

**General debate on Item 3 (22 September 2021)**  
**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic,  
social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

## Contents

Member States: Joint Statements .....	2
Statements made by Member States .....	5
Statements made by the Observers .....	8

**This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 3** that took place on 22 September 2021 at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report includes the statements made by the Member States of the Human Rights Councils, Observer States and other Observers. The statements are presented in the order of speaking and are not exhaustive.

**Please also refer to the Geneva Centre's summary report considered under Item 3** which is [available here](#). It includes the summary notes of the Briefing by ECOSOC President; presentation of Secretary General and High Commissioner's thematic reports on a range of topics; as well as reports of the Working Group on the right to development and Working Group on private military security companies.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
<b>Pakistan</b> (on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation – OIC)	<p>OIC reaffirms its support for <b>principles of universality, impartiality, transparency and non-selectivity</b>, without double standards and undue politicization. It remains committed to the realization of achieving <b>SDGs and the right to development</b>, operationalizing of which has become challenging due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The <b>debt burdens</b> of developing countries have increased, impeding their efforts to counter the effects of public health and climate emergencies. OIC calls for <b>mobilization of development financing</b>, technology transfer, and capacity building. It also echoes global calls for ensuring <b>vaccine equity</b>. OIC <b>condemns Islamophobia</b>, ether directed through online or offline hate speech, populist rhetoric, anti-migration policies, or Islamophobic trends including state-sponsored marginalization of Muslim communities in certain countries. <b>People under illegal occupation</b> face growing attacks and denial of their inalienable right to self-determination, often under the bogey of terrorism. Peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes is essential.</p>
<b>Slovenia</b> (on behalf of the European Union – EU <sup>1</sup> )	<p>EU regrets that the briefing by the <b>Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission</b> did not take place. Unequivocally opposes the use of <b>death penalty</b> at all times and circumstances; welcomes the findings of the High Commissioner that the Council must pay greater attention to <b>sexual and gender-based violence</b> and to <b>women’s participation</b>. Expresses concerns that <b>indigenous human rights defenders</b> continue to face high risks when conducting their work, particularly those whose efforts involve protecting lands and territories as well as the environment, and those cooperating with the United Nations. EU continues to work towards the realization of the human right to <b>safe drinking water and sanitation</b> and implementation of <b>human rights-based approach to development</b>. It welcomes the holding of a second session of the IGWG on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of <b>private military and security companies</b>, but reaffirms that PMSCs do not operate in a vacuum.</p>
<b>Argentina and Mexico</b> (on behalf of a group of countries <sup>2</sup> )	<p>The health emergency caused by COVID-19 highlighted the essential role of <b>care work</b>. Care functions are disproportionately allocated to <b>women and girls</b> and create a major barrier to the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation of women in economic market activity. The disparate feminization of unpaid care responsibilities is a structural barrier to women’s empowerment. It is imperative to <b>adopt the necessary legal, institutional and policy measures</b> to remove barriers to women’s and girls’ personal, social and economic development resulting from an unequal allocation of caring duties.</p> <p>As recommended in the <b>OHCHR guidance note on COVID</b>, economic incentives and social safety nets should be gender-responsive. States and the Human Rights System should further discuss avenues to promote equal caregiving responsibilities of parents, flexible work practices, and access to care and participation on care responsibilities based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination.</p>
<b>Uruguay</b> (on behalf of a group of countries <sup>3</sup> )	<p>The Group expresses its dissatisfaction with the non-implementation of the mandate established by resolution 45/31, operative paragraph 9 of which invited the <b>Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission</b> to, as of this year, report annually to the Human Rights</p>

<sup>1</sup> Republic of North Macedonia , Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

<sup>2</sup> Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Rumania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

<sup>3</sup> Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay.

