartial manner, anchored in respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of States. India's Parliament, independent judiciary, vibrant media and civil society ensure full enjoyment of human rights by its people.</p> <p>Afghanistan: the UNSC Resolution 2593 should guide the international community's approach to Afghanistan.</p> <p>India is seeking re-election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2022-24 and looks forward to the continued support of UN Member States to India's candidature.</p>
18. Nepal	<p>Nepal as a climate change vulnerable country has been facing disproportionate impacts of climate-induced disasters in terms of recurring cases of loss of lives and property. Nepal has set an ambitious target of achieving a net zero-carbon scenario by 2050. Calls for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and for the development partners to provide enhanced support to LDCs and SIDS in the form of knowledge sharing, skills and technology transfer, and climate finance. The Government of Nepal is committed to maintaining independence and autonomy of the National Human Right Commission. Nepal also stands firm on its commitment to addressing remaining issues of transitional justice in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Accord, directives of the Supreme</p>

	<p>Court, relevant international commitments, concerns of the victims, and the ground realities. The works of the human rights bodies and mechanisms should be guided by upholding the principle of objectivity, non-selectivity, impartiality, and transparency.</p>
19. Brazil	<p>The protection of the rights of indigenous peoples is a fundamental element in the constitutional order of Brazil. Since July 2019 by Decree 9.937, the Brazil's National Program for Protection of Human Rights Defenders has been further expanded to specifically include environmentalists. The discussions on new Bills involve holding of public hearings with the concerned sectors. All of the Bills may be subject to constitutional reviews by the judiciary. The importance of pluralistic and transparent dialogue with all Member States.</p>
20. Namibia	<p><i>Namibia aligns itself to the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group.</i></p> <p>Occupied Palestinian Territory: Namibia calls on the Occupying Power, Israel, to refrain from the unlawful use of force against the Palestinian people. Each year more Palestinians, including children, are killed by Israeli Security Forces, with full impunity, in blatant disregard of international human rights and humanitarian law. The responsible Israeli authorities must be held accountable.</p> <p>Afghanistan: remains concerned about report of serious human rights violations, including reprisal killings, and restrictions on the rights of all women and girls. Namibia calls on the Taliban to respect the human rights of all persons in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Western Sahara: the High Commissioner's update did not make any reference to the situation of human rights in Western Sahara. Namibia reiterates its call for the OHCHR to regularly update the Council on the situation of human rights.</p>
21. China	<p>China welcomes the High Commissioner's attention to issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and environmental pollution. China is willing to work with all parties to build a fair, reasonable, cooperative and win-win global environmental governance system. The OHCHR should increase its investment in economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, and continue to perform its duties impartially.</p> <p>The human rights of all Chinese people are fully protected. Xinjiang's enjoys peace and stability, prosperity and development, the ethnic unity and harmony. China welcomes the High Commissioner's friendly visit to China, including Xinjiang, and the two sides have been in communication on matters relevant. China firmly opposes any attempt to politicize the visit, interfere in China's internal affairs, and mount pressure on China.</p> <p>China is deeply concerned about the human rights issues in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and other countries. These countries interfere in the internal affairs of other countries in the name of human rights, impose unilateral coercive measures that gravely violate the human rights of the people of other countries. The OHCHR should pay sufficient attention to these issues.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: China appreciates the government's efforts to actively promote and protect human rights, advance national reconciliation, and combat terrorism. China opposes relevant countries' interference in Sri Lanka's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights.</p> <p>Venezuela: China calls on all countries to respect the development path independently chosen by the Venezuelan people and urges the United States to remove the unilateral coercive measures against Venezuela.</p>
22. Czech Republic	<p><i>The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>Czech Republic takes very seriously the Council's responsibility to ensure a timely and adequate response to all human rights violations and abuses. It remains determined to support the OHCHR by voluntary financial contributions, gradually increasing in the recent years.</p> <p>Afghanistan: particularly worried about the situation of Afghan women and girls. As the Czech Republic stated during the Special Session, this Council must act to prevent further atrocities.</p>

	<p>Sri Lanka: The Government’s approach to the reconciliation process would be significantly reinforced by re-committing to the resolution, which continues to provide a solid framework for promotion and protection of human rights and the pursued accountability.</p> <p>Nicaragua: worried about the continued repression against political opponents, journalists and civil society in the run-up to the November elections. Calls for the immediate release of dissidents and political contenders. Urges the government to authorise the return of the OHCHR and other international human rights bodies to the country.</p> <p>Cuba: concerned about the Cuban State’s response to the nationwide protests that began on July 11, including the use of Internet restrictions. Joins the High Commissioner’s call on the prompt release of all those arbitrarily detained.</p>
23. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	<p>It is important to try to have climate justice. The so-called “economic reforms” can often undermine the people who are affected by its measures. Bolivia stay in solidarity with the countries that are unable to effectively cope with the pandemic, as the effects of COVID-19 has huge impact on human rights. It is important to have constructive and non-political dialogues on a regular basis, to ensure impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-interference in internal affairs. Bolivia has been tackling the human rights problems raised in the most recent report, and is committing to punishing the perpetrators.</p>
24. Pakistan	<p>Jammu and Kashmir: The occupation power is illegally grabbing land, properties and natural resources of the indigenous Kashmiri people, and systematically disenfranchising them of their distinct cultural and religious identity. These unlawful measures are designed to deprive the Kashmiris of their right to self-determination. They constitute wilful breach of India’s obligations under UNSC resolutions and 4th Geneva Convention. The international community needs to ‘step up’ and take the following four steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Council must call on India to rescind its demographic change, halt its violations, and allow access to independent observers; - in order to secure meaningful accountability of India, the Council should mandate a Commission of Inquiry to investigate Indian abuses, as recommended by the two Kashmir reports; - the global flag-bearers of human rights should publicly call India out for its atrocities in Kashmir; - the High Commissioner should issue an updated Kashmir report in exercise of her prevention mandate. <p>Afghanistan: reiterates support for a broad-based political set-up in Afghanistan. All parties should uphold basic rights of all Afghan citizens, especially of women, girls, and minorities.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's democratic credentials and socio-economic achievements are commendable. Calls for genuine dialogue and cooperation with Sri Lanka, including through technical cooperation.</p>
25. Mauritania	<p>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 a tracing and assessment of victims and events, a mobile unit of trainers and a solid training program. Calls for the intensification of this cooperation to reach out to the various fields of action of OHCHR. The work of the Human Rights Council must be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. Mandate holders, in the course of their work, are required to be impartial. They should cooperate constructively with the States concerned while paying the necessary attention to economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.</p>
26. Sudan	<p><i>Sudan joins the statements made on behalf of the groups to which it belongs.</i></p> <p>Sudan expresses its full support for the calls for the establishment of the mandate of a special rapporteur on human rights and climate change. The impact of the phenomenon of climate change on the range of economic, cultural and social rights in Sudan, including the right to development, has been significant and clear. During the past decades, many regions in Sudan have witnessed cases of displacement due to droughts and floods, which also escalated military conflicts. Sudan stresses the importance of solidarity,</p>

	cooperation and sharing of expertise and best experiences among all countries. It encourages the OHCHR to continue to assess the needs of states and provide technical support and capacity-building programs.
27. Ukraine	Russian Federation: the upcoming parliamentary elections started a new wave of human rights violations. The Russian authorities should end the arbitrary practice of labelling ordinary individuals, journalists, and non-governmental organizations as “extremists”, “foreign agents” or “undesirable organizations”. The same repressive methods have been used by the Russian authorities on the territories of Ukraine, temporarily occupied by Russia – in Crimea and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The very fact of organizing such elections on occupied territories constitutes a gross violation of international law. In September, the Russian occupation authorities conducted numerous searches and illegal detentions under trumped-up charges of Ukrainian citizens, mostly Crimean Tatars. Ukraine calls upon the Russian Federation to comply with its obligations as an occupying Power and urges it to bring to an immediate end to all violations and abuses of human rights of residents of Crimea and other occupied territories. The international community has a legitimate right to urge Russia to live up to the expectations placed on it as a Member of the Human Rights Council.
28. Philippines	Philippines has on a number of occasions proposed the need for a facility to ensure the accessibility and visibility of State responses to both country reports and news releases from the OHCHR and SPMH. The High Commissioner’s Annual Reports provide examples of the range of OHCHR’s in-country cooperation. This serves as an important mechanism for reporting and updating on the human rights situation with a view to facilitating dialogue, informing responses and rendering constructive assistance to the duty bearers. Philippines also places high importance to the information and responses provided by the concerned countries on their political context and human rights situation as this helps ensure fairness, balance, and inclusivity in this exercise and in the work of the Council as a whole.
29. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Afghanistan: welcomes the Special Session’s resolution requesting the High Commissioner to report back to the Council. Need to protect the gains made in the previous 20 years, especially concerning the rights of women, girls and members of minorities. Working with the partners, the UK will use all the means at its disposal, including development assistance, to priorities. Guinea: all parties should protect and respect human rights. It is worrying that opposition politicians, human rights defenders and journalists face arrests and violence. Zimbabwe: civil society activists, opposition politicians and journalists face arrests and violence. The Government has used COVID-19 restrictions as a pretext to obstruct opposition and protests. Cameroon: the government should remain engaged in inclusive dialogue. There must be an end to violence and impartial investigations to hold the perpetrators to account. Viet Nam: concerned about harassment and arrests of journalists, bloggers, human rights educators and certain ethnic minority groups. Freedom of expression must be protected, including online. Nicaragua: concerned about the government’s steps to undermine democracy and human rights. The arbitrary detention and harassment of government critics is unacceptable. Nigeria: continues to monitor the judicial panels of inquiry established to investigate allegations of police brutality and human rights violations followed the #EndSARS protests.
30. Eritrea	Eritrea in principle and practice rejects any country specific mechanism when it does not enjoy the support of the concerned state as it negates the cardinal principles enshrined in the IB Package. The respect for dignity and sovereign right of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka are of paramount importance to the enjoyment of human rights. Despite development challenges, the countries continue to