	<p>Council. Both the Security Council and the General Assembly have emphasized the importance of a comprehensive approach to peacekeeping that includes human rights, and have expressly recognized that <b>peace and security, development and human rights are closely interrelated and mutually reinforcing</b>. Having the report of the Chair of the Commission to the Human Rights Council would contribute positively to the implementation of the mandates of both bodies and would further enhance an efficient use of the system's resources. The Group hopes that this situation will be resolved next year.</p>
<p><b>India</b> (on behalf of a Like-Minded Group of countries – LMG<sup>4</sup>)</p>	<p>Reiterated the importance of the <b>principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity</b> in the consideration of human rights issues, and the elimination of double standards and politicization. The Council should serve as a forum for dialogue on <b>thematic issues</b> on all human rights. The <b>country-specific initiatives</b> should enjoy the support of the concerned countries. The human rights agenda must be pursued in a fair manner with due respect for the <b>principles of UN Charter</b> – national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. The Council must place greater emphasis on promoting <b>human rights education</b> as well as providing advisory services, <b>technical assistance</b> and capacity-building. Due attention should also be paid to <b>achievement of SDGs</b>.</p>
<p><b>Azerbaijan</b> (on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement – NAM)</p>	<p>NAM welcomes the report by the Special Rapporteur on the <b>right to development</b> and expresses unrestricted support for the fulfilment of this mandated. All rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated. The Council should provide equal attention to civil and political, and economic, social and cultural rights. NAM welcomes the commencement of the elaboration of the <b>draft Convention on the right to development</b> based on the draft submitted by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the right to development. Takes note with appreciation of the report submitted by the Expert Mechanism on the right to development, and asks it to pay particular aspect to the <b>international aspect</b> of the right to development. NAM welcomes the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of <b>unilateral coercive measures</b> and supports her mandate.</p>
<p><b>Luxembourg</b> (on behalf of the Core Group for the resolution on human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>Thanked the ECOSOC President, Amb. Kelapile, for his briefing. As was concluded at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Human Rights Council on human rights and the 2030 Agenda in January 2021, the commitment of States to their human rights obligations is paramount to respond effectively to recover better and <b>achieve the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda</b>. That calls for <b>strong collaboration between ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council</b>. The Council will continue to discuss how best to promote a more <b>integrated approach to human rights and the pursuit of the SDGs</b>, next time at the 4<sup>th</sup> intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda, and will make the report of those discussions available to the High Level Political Forum.</p>
<p><b>Ecuador</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>6</sup>)</p>	<p>The Group thanked the High Commissioner for her <b>oral update on resolution 46/14</b>. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities between countries. Concerned about the <b>disparities in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines</b>. More than 70% of vaccines have been administered in a small number of countries, while other states have <b>not been able to start mass vaccination</b>. Unequal access to vaccines, tests and medicines puts the international community as a whole at risk. The efficient, transparent, equitable, affordable, timely and universal distribution of vaccines is essential to leave no one behind. The international community should reinforce cooperation and solidarity to meet the needs of people and groups in vulnerable situations.</p>

<sup>4</sup> Egypt, Russia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Syria, Belarus, Venezuela, Thailand, Philippines, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Iraq, Nepal, Indonesia, Nigeria, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore, India.

<sup>5</sup> Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay.

<sup>6</sup> Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador.

<p><b>Norway</b> (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic group of countries – NB8<sup>7</sup>)</p>	<p>Regrets that the Council did not get to hear from the <b>Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission</b>, as per resolution 45/31. Securing a <b>safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders</b>, including those working for peace and security, is a top priority for NB8 countries. NB8 is deeply disturbed that civil society representatives and human rights defenders experience more incidents of harassment, threats and violence, online and offline, to prevent or punish them for engaging with UN entities. Particularly concerned by targeting of women human rights defenders, peacebuilders, minorities, journalists and media workers. <b>Intimidation and reprisals</b> undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the UN. States must prevent, investigate and <b>ensure accountability</b> for reprisals, and combat impunity for such acts. More engagement with civil society at the UN should be facilitated, including by <b>addressing the backlog and granting consultative status</b> to the NGOs seeking to engage.</p>
<p><b>China</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>8</sup>)</p>	<p>Economic exploitation, inequality, systematic racism, violations of indigenous peoples' rights, contemporary forms of slavery, armed conflicts, damages to cultural heritage are seriously impeding the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development and civil and political rights. The period 2021-2030 is the International Decade for the <b>Eradication of Colonialism</b>. The international community should take it as an opportunity for engagement on this important matter. The Human Rights Council, the OHCHR and the relevant Special Procedures should pay attention to the <b>nexus of colonialism and the enjoyment of human rights</b>.</p>
<p><b>Bahrain</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>9</sup>)</p>	<p>The <b>integration of women in the peace processes</b> and all discussions is of a significant value and importance. Discrimination continues to be present <i>de jure</i> and <i>de facto</i> even on a diplomatic arena. The role of women in preventive diplomacy remains quite limited. Women's voices should be influencing 2030 Agenda, as well as agendas for human rights, security and peace. Committed to taking into account the experience of women and girls living in conflict zones but also in peace and stability.</p>
<p><b>China</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>10</sup>)</p>	<p>Certain countries, under the pretext of democracy and human rights, conducted <b>illegal military interventions and occupied territories</b> of sovereign states, which severely violates international law and undermines sovereignty and territorial integrity of the concerned countries. The illegal military interventions seriously hamper economic and social development, cause numerous casualties and forced displacement of innocent civilians, and serious violate human rights. The countries concerned should immediately stop illegal military interventions and <b>ensure reparations</b> to the victimized countries, instead of shifting responsibility to the international community. Independent and impartial investigations should be carried on the cases of killings and torture of civilians, and other gross human rights violations committed by the military personnel.</p>
<p><b>Qatar</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>11</sup>)</p>	<p>The 9<sup>th</sup> of September marks the International Day to <b>Protect Education from Attack</b>. Education is a key tool to peace, enabling the enjoyment of all other human rights and is the basic pillar and strategic goal of the SDGs. Although the last academic year was one of the most challenging ones because of COVID-19 pandemic and the <b>increased attacks against schools</b>. According to the Global Coalition to Protect Education, the <b>year 2020 witnessed more than 2400 attacks</b> on education facilities, students and educators – a 33% increase as compared to 2019. The Group underlines the need to protect schools, universities and all educational facilities, recognizing their civic nature and avoiding targeting them so they can remain safe havens to promote peace, development and stability.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden

<sup>8</sup> The statement was not available on Extranet as of 28 September 2021, so the list of co-sponsors could not be checked.

<sup>9</sup> *Idem*: The statement was not available on Extranet as of 28 September 2021, so the list of co-sponsors could not be checked.

<sup>10</sup> *Idem*

<sup>11</sup> *Idem*

<p><b>Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC)</b></p>	<p>The Declaration of Human Rights of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, which was adopted in 2014, clearly stipulated the principle of the <b>universality of human rights and the principle of interdependence</b> between all these rights. This Declaration is now a Framework that is embraced by all Member states. The GCC pays great attention to addressing contemporary challenges such as pandemics, climate challenge, and the effects of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence on human rights, and looks forward to working under the umbrella of this Council collectively within a framework of dialogue and constructive cooperation to find workable solutions.</p>
<p>Statements made by Member States</p>	
<p><b>1. Armenia</b></p>	<p>For 30 years since its independence, Armenia has been contributing to the international efforts of <b>Genocide prevention</b>. It welcomes the report of the High Commissioner on the intersessional meeting mandated by the HRC resolution 43/29, sponsored by Armenia. Armenia hopes to engage into the discussion with the Chair of the <b>Peacebuilding Commission</b>. Development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.</p> <p><b>Nagorno-Karabakh:</b> the people continue to suffer from human rights violations and the dire consequences of the aggression unleashed by <b>Azerbaijan</b> in the fall of 2020. The most heinous crimes committed by Azerbaijan include but are not limited to <b>arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances</b>. As a gesture of good will, Armenia provided the <b>maps of the minefields</b> to Azerbaijan.</p>
<p><b>2. France</b></p>	<p><i>France aligns itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>The Council has done a lot to highlight the deep <b>interdependence between human rights and climate change and the environment</b>. The increase in <b>economic and social inequalities</b>, aggravated by COVID-19, leads to placing a growing number of individuals in a situation of vulnerability. France took note with interest of the work by the Special Rapporteur on <b>human rights and extreme poverty</b> in favour of <b>universal access to social protection</b>. France calls for the <b>universalization of the Istanbul Convention</b>. Together with Mexico, it organized the <b>Generation Equality Forum</b>, under the auspices of UN-Women, which has mobilized \$ 40 billion in commitments, enabled the launch of a <b>Global Acceleration Plan for Equality</b>, with nearly 1,000 commitments to support it.</p>
<p><b>3. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)</b></p>	<p><i>Venezuela associates itself with the statement of delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM, and by India on behalf of the LMG.</i></p> <p>Venezuela reiterates its support for the mandate of the <b>Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearance</b>, and held two virtual workshops with both Working Groups in 2020, to strengthen training of officials in the area of human rights. The mandates of the <b>Special Rapporteur</b> and the <b>Expert Mechanism on the right to development</b> are of paramount importance. The implementation of the <b>2030 Agenda</b> depends to a large extent on the implementation of a holistic and global approach towards a just and equitable development. The imposition of illegal <b>unilateral coercive measures</b> by some States is a serious obstacle to human rights, may constitute crimes against humanity, and must be lifted. Human rights issues need to be addressed based on the <b>universal principles of impartiality, objectivity and transparency</b>.</p>
<p><b>4. Republic of Korea</b></p>	<p><b>Peace and security, development and human rights are interlinked</b> and mutually reinforcing. Serious human rights violations are often the root causes of conflict and violence, which must be remedied to ensure lasting peace. <b>Sustainable and inclusive development</b> can only be achieved through a human rights-based approach. Constructive engagement with the <b>Peacebuilding Commission</b> can guide the Council's efforts to prevent potential escalations of human rights violations and to respond promptly to human rights emergencies. Republic of Korea looks forward to the next earliest occasion when the Human Rights Council would hear from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Republic of Korea expresses its particular appreciation for the High Commissioner's report on the <b>right</b></p>

	<p><b>to privacy in the digital age</b>, and the recommendations to enhance efforts to combat discrimination linked to the use of AI systems, and to systematically conduct human rights due diligence throughout the life cycle of AI systems.</p>
5. Indonesia	<p>In its work, the Council should be guided by the <b>principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs</b>, and territorial integrity of all states. The world is witnessing the rising nationalism, deepening foreign debt and an increase in poverty. Disregarding the <b>right to development</b> also contributes to inequality. Indonesia calls for concerted efforts based on solidarity, non-discrimination and partnerships, not only to help, but to empower all countries to recover and build back better. Need to ensure equal access to vaccines and medicines, share the knowledge, information, data and technologies to treat and prevent the global crises.</p>
6. Cuba	<p><b>Inequality, hunger and discrimination</b> have drastically increased due to COVID-19 crisis, in a world already mired in an unjust and undemocratic international order. The illegal economic, commercial and financial <b>blockade imposed by the United States</b> against Cuba has been deliberately intensified in pandemic conditions. This policy is a violation of the human rights of the Cuban people. In recent months Cuba <b>produced three vaccines</b> and <b>two candidate vaccines</b> against COVID-19. The President of Cuba reaffirmed at the CELAC Summit the will to work on agreements for the supply and production of vaccines for interested countries, as a modest contribution to achieving early universal immunization in the region.</p>
7. Russian Federation	<p>Russian Federation notes with regret the growing <b>disregard by Western countries</b> of the fundamental principle of international law enshrined in the UN Charter, the <b>principle of non-interference</b> in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The modern form of colonialization, which is generally based on economic interests, is carried out under the noble slogan of protecting human rights. It is under this pretext that illegal military interventions are carried out, civil revolutions and coups d'état are organized. The most vulnerable groups are involved, namely children and adolescents, who are easy to manipulate. The toolbox of modern "colonialists" is extensive: illegal military operations, interference in national political processes, including electoral, unilateral coercive measures and others. The <b>Human Rights Council and its monitoring mechanisms</b> should consider the adverse impact of violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.</p>
8. Nepal	<p>The Constitution of Nepal has enshrined all universally recognized human rights. A pioneering country to implement gender responsive budgeting system, Nepal's recent achievements in <b>gender parity and women empowerment</b> have been quite significant. It has mainstreamed <b>2030 Agenda</b> for sustainable development in its national, provincial and local plans. The present government has given utmost priority to <b>reducing multi-dimensional poverty</b> and achieving high economic growth. <b>COVID-19</b> has unleashed unprecedented challenges to human development, ravaging economies and increasing inequalities. <b>Digital divide</b> within and across the globe has become more vivid. Nepal has been implementing preventive, curative and therapeutic measures to control the virus. Vaccine roll-out has been accelerated. Reliefs have been provided to rescue the hard-hit sectors. Developing countries especially the LDCs require <b>urgent support and financing for resilient recovery</b>. Universal and equitable access to vaccines should be ensured.</p>
9. Namibia	<p><i>Namibia aligns itself to the statement delivered on behalf of the NAM.</i></p> <p>The <b>low vaccination</b> rate in developing countries means that the entire world remains vulnerable to COVID-19. Namibia concurs with the High Commissioner that vaccines are currently the best chance at ending the pandemic, and echoes the call to states to treat vaccines as global common good. Namibia thanks the Working Group on the <b>right to development</b> for its report and reiterates that universal commitment to the implementation of the right to development will significantly enhance efforts to meet the aspirations of</p>