	achieve important national goals reflected in policies and strategic programmes with tangible progress. In the above context, Eritrea shares the view of the high commissioner that UCMs pose challenge to the enjoyment of human rights.
31. Burkina Faso	Humanitarian emergency in the Sahel is the result of several factors such as drought, degradation of the quality of cultivable land, modification of rainfall patterns and devastating floods. All these phenomena result in the scarcity of food and water resources which negatively impacts peaceful coexistence and increases the risk of internal displacement of populations. Burkina Faso has been confronted since 2015 with growing insecurity which has caused many civilian victims and gave rise to a significant internal displacement of populations. As of 31 July 2021, more than 1,300,000 internally displaced persons were registered in Burkina Faso, most of them as a result of attacks by armed terrorist groups. With the support of the humanitarian community, the Government put in place a response plan to the crisis. Because of this exceptional crisis, which is leading to an exponential growth in humanitarian needs, Burkina Faso counts on the support of the international community to face this challenge.
32. Bangladesh	Bangladesh is concerned about the uneven distribution of COVID-19 vaccines which is widening the inequality gap among the countries. OHCHR should strengthen its advocacy role to ensure fair distribution and equitable access for all countries. Bangladesh has been hosting more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas , due to its unswerving commitment to human rights and humanity. The High Commissioner should use her good offices to create pressure on Myanmar to commence repatriation of Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh at the soonest. She should also duly reflect on the Rohingya issue in all relevant interventions, oral updates and reports to the Council in future. By 2050, 17% of Bangladesh will be submerged by rising sea levels, depriving 20 million people of their homes. Endorse the High Commissioner's call for ensuring adequate funding for climate mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. There must be enhanced international cooperation for providing financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries, especially those most affected by and vulnerable to climate change.
33. Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Aligns itself with the statement made by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.</i> The consequences of climate change, in particular the extreme climate, has become a more direct for human rights for people throughout the world. Cameroon urges all states to make efforts, engage in greater cooperation and show more solidarity.
34. Cameroon	A very positive evolution and a considerable return to peace and harmony is underway in Cameroon , especially in the Far North, North West and South West regions. This promising dynamic stems from the Grand National Dialogue organised in Yaounde from 30 September to 4 October 2019 at the initiative of President Paul BIYA. The Government has taken multiple measures including the granting of a special status and the status of disaster areas, the reopening of schools and the gradual resumption of socio-economic activities in these crisis regions. Ms. Bachelet's working visit to Cameroon from 1 to 4 May 2019 has been a determining factor in this positive development of the situation. President Paul BIYA is determined and reaffirms the irreversible nature of the developments observed in Cameroon in terms of peace, security, rule of law, democracy and human rights.
35. Togo	In addition to the negative impacts of the COVID-19, various other causes such as political violence, the consequences of climate change, pollution as well as the biodiversity degradation, remain sources of concern. Togo maintains that "vaccine nationalism" feeds the risk of multiplication of variants, including the most contagious, mortgaging the end of this pandemic and the global economic recovery. In Togo , for more than two decades, the public authorities have made environmental protection a national priority. Among the most recent initiatives are the WACA Program which aims to improve the management of common coastal resources and reduce the natural

	and anthropogenic risks to which coastal communities are exposed; and the REDD + strategy, adopted in March 2021, which aims to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions linked to deforestation and forest degradation.
Statements Made by the Observer States	
1. Norway	<p>Afghanistan: Norway calls on the Taliban to fulfill its promises to protect civilians and ensure full respect for the rights of all Afghans, including women and girls and notably the right of all children to education.</p> <p>Nicaragua: Norway is concerned about reports of systematic arrests of opposition politicians and human rights advocates in Nicaragua, as well as of human rights abuses and torture in prisons. The elections will not be free and fair if candidates are excluded.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: should fully implement resolution 46/1, and ensure progress on reconciliation, accountability and human rights. Restrictions on civic space should be removed, and the Prevention of Terrorism Act reformed.</p> <p>Norway will always raise our voice to protect and defend civil society, human rights defenders and civic space. A vibrant civil society is a corner stone of democratic societies. Reprisals due to the cooperation with the UN are unacceptable.</p>
2. Liechtenstein	<p>Liechtenstein particularly underlines the importance of accountability for all forms of human rights violations and abuses.</p> <p>Afghanistan: reiterates the expression of support to the Afghan people. Strongly concerned about the credible allegations of killings and arbitrary detentions. Shocked to hear about the progressive exclusion of women from public sphere.</p> <p>The Council should put a stronger focus on the human rights imperative to address the environmental crisis.</p>
3. Luxembourg	<p><i>Luxembourg fully associates itself with the declaration of the European Union.</i></p> <p>The triple environmental crisis caused by climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity is the greatest human rights challenge of our time. It is imperative to address this crisis from a humanitarian and human rights perspective, as well as from a peacebuilding and development perspective. Once again, it is the human rights of the most vulnerable who risk being called into question by the climate crisis and conflicts, food insecurity, and the migratory movements that it generates, as in the example of the Sahel region. Shares the concerns expressed about reprisals and killings against environmental and human rights defenders, particularly in Latin America and Southeast Asia. All states should honour the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.</p>
4. Qatar	<p>Qatar agrees with the High Commissioner's view that it is necessary to address the climate change. The Council of Ministers of the State of Qatar has adopted the National Plan for Climate Change. Qatar has committed itself to continuing to provide support to the countries most in need. To strengthen the political participation, Qatar organizes on 2 October, the first legislative elections for the Shura Council.</p> <p>Afghanistan: Qatar has been keen on delivering humanitarian aid, facilitating humanitarian evacuation, facilitating dialogue between all Afghan parties, urging the interim Afghan government to achieve national reconciliation and form a government that includes all groups of the Afghan people, so that to ensure the unity and sovereignty of Afghanistan, to consolidate the achievements in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms, to further entrench the role of women and combat terrorism</p>
5. Slovenia	<p><i>Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>The linkage between environment and enjoyment of human rights is a cross-cutting issue, which concerns countries around the globe in their strivings to achieve a life of dignity, security and peace for all. Slovenia, as a member of the Core Group on human rights and the environment, will engage wholeheartedly in negotiations on the resolution on the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and will support all further activities within the UN framework until the right is fully recognized. There are many</p>

	<p>individuals and groups risking their lives by advocating against irreversible environmental degradation, such as environmental human rights defenders, whose sacrifice with more than 200 deaths in 2020 in the course of fighting against climate change is shockingly high.</p>
6. Costa Rica	<p>The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is the pillar of human life. Together with Slovenia, the Maldives, Morocco and Switzerland, Costa Rica will present in this session the resolution on the recognition of this right.</p> <p>Nicaragua: Costa Rica joins the intervention made by Ecuador. The general deterioration of democracy and the absence of a division of powers make a free, fair and transparent electoral process unlikely in Nicaragua.</p> <p>Venezuela: Costa Rica looks forward to progress in the negotiations carried out in Mexico City.</p>
7. United Arab Emirates	<p>Afghanistan: the UAE facilitated air shuttles to evacuate hundreds of people from Afghanistan. The UAE has so far provided more than \$1.7 billion of assistance for infrastructure projects. The UAE has sent five planes carrying humanitarian aid to deliver urgent food and medical aid to meet the needs of Afghan families. The UAE also announced an in-kind donation of \$50 million during the High Level Ministerial Conference held in Geneva on 13 September 2021.</p>
8. Colombia	<p>Venezuela: what is the status of implementation of the recommendation for the establishment of a permanent representation of the OHCHR in Venezuela? The situation of the rights of indigenous communities in Venezuela is worrying. Is there any degree of implementation of the recommendations that its Office has made to Venezuela?</p> <p>Nicaragua: Colombia, in adherence to the values and principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, rejects the systematic persecution against the political opposition, journalists and social leadership. The provisional report and recommendations, which the High Commissioner will present till the end of 2021 regarding the elections next November in Nicaragua will be of crucial importance.</p> <p>Afghanistan: Colombia will continue to advocate for the rights of women and girls of Afghanistan to be respected.</p>
9. Egypt	<p>Technical cooperation programs and capacity building contribute to better framework of country cooperation. Egypt is launching its first 2021-2022 Strategy on Human Rights, designed on the basis of promoting of human rights as part of a national comprehensive plan. Terrorism is the major challenge, and the COVID-19 negatively affects all walks of life. Urges the High Commissioner to support Egypt in carrying out its strategy.</p> <p>Sri Lanka: commend the efforts made for the promotion of human rights.</p>
10. Switzerland	<p>Belarus: for more than a year, civil society has suffered brutal repression. Switzerland calls on the authorities to release those arbitrarily detained, to refrain from intimidation of civil society and the media, and to conduct independent investigations into all allegations.</p> <p>Venezuela: allegations of human rights violations, including torture and enforced disappearances, remain numerous. Switzerland calls on Venezuela to fully respect human rights and to bring those responsible for the violations committed to justice.</p> <p>Lebanon: More than a year after the explosion in Beirut, the need for truth and justice for the families of the victims and the Lebanese population remains unresolved. Calls on the Lebanese authorities to work in full transparency.</p> <p>Nicaragua: deplores the measures adopted by the authorities to prevent the holding of free and fair elections. Reiterates the call to release arbitrarily detained, calls for the access of humanitarian organizations and families to detention centres to be guaranteed.</p>
11. Greece	<p><i>Greece aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>The ongoing pandemic continues to bring into light several existent vulnerabilities and inequalities. We need to act upon matters with a human rights based approach. As a country affected by wildfires this year, Greece fully supports the High Commissioner's stance that environmental threats will constitute the single greatest challenge to human rights in our era. Supports the importance of protecting</p>