	the 2030 Agenda. The right to development cannot be achieved for the millions of <b>people under illegal foreign occupation</b> if their fundamental right to self-determination is not respected and upheld by the international community.
<b>10. China</b>	The Council should attach equal importance to all types of human rights, and promote healthy and lasting development of human rights thanks to enhanced cooperation and dialogue. This year marks the <b>100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party</b> ; the century of struggle in order to achieve the development of human rights as well as their respect and protection. China stresses the supremacy of the people, and combines the universal principle of <b>human rights with China's reality</b> . Happy life for the Chinese people is the greatest human right, as well as feeling of development and achievement. China embarks successfully on the path of socialist development for human rights with the Chinese characteristics. China has solved the problem of absolute poverty historically. The Chinese government recently released the <b>National Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2025)</b> .
<b>11. Pakistan</b>	The UN Charter, UDHR and other core human rights instruments have reaffirmed the <b>right to self-determination</b> as a bedrock for realization and enjoyment of other rights. The right to self-determination of the people of occupied <b>Jammu and Kashmir</b> has been codified by several UN Security Council resolutions, but <b>India</b> continues to deny this inalienable right to the Kashmiris. Since the High Commissioner's second Kashmir report, several independent observers have documented that the <b>human rights situation in the occupied territory has considerably deteriorated</b> . It therefore meets any objective criteria for preventive action. The Council must press India to halt its policy of changing the demographic composition of the occupied territory, and demand full respect of the basic rights of the Kashmiri people, especially their right to self-determination. Pakistan urges States to express their views on the independently documented abuses. Kashmir monitoring and reporting process by the High Commissioner must continue.
<b>12. Mauritania</b>	All human rights have been affected and are facing great challenges due to COVID-19, which greatly affects the achievement of SDGs. Mauritania has set a number of plans in order to put an end to exclusion under the <b>program known as Taazur</b> . It has also launched a pioneering <b>program on housing</b> . The President has broadened the scale of health and medical insurance coverage to include larger number of poor families. The government has established national initiatives to deliver <b>essential food services</b> , in order to ensure food security. It is high time to relieve the <b>burden of debt</b> of developing and least developed countries.
<b>13. Sudan</b>	Sudan stresses the need to pay more attention to the economic, cultural and social rights, including the right to development, especially in light of the increasing <b>poverty</b> . Sudan follows with concern the rising sea levels, floods, drought rates, desertification, fires and other natural disasters that are directly related to <b>climate change</b> and lead to food insecurity and increased cases of <b>migration and internal displacement</b> , as well as to an increase in armed conflicts in many regions, especially in developing and less developed countries. Sudan renews its full support for the establishment of the <b>mandate of a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change</b> . Sudan officially joined on August 10 the <b>Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b> and the <b>Convention against Torture</b> . Accession to these conventions demonstrates the commitment of the transitional government to the promotion and protection of human rights.
<b>14. Germany</b>	<i>Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.</i> Geneva and New York – <b>Human Rights Council and Security Council</b> – must collaborate as close as possible, as there is no human rights without peace and security, and no peace and security without human rights. It is regrettable that the <b>briefing of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission</b> has been vetoed in the PBC. This must not set a precedent. Calls for the full implementation of resolution 45/31. The <b>Secretary-General Call to Action</b> for Human Rights reminds us of our responsibility and the need to make prevention the top priority. The Human Rights Council is the UN's principle <b>prevention Council</b> . Germany is committed to strengthen prevention across

	all pillars of the UN. Germany welcomes the OHCHR's report on the <b>death penalty</b> . It is long proven: capital punishment has no deterrent effect; the focus should be on <b>independent and impartial judiciary</b> .
Statements made by the Observers	
1. <b>International Committee of the Red Cross – ICRC</b> (also on behalf of Switzerland)	As <b>Co-Chairs of the Montreux Document Forum</b> , Switzerland and the ICRC reiterated that the work of the Open-ended Working Group on private military and security companies (PMSCs) was complementary to work to develop and implement the 2008 ' <i>Montreux Document on Pertinent International Legal Obligations and Good Practices for States related to Operations of Private Military and Security Companies during Armed Conflict</i> ' ( <i>Montreux Document</i> ), which is an intergovernmental document, supported by 58 States and three international organisations. Montreux Document is not legally binding, nor endeavors to establish new regulations. It recalls the existing obligations of States and PMSCs, and presents practical guidance to assist States in complying with these obligations. All States and international organisations that have not yet done so should express their support for the Montreux Document, which should be consistent with support for the work of the Open-ended Working Group.
2. <b>Ecuador</b>	Ecuador expresses concern about <b>unequal access to vaccines</b> among countries, with a negative impact not only in the field of health, but also on socio-economic recovery. It is essential to promote collective actions to meet health and socioeconomic needs; promote the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices to adequately cope with the pandemic. Ecuador is currently carrying out the " <b>9/100 Vaccination Plan</b> ", a process that has benefited nine million people in 100 days. Ecuador urges the international community to join forces to ensure <b>equitable, timely and universal access to vaccines</b> and their efficient, transparent and fair distribution, as vaccination against COVID-19 is a global public good.
3. <b>Switzerland</b>	Switzerland will present during this session, along with other countries, the <b>resolution on the death penalty</b> which will attempt to transcribe the main recommendations of the Secretary-General on the death penalty. Switzerland regrets that the <b>Briefing by the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)</b> could not take place, and recommends it takes place this year or the next one. As a member of the group of states that initiated resolution 45/31, Switzerland is working to strengthen ties between the pillars of the United Nations, and between New York and Geneva. The work of the PBC is relevant for the Human Rights Council (HRC), especially since the PBC deals with country situations which are also at the agenda of the HRC.
4. <b>Finland</b>	<i>Finland fully aligns itself with the EU statement.</i> Finland fully supports the <b>Call to Action for Human Rights</b> by the UN Secretary General and strengthening the <b>coordination between the main UN pillars</b> . Respecting the universality and indivisibility of human rights is at the core of peace, security and development. In 2020, at least 227 <b>land and environmental defenders</b> were killed around the world. Human rights defenders and their work is imperative. The Council should do its utmost to ensure that the defenders, especially those in most vulnerable positions, can work without fear of harassment, persecution, or losing their lives. Finland welcomes the report on <b>mainstreaming the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post conflict situations</b> . The Council and its mechanisms must continue to strengthen this mainstreaming.
5. <b>Iraq</b>	Iraq stresses the importance of promoting and protecting all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, including the right to development, in a just manner, in compliance with the principles of <b>universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity</b> . Iraq also affirms respect for the right of each country to promote human rights in accordance with their respective capabilities, national capacities, security and economic challenges, cultural values and peculiarities, and the need to respect <b>national sovereignty, territorial</b>



	<p><b>integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs.</b> The world has faced a number of challenges such as climate change, COVID-19 pandemic and extreme poverty, which have negative impacts on all human rights, and requires strengthening international <b>solidarity and cooperation</b>. It is important that the Human Rights Council focus on providing <b>technical assistance and capacity building</b>, in consultation with and with the approval of the concerned countries.</p>
6. South Africa	<p>Human rights are an intrinsic part of <b>sustainable development</b>, and sustainable development is a powerful vehicle for the realization of all human rights. The pandemic has exacerbated the <b>pre-existing inequalities</b> and has set back limited progress on <b>women's rights</b> the protection of persons in vulnerable situations, and systemic racism. The means of implementation of the SDGs must be strengthened, particularly in the areas of financing, sustainable infrastructure investment, international trade, science and technology, capacity building and partnerships. South Africa calls for the affordable, fair, equitable and timely <b>access to vaccines</b> and other health products for all, as a global public good as supported by the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator. It further calls for support for a <b>temporary waiver of certain WTO TRIPS obligations</b> to broaden access to COVID medical tools.</p>
7. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	<p>In the DPRK the people-first principle is thoroughly applied in all spheres of social life as a cornerstone of the state activities and as a political ideal. <b>All human rights of people in DPRK including the rights to existence and development are firmly guaranteed</b> by the Socialist Constitution. Other sectoral laws in the areas of election, labour, education and public health and fully exercised and enjoyed in practice. The socialist policies such as universal 12-year compulsory education system and free medical care system are implemented as ever. The DPRK will further consolidate and develop the socialist system which firmly guarantees human rights and fundamental freedoms of its people, and actively <b>joins the international efforts for the promotion and protection of genuine human rights</b>.</p>
8. United States of America	<p>Many <b>autocratic governments</b> advance the falsehood that only by restricting individuals' actions can societies ensure prosperity and security. Nothing could be further from the truth. No democracy is perfect nor final. Democratic societies must continue their vital efforts to <b>defend civil society and independent media</b>, promote <b>free and fair elections</b>, and insist on <b>accountability</b> for those who commit abuses and <b>foster corruption</b>. Those governments that hide behind the mantle of promoting <b>economic development</b> while seeking to undermine human rights must be held to account, including for their own human rights abuses and violations. <b>Democracies</b> must continually confirm and promote respect for their human rights obligations and commitments to ensure lasting progress.</p>
9. Belarus	<p>Belarus has never hindered the consideration at the UN of the issue of the <b>death penalty</b>. There is a trend when documents are published on behalf of the Secretary-General containing the information that is not objective. The Note of the Secretary-General A/HRC/48/29 was one such document. Belarus was surprised to read the information in this Note on the position of Belarus on statistics about death penalty with the reference to the report of the Special Rapporteur on Belarus. The Secretariat reflects the position of Belarus not by referring to the response from the Government, but to the Special Rapporteur. Belarus never received any surveys or questions from the Secretariat in time of preparation of the above Note. The Note contains the subjective view of the Secretariat. The authors of the Secretary-General's note should work more closely with the UN Member States, including Belarus, and not refer to politicized mandates.</p>
10. Saudi Arabia	<p>Saudi Arabia reaffirms its continuous efforts to protect and promote human rights at the national and international levels, and affirms its continued cooperation with human rights mechanisms. <b>Selective focus of the Council on some human rights issues and situations is counterproductive</b> to the Council's mandate. Saudi Arabia reaffirms the importance of <b>universality, impartiality, objectivity and selectivity</b> in the consideration of human rights issues, and the <b>elimination of double standards and politicization</b>. All measures taken</p>