	<p>the human rights defenders and the safety of journalists around the world, as well as the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and to peaceful assembly. The independence of the Special Procedures constitutes the cornerstone of their mission and needs to be respected. Any act of attack or intimidation against people cooperating with Special Procedures is always unacceptable.</p>
12. Sovereign Order of Malta	<p>Afghanistan: concerned about the worrying reports of human rights violations in Afghanistan, particularly affecting women and children. Those exercising control over the territory and all other actors involved should fully respect human rights, including the rights to life, to freedom of movement and expression, to education, work and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Human rights must be guaranteed to all without discrimination, and special efforts have to be devoted to fulfil them in the case of women and religious and ethnic ones. The international community has a responsibility of requiring compliance with International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, in order to prevent further violations and also to contribute to a sustainable peace. The authorities must allow safe and speedy access to entities providing assistance. Cooperation with neighbouring and other refugee-hosting countries remains crucial. Malteser International is currently organizing health care and WASH programs with local partners in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and is planning the delivery of food and other basic supplies to vulnerable people, including Afghan refugees, IDPs and returnees.</p> <p>Venezuela: the shortage of fuel and increase of prices have caused a worsening economic situation and have increased the food insecurity among the population. Sovereign Order of Malta remains actively engaged, providing assistance in collaboration with local actors and with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office. Malteser International is helping three hospitals in Maracaibo, providing medical and nutritional assistance, with a special focus on women and children.</p>
13. Ecuador	<p>Nicaragua: deep concern over the adoption of laws that violate freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. Condemns the arbitrary detention and harassment of opposition and civil society leaders, journalists and human rights defenders. It is unlikely that the elections next November will be free and fair, with a broad and democratic participation.</p> <p>Nicaraguan authorities should maintain a broad dialogue that involves all actors in society.</p> <p>Venezuela: the systematic violations caused the largest migration and refugee crisis in Latin America</p> <p>Afghanistan: Ecuador condemns, in particular, all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in that country.</p>
14. Israel	<p>This year, the Council has battled through COVID-19 and passed important resolutions in the field of women's rights, persons of disabilities, and girls' education, amongst others. What overshadows this vital work is the ongoing blatant bias against Israel at the Council. This year alone, five more resolutions were adopted attacking Israel, four more reports on Israel were published by OHCHR, and thirty-one more Press Releases on Israel were issued by the High-Commissioner, her office or Special Procedures. There were yet more general debates and interactive dialogues under the infamous Item 7. In May 2021, a Special Session was also convened, called as Israel was under attack a terrorist organization Hamas. It resulted in a one-sided, biased resolution further deepening the double standards against Israel. The Council to be truly credible, needs to start by abolishing Item 7.</p>
15. Australia	<p>Australia is deeply concerned that States have used the shield of the COVID-19 pandemic to target human rights defenders, civil society, health workers, and journalists. Condemns States that have or continue to abuse emergency measures or use arbitrary detention to silence individuals. Access to justice and consular assistance to detained foreign and dual nationals should not be restricted.</p> <p>Afghanistan: calls for the immediate cessation of violence against ethnic minorities, human rights defenders, journalists and members of the former government and women and girls.</p> <p>Tigray region of Ethiopia: gravely concerned by reports of ongoing violence by parties to the conflict. Welcomes progress on the joint investigation between OHCHR and Ethiopia, towards accountability for egregious human rights abuses and violations.</p>

	<p>China: deeply concerned by continuing dilution of Hong Kong’s rights and freedoms, in contravention of binding treaty level commitments it made to the international community.</p> <p>Nicaragua: concerned by the government’s systematic dismantling of all opposition political parties; joins OHCHR and OAS in expressing concern for free and fair elections in November.</p>
16. Finland	<p><i>Finland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.</i></p> <p>Afghanistan: Those in power in Afghanistan have an obligation to respect human rights, including those of women, girls, human rights defenders and minorities. The international community must do its utmost to ensure accountability for violations.</p> <p>Nicaragua: the Government must stop the crackdown on political opposition and dissidents; investigate the recent killings of Miskitus and Mayangnas and protect the indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Tigray and the neighboring regions: all human rights violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, should be investigated. Looks forward to the report by the by the OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.</p>
17. Spain	<p>Looks forward to the High Commissioner’s report on resolution 45/28 on the Women Peace and Security agenda, especially in the context of the situation in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Nicaragua: the government's decision to exclude the opposition from the November 7 elections discredits the process and its results. The government should put an end to the repression and release all detained opponents.</p>
18. Iraq	<p>The Office of the High Commissioner in Baghdad published reports based on unverified information. The High Commissioner should review the work of its Office in Baghdad, especially in the view of its failure to fulfill its mandate to provide technical assistance. Iraq notes the blatant politicization in the statement by the OHCHR. The terrorist organization ISIS targeted all groups of the Iraqi people, and Iraq set up the legislation to provide redress to the Yazidi survivors’. Iraq regrets that the OHCHR in Baghdad did not mention the measures taken by Iraq to enhance accountability and prevent impunity.</p>
19. Thailand	<p>Safe, healthy and sustainable environment is a foundation to human life. The environmental challenges should be addressed, but with the right approach, balancing social and economic interests with meaningful participation of all stakeholders. Human rights defenders should have protected space to voice the grievances of the affected population.</p>
20. South Africa	<p>As the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, South Africa stresses the need for enhanced global action and ambition, based on equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It is critically important for Africa to be supported for its climate actions in order to ensure the full implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement and African Union flagship programmes.</p> <p>As this session coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, South Africa renews the call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance.</p>
21. Albania	<p>Afghanistan: Albania is particularly worried about the rights of women and girls, who are justifiably fearing “a return to the dark days”, a fear shared by human rights defenders, journalists, civil society leaders, members of ethnic and religious minorities, ordinary civilians who are increasingly being targeted by the Taliban. Albania echoes the High Commissioner’s repeated call to the Council for the establishment of an independent mechanism to investigate all violations and abuses committed in Afghanistan.</p>
22. Kenya	<p><i>Kenya aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group.</i></p>

	<p>A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is critical for human life. The eminent launch of a joint Environmental Rights programme is welcome. Kenya calls for strengthened partnership and cooperation in dealing with environmental protection issues. As home of UNEP, Kenya is fully committed to sustainable environment for promotion and protection of human rights and is implementing, The National Climate Change Action Plan, 2018-2022.</p>
23. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	<p>The biggest obstacle for the international cooperation is the abuse of human rights issue for political purposes. OHCHR has raised questions unreasonably about Venezuela, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka and others' human rights. The DPRK opposes and rejects attempt by certain countries to use Xinjiang and Hong Kong related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs. Human rights issues should not be abused for political purposes. The HRC and the OHCHR should abide by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of States enshrined in the UN Charter as well as of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive dialogue and cooperation.</p>
24. Viet Nam	<p>The countries should enhance solidarity and collaboration to fight the pandemic, including for ensuring COVID-19 vaccines and treatment for all. Viet Nam is grateful for all international assistance, and is determined to strengthen its public health response and continue implementing social protection and financial stimulus programmes.</p>
25. United States of America	<p>Afghanistan: US supports the High Commissioner's call for the Taliban to treat all Afghans, including women, children, and minorities, with respect and dignity, and condemns all reprisals, threats, or violence against journalists, civil society, and human rights defenders.</p> <p>Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: Azerbaijan and Armenia should investigate alleged human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and hold perpetrators accountable.</p> <p>United States will continue to work with the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras to protect human rights, and notes its concern regarding the human rights situations in Cambodia, Vietnam, Uganda, Mali, Tanzania, Guinea, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.</p>
26. Belarus	<p>Belarus continue to reject the entrenched approach of the OHCHR officials whose statements include negative statements exclusively of developing countries. The long list of critical comments addressed to this group of states, including Venezuela, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka, is in stark contrast to the friendly and positive wink of the High Commissioner's to the Czech Republic and the lack of reaction to recent events in Western countries. Thessaloniki in Greece has turned into a global centre of resistance due to the discriminatory anti-COVID policy of the authorities. Similar protests are held in Germany and France, where, in many cases, tear gas and water cannons are used against peaceful protesters. Lithuania, Latvia and Poland do not let the migrants from Asia enter. Belarus calls on the OHCHR to ensure in its work the principle of equal treatment of all UN member states.</p>
27. Zimbabwe	<p>Sri Lanka: Zimbabwe wishes to highlight the following issues of principle related to resolution 46/1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In discharging their functions, the Human Rights Council and the OHCHR should not over-step the mandates set out in UN General Assembly resolutions 60/251 and 48/141. - The GA has not conferred authority on the HRC to assign to any party, or the OHCHR to carry out, tasks such as the collection of criminal evidence for use in judicial proceedings. <p>As a country that no longer experiences internal conflict and is working on cementing the peace dividend, Sri Lanka does not warrant the continued attention of this Council.</p>
28. Morocco	<p>National efforts of Morocco: The organization, on 8 September 2021, of general elections, which led to a democratic alternation, with a very active participation of the population in particular in the southern provinces of the Moroccan Sahara. The inauguration last June</p>

	<p>in Rabat, of the African UN Office for the fight against terrorism, which will work on capacity building and skills development in the field of counterterrorism, radicalization and extremism. This month it examined the implementation of the Marrakesh Pact on Migration thus preparing the contribution of African States to the May 2022 forum in New York on this subject, in particular from the perspective of the human rights of migrants. Morocco has launched a plan aimed at the return of unaccompanied minor migrants from Europe.</p>
29. Lao People's Democratic Republic	<p><i>The Lao PDR aligns itself with the statements of the groups it belongs to.</i></p> <p>The Lao PDR remains committed to the HRC's mechanisms and continues its efforts in implementing the UPR recommendations to fulfil its obligations under international human rights instruments to which it is a party. On Hong Kong and Xinjiang related issues, Lao consider that these are China's internal affairs. Lao also commends Sri Lanka and Venezuela for their continued efforts to cooperate with the Human Rights Council's mechanisms in order to achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation. The HRC's mechanisms should always uphold the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive dialogue and cooperation, while respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic jurisdiction of states.</p>
30. Turkey	<p>Climate change is an urgent global problem which should be addressed with all determination.</p> <p>Afghanistan: the urgent need of addressing the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people. Turkey resumes its aid efforts to the Turkish Red Crescent. Neighbouring countries should provide their support to avoid humanitarian crisis. Turkey took note of the Caretaker Cabinet. A genuine and inclusive government is needed to ensure a long-term stability. Turkey has contributed to the development and stabilization efforts in Afghanistan, including the education of girls, having built more than 100 schools in Afghanistan.</p>
31. New Zealand	<p>Afghanistan: Aotearoa New Zealand reiterates its calls on all parties to abide by their obligations under international obligations to allow freedom of movement including the safe departure of foreign nationals and Afghans. It urges the rapid, safe and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief and personnel, and calls on all parties to guarantee and protect the human rights of women and girls, as well as of ethnic, religious and other minority groups including the rights to education and employment.</p> <p>Calls for free and fair elections in Venezuela and Nicaragua, and welcomes the start of negotiations to resolve the crisis in Venezuela.</p> <p>New Zealand is gravely concerned by reports of arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearances in Syria and Yemen. We are further disturbed by reports of sexual violence against women and the recruitment of child soldiers.</p> <p>Belarus: the ongoing violent repression of opposition and dissent in is unacceptable. The government should immediately and unconditionally release the arbitrarily detained, and conduct independent, impartial and transparent investigations into all allegations of human rights violations.</p>
32. Ireland	<p><i>Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.</i></p> <p>Welcomes the strong focus on the impact of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss on human rights. Shares the concern that these interlinked crises amplify existing threats, further exacerbating structural inequalities, intensifying conflicts and increasing vulnerability of populations. Ireland hosts a high level meeting on climate and security during its Security Council presidency this month. Environmental human rights defenders, and civil society more broadly, are critical to an effective response to the impacts of climate change. Ireland is strongly committed to ensuring that climate action is gender responsive. We must recognise the specific risks to women and girls' rights in adverse climate conditions and ensure that their voices are heard.</p>
33. Malaysia	<p><i>Malaysia associates itself with the statement of the groups that it belongs to.</i></p> <p>Malaysia will prioritise human rights and climate change at the HRC, and encourages more studies and discussions on the negative impacts of climate change on human rights. As an aspiring member of the HRC, and if elected, Malaysia will place constructive</p>

	<p>engagement at the heart of its membership. With the facilitation of the OHCHR, Malaysia has submitted its first UPR mid-term report. Together with the OHCHR, it is also developing a UPR National Recommendations Tracking Database and a monitoring matrix that includes Malaysia's Human Rights Treaties obligations, the SDGs and National Human Rights Action Plan.</p>
34. Belgium	<p><i>Belgium aligns with the statement of the European Union.</i></p> <p>Afghanistan: Belgium supports the joint declaration on Afghanistan made during this General Debate and calls on the High Commissioner to closely monitor the situation and to inform this Council as she sees fit.</p> <p>Guinea: condemns the coup d'état last week, which demonstrates to a progressive degradation of democratic values in the region. Only inclusive governance and respect for human rights can re solve the many problems the region is confronting.</p> <p>Tanzania: hopes that the recent change in the head of state can lead to national reconciliation and fundamental political reforms to achieve a more inclusive approach to political participation.</p> <p>Ghana: urges the government to reject a 'family values' bill that would encourage discrimination and violence against the LGBTI people.</p> <p>Malawi: concerned about the overturning of the decision of the Supreme Court of on the abolition of the death penalty and call on the government and parliament to take action to officially abolish the death penalty by law.</p>
35. Singapore	<p>Referring to the High Commissioner's report A/HRC/48/27, Singapore does not recognise the universal applicability of the right to conscientious objection to military service. HRC resolution 20/2 goes refers to the conscientious objection to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. But Article 29 of the UDHR recognises that the exercise of such rights and freedom is subject to limitations to meet the requirements of public order and the general welfare of society. As a small city-state with limited manpower and resources, Singapore has no choice but to base our defence on citizen armed forces. National Service continues to enjoy overwhelming public support, with 96% of Singaporeans in 2020 polled agreeing that it is necessary for the security and prosperity of the country.</p>
36. El Salvador	<p>It is important to stress international cooperation to mitigate the effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights. There has been a recent launch of the humanitarian response plan for El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala in coordination with the OCHA, with which it is intended to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population. Among the objectives to be achieved are food security, emergency education, water and sanitation, nutrition, logistics and telecommunications, coordination and management of shelters; and health among others. The international community should continue supporting the implementation of the resolution "United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration" (2021-2030), approved by the General Assembly in March 2019.</p>
37. Croatia	<p><i>Croatia aligns with the statement by the European Union.</i></p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic adds pressure to already existing fragilities and has disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable social groups and their human rights. Croatia intends to actively engage in the discussions on climate change and environmental issues.</p> <p>Afghanistan: a global human rights, humanitarian and security challenge requires a concerted response of the international community. The progress achieved in the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls must be safeguarded.</p> <p>The ongoing financial crisis of the OHCHR needs to be addressed. In the upcoming months Croatia will welcome the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.</p> <p>Croatia will stay vocal on the issue of missing persons and related matters, on women and girls' rights as well as on reprisals and the right to conscientious objection to military service. It will continue to promote the importance of casualty recording.</p>

<p>38. Portugal</p>	<p><i>Portugal aligns itself with the EU Statement.</i></p> <p>COVID-19 is testing our resolve to uphold human rights, including the right to physical and mental health. It also disproportionately affects the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, adding new layers of risk and exposure to persons already in vulnerable situations. Worrying trends and blatant human rights violations and abuses persist: extremism; intolerance; crackdowns on civil society, human rights defenders and political opposition; disregard for the rule of law; arbitrary arrests, torture and enforced disappearances. In times like these, your independent action and strong voice is ever more important.</p>
<p>39. Iran (Islamic Republic of)</p>	<p>The Council should address massive rights abuse caused by unlawful acts of foreign states, including military intervention and UCMS, such as those applied by the United States. The UCMS on Venezuela should be lifted. In Afghanistan, Iran calls for a truly inclusive governance system that reflects the aspirations of its people and represents the country's ethnic and religious diversity. This could only be achieved through Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled peace process. Commends the constructive cooperation of the fellow developing countries, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka.</p>
<p>40. Malta</p>	<p><i>Malta aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.</i></p> <p>Afghanistan: Those in a position of authority in Afghanistan bear the responsibility for the protection of human rights of all Afghan people and must ensure that humanitarian assistance and life-saving services, continue to be delivered unimpeded. Attacks against civil society and humanitarian actors are unacceptable and must cease immediately. Sustainable peace can be achieved only through a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led political process, with the full participation of women.</p> <p>The solution to the climate change crisis remains a global one, and now is the time to step up our actions and do better.</p>
<p>41. Syrian Arab Republic</p>	<p>National priorities should be taken by the High Commissioner when cooperating with the states. The impact of COVID-19 requires a concerted international access, with fair access to vaccines to be ensured. Sustainable access to water should be achieved, as mentioned in the High Commissioner's speech. Millions of Syrians today are facing catastrophic situations, as Turkey is using water as a weapon in order to collectively punish the Syrian people. This requires the intervention of the High Commissioner and the Council.</p>
<p>42. Estonia</p>	<p>Afghanistan: the promises of the country's interim leaders have not been confirmed in practice. All tools of international cooperation should be used to guarantee the constitutional protection of human rights of all people of Afghanistan.</p> <p>Belarus: A massive crackdown on human rights defenders, journalists and other media workers, as well as on political opponents and civil society organizations is continuing with impunity. All political prisoners must be released immediately and all perpetrators of the crimes must be brought to justice and punished, democratic elections must be held.</p> <p>All independent human rights mechanisms should have full and unconditional access to countries' territories, including occupied areas.</p>
<p>43. Vanuatu</p>	<p>Afghanistan: current situation in Afghanistan is critical, above all the need to protect women and girls so they can enjoy their fundamental rights, access public spaces and get services. It is vital that more girls are supported to attend and complete school in Afghanistan. Women should be facilitated by the state to equally participate in social, economic and political decision-making. Vanuatu strongly condemns all kinds of abuse against women and girls and we call for the immediate cessation of all violations.</p>
<p>44. North Macedonia</p>	<p>North Macedonia applauds the High Commissioner's dedication in strengthening the human rights response to climate change. Prevention is a key to decrease the impact of environmental degradation and we remain fully engaged towards implementation of international commitments. In the efforts to join the international response to the crisis in Afghanistan, North Macedonia has decided to temporarily accept Afghan refugees. Hundreds of them have already arrived and are being taken care of by the authorities.</p>