	by the Kingdom for the promotion and protection of human rights are based on internationally accepted standards and are consistent with Saudi Arabia's values, culture, laws and judicial systems.
<b>11. Malaysia</b>	<p><i>Malaysia associates itself with the statements of groups that it belongs to.</i></p> <p>As an <b>aspiring member of the HRC</b>, Malaysia will continue to advocate respect, promotion and protection of all human rights, based on the principles of <b>inclusivity, cooperation, mutual respect, transparency and accountability</b>. Malaysia emphasises the need for <b>vaccine equity</b>. COVID-19 has also revealed the critical importance of achieving the <b>right to development</b> alongside the SDGs. Malaysia has established the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on SDG. The world is confronted with rising challenges of <b>racism, racial discrimination, racial profiling, xenophobia</b> and incitement to hatred which run contrary to the universal values of equality and non-discrimination. Malaysia will continue its support to the implementation of the DDPA.</p>
<b>12. Georgia</b>	<p>Georgia, as a strong supporter of the <b>Responsibility to Protect</b> welcomes the report marking fifteenth anniversary of the R2P. It fully concurs with the Secretary-General that <b>prevention of genocide</b>, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity remains a continuing imperative. The human rights and humanitarian situation in the <b>Russia-occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali</b> is continuously deteriorating. Violations of the right to life, torture and ill-treatment, kidnappings, arbitrary detentions, infringement of property rights, right to education in native language, discrimination on ethnic grounds are among the <b>most common human rights violations in those regions</b>. Despite numerous calls from the international community, including the latest Human Rights Council resolution on Georgia, both Russia-occupied regions <b>remain closed for OHCHR</b> and other international human rights bodies.</p>
<b>13. Afghanistan</b>	<p>By reopening schools only for boys, the Taliban have <b>effectively denied the girls of Afghanistan their secondary education</b>. The Taliban are not allowing <b>female teachers</b> to return to work, <b>banned women from sports</b>. Women and girls continue to face gender-based discrimination and violence, while threats, intimidation, and reprisal killings are commonplace. The <b>right to education</b> is a fundamental human right for all, regardless of gender. The equal and meaningful participation of women is essential for a peaceful and sustainable future in Afghanistan. Since their violent take-over, the Taliban have demonstrated that they <b>have not changed their extremist ideology</b> and oppressive practices of the past. The <b>international community must look beyond the Taliban's promises</b> or risk setting a dangerous precedent where the rights of the most vulnerable can be violated with impunity, where human rights values can be lost.</p>
<b>14. Algeria</b>	<p>Algeria supports the implementation of all human rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant international conventions, which affirm that all human rights are universal, interdependent, indivisible and inalienable, and draws the attention of the Council to the <b>suffering of people under occupation</b> who should be able to enjoy all rights, including the right to self-determination. Algeria affirms that the peaceful settlement of international disputes is necessary for the realization of all human rights. In addition to <b>adopting a law on preventing and combating discrimination and hate speech</b>, Algeria has put in place a new <b>law on elections</b>. Algeria also adopted a <b>National Action Plan</b>, with a <b>set of economic reforms</b> to strengthen the economic recovery.</p>
<b>15. Nigeria</b>	<p>Nigeria underscores the imperative of upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms, in <b>attaining global peace and security, and achieving the SDGs</b>. Nigeria reiterates its commitment to the fulfilment our international obligations, by <b>ensuring respect for human rights while addressing the security challenges</b> in the country. As a result of the global pandemic, Nigeria has intensified efforts to the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, through the implementation of the Medium-Term National Development Plans. This will ensure economic revitalisation and diversification as well as foster an all-inclusive prosperity for Nigerians. Nigeria reiterates its call for continued <b>multilateral cooperation and global solidarity</b> to ensure the enjoyment of human rights by all.</p>