45. Hungary	Hungary stresses the importance of safeguarding the independence, financial sustainability and transparency of the OHCHR and the Council’s mechanisms. Hungary attaches great importance to the thematic work of this Council, especially with regards to the rights of the child and persons with disabilities; elimination of violence against women and girls; protection and promotion of the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; and support of persecuted ethnic and religious communities, including Christians.
46. Dominican Republic	Supports the position of People’s Republic of China , and reiterates the need to abide to the principles of the UN Charter, and the principles universality, impartiality, objectivity. Believes in multilateralism, solidarity, cooperation, constructive dialogue and respect of people’s right to self-determination based on the national conditions.
47. Georgia	<p>Venezuela: the regime is launching new attacks against civic and democratic space by tightening restrictions, persecutions and arbitrary detentions. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Venezuelans continue to suffer from a serious lack of adequate medical care.</p> <p>Nicaragua: condemns the continued systemic repression and arbitrary detention of all those who oppose the regime; calls for their immediate release, the repeal of restrictive laws, and the holding of free and fair elections in November.</p> <p>Afghanistan: accountability for serious human rights violations must be ensured.</p> <p>Russia occupied regions of Georgia: the intensified so-called “borderization”, continuous kidnappings and illegal detentions, ongoing closure of the occupation line in Tskhinvali region and restriction of freedom of movement prove to be unbearable burden for people in both occupied regions. Calls on Russia to ensure unfettered access of the OHCHR and other international human rights monitoring mechanisms to both regions of Georgia as well as to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.</p>
48. Iceland	<p>Afghanistan: the Council must take robust steps, commensurate with the gravity of the situation, and establish a dedicated human rights mechanism. Deeply concerned by the non-inclusive political representation recently announced. Despite the political and security situation, it is evident that the Afghan people – especially the most vulnerable – need our support.</p> <p>Northern Ethiopia: the systematic abuses committed in Tigray and the region, including widespread sexual and gender-based violence, forced displacement and obstruction of humanitarian relief must stop, and unhindered humanitarian access must be secured.</p>
49. Afghanistan	Thankful for the solidarity received during the Special Session on 24 August 2021. The outcome of the Special Session did not meet the expectations of the people of Afghanistan . The Taliban need to demonstrate that all Afghans – including women, human rights defenders, and minorities – are protected, through actions and not only promises. Urges the international community to hold the Taliban accountable by their actions not by their words. Women rights have been set back decades, media outlets are being controlled, freedom is restricted, and door-to-door searches leading in targeted killings are carried out. Urges the international community to ensure that the Taliban respects international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
50. Serbia	The Republic of Serbia expresses its satisfaction that the Agenda adopted and the proposed debates within the HRC in the past period largely have corresponded to the consequences produced by the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of human rights. The HRC should be a place where countries gather for consultations, exchange of experiences, and for committing, based on consensus, on the most basic principles in the protection of human rights in the circumstances of the pandemic. Responses to the pandemic should not cast a shadow and in any way marginalize the focus on those human rights that are regularly covered through the UN monitoring system.
51. Jordan	Climate change and pollution pose a direct threat to food security in many countries of the world, and food security poses the biggest challenge for those countries that suffer from the consequences of climate change and pollution. There is an urgent need to find innovative solutions to enhance food security based on the collective responsibility of all countries.

<p>52. Slovakia</p>	<p><i>Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement presented by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.</i></p> <p>Afghanistan: Slovakia fully shares the concerns about the future of democracy, human rights, status of women and other substantial achievements over previous decades. Slovakia echoes the joint call by women political leaders, including Slovak President Ms. Zuzana Čaputová, to prevent violence against and respect for the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. Calls upon Taliban-led government to fully uphold fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief. Urges that the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities are fully respected and protected. Condemns the attacks and detentions of journalists. The Human Rights Council should address the complexity of the human rights crisis in Afghanistan in a credible way.</p>
<p>53. Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Sri Lanka holds that in discharging their functions the HRC and the OHCHR should not overstep the mandates laid out in UNGA resolutions 60/251 and 48/141. The UNGA never authorized the HRC to assign to any party, or the OHCHR to carry out, tasks such as the collection of criminal evidence for use in judicial proceedings. The principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states is the very bedrock on which the international order is founded. External forces should not seek to interfere in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, which are integral parts of the People's Republic China. The unilateral coercive measures imposed on Venezuela, continue to cause suffering to the Venezuelan people, and should be lifted. All actions aimed at protection and promotion of human rights in a state must have the consent of country concerned. The Council should engage in a positive dialogue with the government of Nicaragua.</p>
<p>54. Algeria</p>	<p>The international press reported that a program called "Pegasus" developed by a company called NSO Group, has since 2016 made it possible to spy, without a judicial mandate and in violation of all procedural rules, more than 50,000 people and entities – state, parastatal and private. The preliminary findings of Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International show that 180 journalists, 600 politicians around the world, 85 human rights activists and 65 business leaders had their phone numbers under surveillance without their knowledge. These initial revelations are a source of concern and constitute a grave violations of human rights. Algeria welcomes the statement made by the High Commissioner on this issue on 19 July 2021 and the joint statement of 12 August by special rapporteurs.</p>
<p>55. Chile</p>	<p>Chile agrees with the High Commissioner's call to work together to maintain sustainable development focus in line with the SDGs and the commitments of the Paris accords, with a human rights perspective.</p> <p>Venezuela: expresses hope that the dialogue between the authorities and the opposition in Mexico city will bear fruit. Expresses concern about the criminalization of the work of human rights defenders and the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.</p> <p>Nicaragua: the High Commissioner should address the cases of administrative interference and intimidation at the November elections.</p>
<p>56. Niger</p>	<p>Niger shares the High Commissioner's concern about the humanitarian emergency caused by climate change in Africa, particularly in the Sahel area. Niger, a Sahel-Saharan country, is not spared by climate change and is increasingly facing natural disasters. Any solution to the breaches of human rights, arising from the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, climate change and conflicts, must be based on the rigorous implementation of the humanitarian nexus to development.</p>
<p>57. Lebanon</p>	<p>The new government and all those in charge of the constitutional institutions are determined to move forward with a comprehensive reform program that improves the people's living conditions, to the extent of their determination to preserve public freedoms and democratic life. The international community should accompany and support the efforts of the Lebanese authorities, given that, despite everything, Lebanon still hosts on its territory more than a million and a half displaced Syrians and provides them with protection.</p>
<p>58. Azerbaijan</p>	<p>After restoration of territorial integrity, priority of Azerbaijan is to transform the liberated territories into environmentally friendly "green energy" zones. Main efforts are channelled to demine and reconstruct the liberated areas to allow safe and dignified return of displaced population. These humanitarian objectives are attempted to be politicized by some countries, and impeded by Armenia.</p>

	<p>Azerbaijan invites specialized UN agencies including High Commissioner to extend their assistance in the post conflict period. Azerbaijan supports the Russian Federation's proposal on establishment of bilateral intergovernmental commission on delimitation and demarcation of state borders between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and the efforts on exchanging detainees. All matters falling within the domestic jurisdiction of UN Member States, including that of Sri Lanka, must be resolved through dialogue and cooperation.</p>
59. Mali	<p><i>Mali endorses the statements made on behalf of her home groups.</i></p> <p>The political transition initiated on 18 August 2020 in Mali is proceeding normally. The civil government is stepping up efforts to implement the priority actions of the Government Action Plan adopted on 2 August 2021 by the National Transitional Government. The vital need to fulfill the three current needs: the need for security, the need for justice and the need for reform. Mali wishes to re-examine governance problems, by carrying out political and institutional reforms.</p>
60. Republic of Moldova	<p>Afghanistan: Moldova supports a strong mandate for the Human Rights Council to monitor the human rights situation in the country, with unhindered access to the entire territory.</p>
61. Sweden	<p>Sweden is deeply committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, to prevent and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and to LGBTIQ persons' full enjoyment of human rights. Sweden's initiative "Drive for Democracy" and Feminist Foreign Policy constitute the backbone of Sweden's efforts in the Council.</p> <p>Afghanistan: Reports of sexual and gender-based violence and restrictions on the rights to education, work and freedom of movement are very concerning. Women must be part of the solution.</p> <p>Cuba and Nicaragua should ensure freedom of expression and opinion, including for civil society and political opponents. Calls on the Lebanese government to ensure an independent and credible investigation of the explosion in Beirut more than a year ago.</p> <p>Iraq: the Government should ensure that the upcoming parliamentary elections are free, fair and inclusive, and to hold perpetrators of human rights violations, including against peaceful protestors, accountable.</p>
62. Nigeria	<p><i>Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group.</i></p> <p>Nigeria shares the concerns on the devastating effects of climate change, especially in the Sahel Region, and the resultant humanitarian and human rights challenges. Nigeria remains committed to achieving clean and sustainable environment for the full enjoyment of human rights by its people. The Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project, the Great Green Wall Programme, and the Clean Energy Initiative, among others, are all Government initiatives put in place to tackle the country's environmental challenges.</p>
63. Botswana	<p>The frequency of natural disasters, intensification of extreme environmental catastrophes and their linkages with climate change, conflict situations and COVID-19, have placed those with less capacity and resilience, deeper into vulnerability. This calls for enhanced international cooperation, technological transfer and capacity building for response, mitigation and adaptation measures. As one of the countries that suffer climate-induced desertification and long spells of drought, Botswana adopted the National Climate Change Strategy of 2018. Women and girls are often at the forefront of delivery of social rights and spearhead informal economic activities in their local communities. The commitment of States should however remain focused on upholding and promotion of human rights in order to protect the vulnerable and those that champion their cause as human rights defenders and social activists.</p>
64. Kazakhstan	<p>Assistance to Afghanistan has always been one of Kazakhstan's priorities. In August 2021, the United Nations requested the relocation of some of its Agencies, including UNAMA, from Kabul to Almaty. Kazakhstan accepted this request, until the situation stabilizes.</p>
65. Cambodia	<p>Last year, Cambodia proudly submitted an Updated Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 64.6 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030. Also, Cambodia is crafting a long-term</p>

	carbon-neutral strategy. Support for vulnerable groups has been Cambodia's top priority to leave no one behind in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cambodia joins other delegations in calling the OHCHR to treat all categories of human rights in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, with the same emphasis.
66. Panama	The interdependent crises linked to pollution, climate change and the loss of biodiversity amplify conflicts and structural inequalities, exposing certain groups of people to a state of great vulnerability. The new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a "red code for humanity" and warns of irreversible trends. Addressing this triple crisis is a humanitarian, human rights, peacebuilding and development imperative. By joining forces now, we can prevent a climate and environmental catastrophe. Panama will support the resolutions in the Human Rights Council that aim to recognize the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as well as the establishment of a new special procedure on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.
67. Timor-Leste	Adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic has become too much of a burden to many countries, in particular, least developed countries, small island and developing states and conflict and post-conflict countries. Timor-Leste is all of the above. Unfortunately, COVID-19 infections in Timor-Leste are at their peak. Timor-Leste remains committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights, which is reflected in the adoption of a strategy that puts human rights at the centre of the response to the pandemic. Afghanistan: human rights must be upheld, as the people of Afghanistan deserve peace and lasting stability. Western Sahara: Timor-Leste is committed to support the Sahrawi people in their quest to exercise their right to self-determination.
68. Maldives	In an island nation as the Maldives , human rights are inherently linked to environment. Maldives aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Reiterates the importance of raising climate ambition, and urgent need to translate ambition into action. China has been an important development partner, and the relations are based on mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
69. Chad	The African Union has triggered an inquiry after the dramatic events in Chad and found that it was not an anti-constitutional change. The government has developed a detailed Roadmap to foster an inclusive dialogue. Reiterates its commitment to partner with the Council and its mechanisms.
70. United Republic of Tanzania	Indeed, the nexus between the environment and the realization of socioeconomic rights and the right to development has been long established. Takes the opportunity to congratulate the Republic of Zambia for the successful elections and smooth transfer of power. Reaffirms the respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states and non-interference. Opposes the practice of politicization of human rights issues in Xinjiang related issues which are China's internal affairs.
71. South Sudan	Reaffirms the respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states and non-interference is a basic norm governing international relations. Appreciate the efforts of Ethiopia for addressing the human rights situation in Tigray. Supports China's "One Country Two Systems", and pleased to see that Hong Kong enjoys various human rights and freedoms.
72. Mauritius	Mauritius as any other SIDS is facing grave effects of climate change. People across all age-groups, economic status and gender are facing consequences. Welcomes the approach of the High Commissioner for strengthening capacity of local and regional actors.

Statements Made on Behalf of the National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations	
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	This Council has been watching the situation deteriorate in Afghanistan for months, and so far has done nothing in response. <i>“I will not apologize for my anger; we have tried everything else. We have pleaded with you and demanded your action. We have lost colleagues, we are at grave risk of losing an institution and its independence and we have lost our rights. Please act now. Establish a strong monitoring mechanism to act as a deterrent and to tell Afghans that you care about their lives, their rights, their future and accountability for the injustice they are suffering. We will continue to resist, join us in this struggle!”</i> (delivered by Ms. Shaharad Akbar, the Chairperson)
Australia Human Rights Commission on behalf of Asia Pacific Forum	Statement on behalf of the A-status institutions in the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions membership. The events in Afghanistan are tragic. The staff and commissioners of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission have been heroic throughout its 20 years in operation. They have investigated and reported on human rights violations with extraordinary courage and commitment, often at great personal cost. They now need our support more than ever. Call on States to offer refuge and settlement to those who have left, or want to leave, and to ensure protection for those who remain. Call on the Human Rights Council to establish an independent, fact-finding mission on a continuing basis, to follow the events in Afghanistan, investigate allegations of human rights violations, and report its findings back annually to the Council and the General Assembly.
National Human Rights Commission India	NHRC India has reinvented its approach and response to ensure promotion and protection of human rights during these challenging times. It has devised online system of complaint, issued 20 advisories, inter-alia, on Rights of Informal Workers, Mental Health and upholding the dignity of the dead. Right to life should prevail.
1. United Nations Association of China	The United States failed to unite its citizens during the COVID pandemic. Deploring their events in Afghanistan. The lesson to learn from COVID-19 is that security to food, to medicines and the security to live is essential.
2. International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA) (joint statement)	Concerns about the ongoing militarisation in Sri Lanka . The High Commissioner should include a comprehensive analysis of the human rights impacts of drug control laws and practices in her next update on Sri Lanka to the Council.
3. Human Rights Watch	At the recent Special Session on Afghanistan , every panellist highlighted the urgent need for the Council to create an independent mechanism to monitor and report on violations and abuses, to collect evidence, advance accountability and deter further crimes. To the EU and all those who have called for a monitoring mechanism: what more are you waiting for? How much more suffering do the people of Afghanistan need to endure before you will stand with them in their hour of need? They are looking to the Council to deliver on its promise of prompt and transparent investigations.
4. Earthjustice (joint statement)	Brings the Council’s attention on the report released on 9 August 2021 by the IPCC. Urges Member of the Council and Observer States to move forward with the creation of the new mandate of special procedure to strengthen the protection of human rights in this aggravating climate crisis at this session.

<p>5. International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations <i>(joint statement)</i></p>	<p>Up to now none of the Council and Assembly mandated UN secretariat activities for the 20th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action have been visible. Urges the High Commissioner to act and provide needed support to the international community in standing up for the DDPA.</p>
<p>6. China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE)</p>	<p>The expansion, ambiguity and anti-human rights use of illegal unilateral sanctions are examples of some countries indulging in the myth of hegemony, grossly interfering in other countries' affairs, trampling on international rules and undermining the international order. Representatives of Russia, Cuba, Pakistan and other countries stressed that unilateral sanctions violate international law.</p>
<p>7. Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA)</p>	<p>OIPMA recalls to the new Afghan government the duty of every state to protect and guarantee the human rights of all its citizens, regardless of gender or age. OIPMA recommends that states and the UN use all possible mechanisms, from economic sanctions to diplomatic engagement, to support the people of Afghanistan so that less poverty, gender equality, and strong institutions may emerge.</p>
<p>8. Organization for Defending Victims of Violence</p>	<p>Calls to work towards immediately removing the flight ban to and from Sanaa International Airport, Yemen so that a significant part of the humanitarian suffering faced by Yemenis is lifted and regional stability is restored.</p>
<p>9. Beijing Crafts Council</p>	<p>The Beijing Craft Council's project benefits the people in the community organized autistic children and people with disabilities in special groups to effectively solve their personal and family problems through training in handicrafts.</p>
<p>10. International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism</p>	<p>Regrets that this Council failed to adopt a robust resolution on Afghanistan at the special session. Calls on UN Member States to support the full operationalisation of the OHCHR mandate to collect and preserve information and evidence for future accountability processes.</p>
<p>11. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) <i>(joint statement)</i></p>	<p>The members of the core group on human rights and the environment have consulted for over 18 months regarding the possibility of the Council to recognize the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Encouraged by Costa Rica's consideration of tabling a resolution on the global recognition of the right to a healthy environment at this session. Echoing the appeal by over 1,100 civil society and indigenous peoples organizations urging the Council to proceed with this recognition, calls upon all Members of the Council to proactively support this initiative at this session.</p>
<p>12. Franciscans International</p>	<p>Deep concern about the human rights situation in the Anglophone part of Cameroon since 2017. The current crisis is characterized by numerous attacks on the civilian population in the anglophone region. Urges the government of Cameroon to declare a ceasefire as soon as possible. Respectfully requests the High Commissioner release the report following her visit to Cameroon in 2019.</p>
<p>13. American Association of Jurists <i>(joint statement)</i></p>	<p>The work done by Saharawi human rights defenders and journalists in collecting and broadcasting information and in documenting human rights violations is essential and must be protected. The 300 undersigning organizations, including the Sahrawi National Commission of Human Rights, call upon the High-Commissioner to implement the commitments made by the Office at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and to release publicly the Office's findings in the occupied Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara.</p>
<p>14. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom</p>	<p>Deeply regrets the failure of the recent Human Rights Council special session to deliver a credible response to the crisis in Afghanistan. Urges the Council to set up without delay a robust investigative mechanism into all violations and abuses by all parties, including the Taliban, with a gender-responsive and multiyear mandate. The mechanism must be also mandated to report regularly, including intersessionally, and be adequately resourced.</p>

<p>15. Comité International pour le Respect et l'Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples</p>	<p>Surprised to note that the Algerian political regime has opted for the severing of diplomatic relations with Morocco. Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara is evidenced by the number of diplomatic consulates of foreign countries which continue to settle there. Welcomes the recognition by the United States of Morocco's sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara.</p>
<p>16. Peace Brigades International <i>(joint statement)</i></p>	<p>Welcomes the High Commissioner's oral update on the situation in Nicaragua, and echoes her concerns regarding the profound deterioration of the human rights situation in the country. Calls for the guarantee and protection of the right to life of the indigenous peoples, their right to land and territory, as well as their right to defend human rights, through the restoration of indigenous and Afro-descendant territories, as well as investigation processes that allow for the clarification of the facts, identification of those responsible, access to justice and guarantees of non-repetition for the families of the victims.</p>
<p>17. VIVAT International <i>(joint statement with Franciscans International)</i></p>	<p>Urges the High Commissioner, and the UN member States to support families of victims and survivors of the 'Easter attacks', in Sri Lanka who are pursuing justice through judicial proceedings in different countries. Also urges the High Commissioner and the Council members to address reprisals against witnesses and those demanding justice, including those pursuing international process.</p>
<p>18. Synergie Feminine Pour La Paix Et Le Developpement Durable</p>	<p>Yemen is witnessing the largest mine-laying operation since World War II, and it is one of the most serious crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the militia against the present and future of Yemenis. This crime is unique to the Houthi militia alone.</p>
<p>19. Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)</p>	<p>Urged the Human Rights Council to ensure that an independent and impartial inquiry is carried out to probe into the motivations for the reprehensible crime perpetrated against innocent civilians in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday 2019 and ensure that all those responsible are held accountable. It is of primary importance to ensure accountability and secure justice, full truth and reparations to all victims and their families. The Church in Sri Lanka stands for justice, social harmony and peaceful coexistence of religious communities and reprehends any attempt to instrumentalize religion to create divisions and a climate of intolerance.</p>
<p>20. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)</p>	<p>Afghanistan: continues to call for the establishment of a mechanism adequately staffed and resourced to conduct sustained monitoring and reporting on the situation of human rights; and to investigate serious violations of international human rights law and IHL. Sri Lanka: dubious justifications of fighting the pandemic are used to override laws and procedures, interfere with judicial independence and arbitrarily restrict human rights, in particular by suppressing dissent through arbitrary arrests and intimidation. Venezuela: the importance for the High Commissioner's Office to strengthen cooperation on the basis of greater transparency and participation with civil society.</p>
<p>21. Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)</p>	<p>Nicaragua: intensification of human rights violations against individuals and civil society organizations, aggravated since the adoption of laws that violate freedoms and rights, in violation of Nicaragua's national and international obligations. The Council must continue to demand compliance with the international commitments signed by Nicaragua so that the human rights violations committed since 2018 cease and the accountability is ensured.</p>
<p>22. Right Livelihood Award Foundation</p>	<p>An indigenous Miskito lawyer from the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, draws attention to the situation of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in her region. Urges to appeal to the Nicaraguan government to comply with its national and international obligations and guarantee the safety and physical integrity of indigenous peoples; to carry out impartial investigations without delay; to provide justice, truth and reparation to the victims and their families.</p>

<p>23. Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement (IIDD)</p>	<p>The IIDD praises Qatari's soft diplomacy for its pivotal role in ensuring the role of the safe transfer and evacuation of Afghans and foreign nationals since the Talibans seized power. The IIDD calls on Western countries to host the Afghan refugees and treat them fairly and equitably.</p>
<p>24. Amnesty International (AI)</p>	<p>Urges the Council to move from handwringing to action, and mandate a much-needed independent investigative mechanism on Afghanistan without further delay this session. Further urges all states to respect and protect the rights of those seeking to leave the country, and claim their right to asylum, including by increasing pathways to protection and immediately halting all push-backs and forced returns to Afghanistan.</p> <p>Urges the government of Sri Lanka to immediately stop using, and repeal, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which, despite assurances that it will be amended, remains in use, and continues to be used to detain hundreds for prolonged periods without trial, including government critics.</p> <p>AI is deeply concerned by the Nicaraguan Government's increased use of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention as tools to silence perceived opponents, journalists and activists. Urges the Nicaraguan authorities to immediately release all those detained for exercising their rights. This Council should monitor the situation closely over the coming months and be ready to develop a more robust response if the situation continues to deteriorate.</p>
<p>25. International Service for Human Rights</p>	<p>ISHR urges the Council to respond urgently to the environmental crisis, and to the repeated calls to recognise the right of all to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and to establish a new Special Rapporteur on climate change at this session. The Council should also recognise the critical role of environmental human rights defenders, and pursue accountability against those State and non-State actors who attack and kill defenders.</p> <p>As a matter of priority at this Council session, the Council must establish a Fact-Finding Mission on Afghanistan, with a gender-responsive and multi-year mandate and resources to monitor and regularly report on, and to collect evidence of, human rights violations and abuses committed across the country by all parties.</p> <p>ISHR takes note of the High Commissioner's update that no progress has been made for meaningful access to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China and looks forward to the Office's publication of its assessment of evidence of serious human rights violations in the country.</p> <p>The Council should take stock of Nicaragua's multi-pronged repression against defenders and any form of dissent, ahead of the November 7 elections. ISHR and 12 rights groups have recently concluded that the Government has taken no steps to implement Resolution 46/2. This Council should consider the creation of an international accountability mechanism.</p>
<p>26. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development</p>	<p>The situation in Sri Lanka has further deteriorated. Political appointments, with no parliamentary oversight, to key human rights and accountability institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the Office of Missing Persons have compromised their independence and capacity to advance accountability. Lack of credible investigations into Easter Sunday attacks is another reminder of persistent impunity in the country. The government's commitments to human rights and accountability and to cooperate with the OHCHR and other UN agencies should be judged based on the realities on the ground.</p> <p>Calls on the Council to establish an independent investigative mechanism on Afghanistan to monitor and advance accountability for human rights violations and abuses by all parties including the Taliban. This is the only credible action the Council can take.</p>
<p>27. World Muslim Congress</p>	<p>India and its forces continue its military might against the innocent habitat of Indian occupied Kashmir. Arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances are part of an ongoing pattern of human rights violations.</p>

<p>28. Partners For Transparency</p>	<p>Deeply concerned by the persistence of human rights violations in Yemen, especially in areas under the control of the Houthis. Gross violations of IHL and human rights law, committed by all parties to the conflict, especially the Houthi militia, have contributed to the worst man-made humanitarian crisis. The attacks and the simultaneous obstruction of humanitarian aid have exacerbated the spread of epidemics, including cholera and COVID-19. The country faces an imminent threat of widespread famine. Partners Foundation recommends the establishment of an international investigative mechanism in Yemen, and calls on the Council to support the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts.</p>
<p>29. Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée</p>	<p>The report of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen has overlooked many other violations and war crimes committed by the Houthi militia in areas that are not under its control. The expert team did not take into consideration many documents provided.</p>
<p>30. Zero Pauvre Afrique</p>	<p>Yemen is experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis in the world due to the Houthi militia coup and the war it imposed on the country. The Council should call for lifting the unjust Houthi siege, setting up mechanisms to ensure that aid reaches those who deserve it, and stopping the cooperation of international organizations with the Houthi militia. The Houthi militia should be held accountable for the grave violations of international humanitarian law.</p>
<p>31. CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation</p>	<p>Calls on the Council to address violations against all human rights defenders. Participation of civil society without fear of reprisal is vital to working collaboratively towards solutions to all human rights concerns, despite the COVID pandemic. Reiterates a call for the Council to create a gender-sensitive, independent investigative mechanism on Afghanistan. In Nicaragua, calls for the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained, and for overdue electoral reforms. Ongoing shrinking civic space in Sri Lanka undermines claims of reconciliation and accountability efforts. In the midst of a dramatically worsening human rights situation in Cambodia including persisting restrictions on civic space and the repression of dissent, and ahead of elections scheduled for 2022 and 2023, the Council should take action to adequately address violations through mandating monitoring and reporting by the High Commissioner.</p>
<p>32. iuventum e.V.</p>	<p>iuventum appreciates High Commissioner's focus on the environment. Congratulates the states that ratified to make Escazu Agreement enter into force. This was the significant step for the protection of the Environmental Human Rights Defenders and will work hand in hand with the environmental education.</p>
<p>33. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO)</p>	<p>On Afghanistan, RADDHO calls on all countries that support the Taliban to end their support until verifiable guarantees of the protection of fundamental rights are provided. Supports the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry and an alert task force to monitor the activities of the Taliban. In Guinea, RADDHO condemns the coup d'état perpetrated on September 5th by elements of the Guinean Special Forces, and calls on all stakeholders to work for a rapid return to civil and constitutional order in the country. Remains concerned by the lack of accountability in Sri Lanka, and encourages the Government to follow through with its commitments to implement necessary institutional reforms in view of ensuring accountability and good governance. Welcomes the recent steps taken by the transitional government in Chad, included in the formal Roadmap for Transition, to stabilize the country and improve the human rights situation.</p>
<p>34. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)</p>	<p>Venezuela: the persecution, criminalization and threats to people and human rights organizations in Venezuela has intensified. CEJIL, OMCT and COFAVIC, calls for this Council to urge the Office of the High Commissioner and the Fact-Finding Mission to continue to closely monitor the situation of people who defend human rights in Venezuela.</p>

<p>35. International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)</p>	<p>FIDH and its member organization HRIC urge the Council and its member states to take urgent actions to address the alarming deterioration of rights and freedoms in the Hong Kong SAR, China. Invoking the broad and vague subversion and collusion provisions of the National Security Law passed in June 2020, the SAR authorities have cracked down on democracy and union activists, lawyers, teachers, and journalists; undermined press freedom; forced the disbandment of trade unions and civil society groups. The Council should consider the concrete recommendations by UN experts and diverse civil society groups, including the establishment of a special mechanism or country mission to monitor and ensure that rights provided under international law, the ICCPR, the ICESCR, as well as the National Security Law itself—are fully and effectively respected, promoted, and protected.</p>
<p>36. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project</p>	<p>Tanzania: positive developments were noted during the previous HRC session. Upon assuming office, President Samia Suluhu Hassan indicated that she would uphold freedom of expression and due process, sent positive signals for civic space, including ordering the reopening of media outlets that had been closed or suspended. Unfortunately, in less than a month, Tanzanian authorities ordered the suspension of two newspapers, Uhuru and Raia Mwema, for publishing “false information.” Additionally, opposition leader Freeman Mbowe was arrested and is facing economic crimes- and financing of terrorism-related charges. Calls on President Hassan’s government to deliver on the promise of a more open Tanzania, in line with its Constitution and history of respect for human rights and the rule of law.</p>
<p>37. World Evangelical Alliance</p>	<p>Sri Lanka: between January and August 2021, 62 incidents of religious violence and intolerance against Protestant Christians were documented by the World Evangelical Alliance. The Hindu community in Sri Lanka continues to face discrimination over land issues and contested archaeological sites of the Hindu community.</p> <p>Afghanistan: the protection of religious minorities, including Afghans of Christian faith, are in need of attention and protection. Urges the High Commissioner to include Christian and other religious minorities in her reporting on Sri Lanka and on Afghanistan.</p>
<p>38. Solidarité Suisse-Guinée</p>	<p>Yemen: calls on the Council to pay special attention to the issue of women detainees in Houthi militia prisons, to press for the release of all kidnapped women, to punish the perpetrators of these crimes, and to provide redress to the victims.</p>
<p>39. International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities</p>	<p>The International Decade for People of African Descent is one of the important achievements in the follow up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action which 20th Anniversary we are commemorating in 2021. Why the OHCHR has not yet in the 7th year of the Decade published the Programme of Activities in an easily available brochure and which has been requested by the Intergovernmental Working Group for DDPA implementation?</p>
<p>40. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies</p>	<p>In a joint letter issued on 14 July 2021, Libyan, regional and international civil society organizations highlighted the critical need to renew the mandate of the Fact Finding Mission on Libya during this session of the HRC, a call recently made by the FFM itself following its first visit to Libya in late August. The limited time at its disposal and the movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have severely hampered the FFM’s ability to effectively discharge its mandate.</p> <p>In the year following the Beirut port explosion, the Lebanese government continues to provide immunity and impunity to those who bear responsibility for the blast and for drastically increasing socio-economic disparities and inequalities. It is time for the HRC to take action and establish an independent and international fact-finding mission on Lebanon.</p>
<p>41. Soka Gakkai International (on behalf of the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights –</p>	<p>Since 2010, the GIF has advocated for the establishment of a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change. This mandate should be established at this 48th session, to, among other things, identify the adverse impacts of climate change on peoples’ rights and dignity, consult affected communities, and contribute to strengthen an international ethical response to climate change in compliance with human rights. Looks forward to the engagement of States in further discussions pursuant to OP15 of</p>

GIF)	the Resolution on Human Rights and Climate Change (A/HRC/47/L.19) during this session. The time is now for the global recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
42. Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)	Seriously concerned about the unjust distribution of vaccines around the world, hindering an effective action against COVID-19. Since October 2020 we are seeing some countries blocking the proposal to waive certain provisions of the TRIPS agreement for COVID-19 products and technologies. As we are facing the worst humanitarian and medical emergency of recent history, we are seeing extra-profit on one side, and death and desolation on the other. We need policies that improve access to all available tools to combat COVID-19, starting from today's choices.
43. Sikh Human Rights Group	It will be helpful to have some reference to inclusion and engagement undertaken and opportunity offered by the OHCHR and the Council in regard to civil society. An audit, with statistics of incremental engagement in the High Commissioner's report on how many minority based organisations, disability organisations, LGBT+ organisations, regional organisations, environmental organisations etc. were met by the office would reassure civil society of the hard work undertaken by both NGOs and the High Commissioner. It will be heartening to know if the Special Rapporteurs and Panels engage with questions or issues raised by NGOs.
44. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada	Sri Lanka: transitional justice has not only been stalled but reversed. Calls for the High Commissioner to refer the situation in Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court, and urges all states to exercise universal jurisdiction within their national courts. Afghanistan: reiterates the call for the creation of the International Investigative Mechanism.
45. Friends World Committee for Consultation	Five years ago, at the summit on large movements of refugees and migrants States noted the impacts of climate change amongst factors that compel people to move, alongside armed conflict, poverty, food insecurity, persecution, terrorism, and human rights violations and abuses. Encourages wide use of the Trainer's Guide on Human Rights at International Borders, recently published by the OHCHR jointly with the Office of Counter-Terrorism. The Council should uphold the safety, dignity and human rights of all and complement its work on the human rights of migrants by strengthening commitment to the right to seek asylum, international protection and the principle of non-refoulement in relevant resolutions, and by relevant monitoring and accountability activities.
46. FIAN International e.V. Human Rights Association	Food is one of the basic and indispensable needs of human life, and a human right. The implementation of a food security policy to truly and progressively respect the right to food is an obligation of the State. In order to guarantee nutritional security for the population of Haiti , it is necessary to put in place a general system of social protection for the people most affected by the crisis.
47. Maat for Peace, Development and	Afghanistan: Maat calls for the urgent need of international monitoring of the human rights commitments by Taliban, particularly the rights to peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion, expression and information on the internet, in addition to ensuring the freedom of the press; immediately releasing all arbitrarily detained journalists, refraining from the use of excessive force against protesters while giving due attention to the protection of the rights of women and children who are trying to flee their country.
48. United Nations Watch	Human Rights Council's predecessor, the Human Rights Commission, was abolished after Secretary General Kofi Annan recognized that it was rife with selectivity and politicization. The new Council promised to ensure "universality, objectivity and non-selectivity" and to "eliminate double standards." Fifteen years later, where do we stand? In the special session on Afghanistan , the outcome resolution refused to create any commission of inquiry, to condemn Taliban human rights abuses, or to mention the word Taliban. The Council is instead busy forming a massive commission of inquiry, unprecedented in scope and duration, targeting democratic Israel for having defended itself from 4,000 Hamas rockets; the one-sided inquiry that is estimated to cost \$8 million a year, and is mandated to carry on forever.

<p>49. Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social</p>	<p>Venezuela: the terrible impact caused by unilateral coercive measures on the human rights of the Venezuelan population, especially in matters of health, food and essential public services. It is vital that the States that have imposed these coercive measures against Venezuela immediately implement the recommendation contained in the report of Ms. Bachelet, who asked for sanctions to be lifted. Regrets that the report has omitted the 195 cases delivered by Fundación on the victims of the blockade in Venezuela, people who have died or suffer from severe illnesses because of the blockade. Supports the cooperative relationship between the Office and the Venezuelan government, which is reflected in the report.</p>
<p>50. The Next Century Foundation</p>	<p>Deeply concerned about the attitude that the incoming government of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan may have to women's rights to education. Calls on the Taliban to honour the commitment to uphold women's rights to full time education. Continued pressure must be put on the new government to remind them of the importance of women's rights, not only in Kabul but right across rural Afghanistan. The Next Century Foundation calls for existing foreign aid donors to Afghanistan to stress the importance of upholding the commitment outlined by the incoming Taliban government.</p>
<p>51. Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)</p>	<p>Nicaragua: Civil space in the country has deteriorated rapidly as the November 7 elections approach. The number of civil organizations cancelled in retaliation for their work reached 55. The first charges were recently brought against a human rights defender under the Cybercrime Act, which criminalizes free speech. The Sovereignty Law and the Foreign Agents Law allowed for the indictment of more than 30 political and civil leaders. The opposition detainees in this latest wave reached more than 70 days in a condition of enforced disappearance. The Caribbean Coast also registers a serious deterioration. The recent massacre against indigenous people in the Kiwakumbaih community of the Bosawas reserve, shows elements of sexual violence and torture that portray ethnocidal hatred against indigenous peoples. CEJIL joins the voices that demand to scale the actions of the Council through the incorporation of extraordinary mechanisms of documentation and accountability that allow giving a voice to the victims of the serious human rights violations that continue to be committed in Nicaragua.</p>
<p>52. African Green Foundation International</p>	<p>Noted the High Commissioner's updates for the establishment of an evidence-gathering unit. As stated, this is to support legal proceedings in individual countries against Sri Lanka and its officials with the cost of 2.8 million USD. Will it be productive as none of the countries so far expressed their willingness to initiate proceedings? How Does this establishment help reconciliation in Sri Lanka? The Tamil Diaspora in various countries is lobbying for an international investigation into alleged war crimes by the Sri Lankan state. These parties, however, refrain from holding LTTE responsible for its crimes or its contribution to the shattered state of Sri Lankan Tamil society. This establishment create divisions among ethnic groups. Best way to achieve sustainable peace through an inclusive, domestically designed and executed reconciliation and accountability process as Government of Sri Lanka declared.</p>
<p>53. World Peace Council</p>	<p>Welcomes the cooperation between the OHCHR and the government of Venezuela. Deeply alarmed by the ongoing and systematic human rights violations against the Venezuelan people through the extensive and illegal economic, commercial and financial unilateral coercive measures imposed by member states and the European Union as the main source jeopardizing the Venezuelan people's right to food, health, education and essential services. Urges the OHCHR to recognize these UCMs as the primary obstacle to the full implementation of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights in Venezuela.</p>
<p>54. European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ)</p>	<p>Draws the Council's attention on the financing of the Special Procedures. ECLJ published a report entitled <i>The financing of the UN experts</i>, which observed that 40% of their budget came from extra-budgetary funding; 37 experts received directly 11 million dollars, out of any control from the UN; some mandate holders are in situation of conflict of interest. There is an urgent need for more transparency. The Council should provide sufficient resources to the Special Procedures, and to forbid any direct funding.</p>

Rights of Reply

- **Iraq** (in reply to the statement made by **Sweden** regarding the elections in October 2021; and on the human rights situation in Sweden).
- **Zimbabwe** (in reply to the statement made by **United Kingdom** and **United States**).
- **Turkmenistan** (in reply to the statement made by **Germany**).
- **Morocco** (in reply to the joint statement delivered by a group of countries).
- **Venezuela** (in reply to the statements made by several countries. Situation of human rights in **Colombia**).
- **India** (in reply to the statements made by **Pakistan** and other countries).
- **United States** (statement made on the issue of racial discrimination in the **United States**, and serious human rights violations in other countries).
- **DPRK** (in reply to the statement made by **Germany**).
- **Turkey** (in reply to the statement made by **Syrian Arab Republic**, human rights situation in Syria).
- **Cambodia** (in reply to the statements made by **France** and **United States**).
- **China** (in reply to the statements made by several delegations; human rights situation in Xinjiang and Hong Kong).
- **Cuba** (in reply to the statement made by the European Union).
- **Armenia** (in reply to the statement made by the **Azerbaijan** and **Pakistan**).
- **Algeria** (in reply to the joint statement delivered by **Morocco**).
- **Colombia** (in reply to the joint statement delivered by **Venezuela**).
- **Pakistan** (in reply to the joint statement delivered by **India**).
- **Syrian Arab Republic** (in reply to the joint statement delivered by **Turkey**).
- **Azerbaijan** (in reply to the joint statement delivered by **Armenia**).
- **Morocco** (second reply, to the statement delivered by **Algeria**).
- **Venezuela** (second reply, to the statement delivered by **Colombia**).
- **Armenia** (second reply, to the statement delivered by **Azerbaijan**).
- **Algeria** (second reply, to the statement delivered by **Morocco**).
-

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

[Part 1](#) (14 September 2021, 01:23:21), [Part 2](#) (14 September 2021, 03:01:23), [Part 3](#) (15 September 2021, 02:31:20).

For any comments, addenda or rectifications on this report please contact Ms. Maryna Yazianok myazianok@gchragd.org