<p>16. Timor-Leste</p>	<p>In the times of the COVID-19 pandemic, States should leave aside their differences, and reinforce their <b>commitment to the multilateral system</b>. As a young democracy, Timor-Leste has advocated for the <b>importance of the rule of law, justice, human rights protection, gender equality and sustainable development</b>. The vibrant <b>civil society</b> present in Timor-Leste has enable to build bridges between vulnerable communities and to <b>strengthen dialogue and reconciliation</b>. It has also contributed to upholding governments accountable and to bring citizens closer to the democratic institutions. Timor-Leste reiterates its position that all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development are <b>indivisible, independent, universal and inalienable</b>.</p>
<p>17. Botswana</p>	<p>Botswana welcomes the presentation by the President of ECOSOC, who is also Botswana's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. The report highlighted the gaps, challenges and progress in the implementation of the <b>2030 Agenda</b>. Botswana welcomes that the <b>HLPF focused its theme on the sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery</b>. <b>Climate change and biodiversity</b> issues were central to the Forum, and climate change is one of this HRC Session's main themes. Ensuring <b>equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines</b> is both a moral imperative and an essential condition for a resilient recovery. Botswana attests to the ECOSOC President's statement that while COVID-19 has adversely affected everyone, it has <b>disproportionally affected women and children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups</b>. The Botswana Government took steps to deal with spiralling domestic violence cases during lockdown, which included launching 25 special GBV courts, among other efforts.</p>
<p>18. Comoros</p>	<p>The situation on the <b>violence against women and children in the Comoros</b>: since 2019, following the information published by the support services, the situation has become even more worrisome. Despite all the efforts, there has been a <b>90% increase in violence against children aged 11 to 17, most of them girls</b>. The government put in place measures to eradicate this scourge by 2030, and the Criminal Code has been revised.</p>
<p>19. Sweden</p>	<p>Sweden remains a strong political and financial supporter to the multilateral system, with the UN at its core. <b>Extreme weather events</b> threaten the enjoyment of a range of human rights, such as those to life, highest attainable standard of health and housing. <b>Respect for democracy</b> continues to decrease. Through <b>Sweden's Drive for Democracy initiative</b>, Sweden aims to counter this development. <b>Human rights defenders</b> are facing greater resistance as they challenge autocratic leaders, corruption and exploitation of land. <b>Environmental, women and LGBTIQ human rights defenders</b> as well as <b>trade unionists</b> put their own lives at risk to fight for what they believe in. Sweden will continue to support them as well as promote and protect democracy around the world.</p>
<p>20. Iran (Islamic Republic of)</p>	<p>Discussions in the Council should take place in a constructive, objective, non-selective and non-politicized manner. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with lessons learned regarding the need for a <b>more just and fair economic order</b>, and full realization of the right to development. The <b>efforts of developing countries to achieve SDGs</b> are often restrained by the circumstances beyond their control, such as adverse effects of unilateralism, global health crisis, UCMs and climate change.</p>
<p>21. Sierra Leone</p>	<p>Sierra Leone's national development vision is anchored on <b>Human Capital Development</b> which focuses on providing free quality school education, promoting gender equality and youth empowerment, and promoting national resilience and inclusive growth for all. Sierra Leone's response to fulfilling the obligation to the right to development and all other human rights is to remain steadfast in implementing the <b>2030 Agenda</b> and the <b>Paris Agreement on climate change</b>. In 2016, 2019, and 2021 Sierra Leone participated in the first, second and third Voluntary National Reviews of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Sierra Leone has taken steps to <b>localise the implementation of the SDGs</b>. Through its constructive engagement with the UN and other development partners, Sierra Leone has graduated from the Peacebuilding Commission and become one of the founders of the <b>Pathfinders for promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies</b>.</p>

<p><b>22. Tunisia</b></p>	<p>Tunisia stresses the need to give all rights the importance they deserve, without discrimination or selectivity, as well as the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building of states in the field of human rights according to their needs. Tunisia renews the emphasis on the <b>role of women</b>, the importance of empowering them politically and economically and combating violence and discrimination against them. Tunisia also stresses the need to give the necessary importance to the <b>rights of the youth</b>, and protecting them from the dangers of extremism and terrorism. Tunisia further reaffirms the centrality of <b>multilateral action</b> to overcome the current crisis and future challenges; and reiterates the necessity of fair <b>access to COVID-19 vaccines</b>, addressing debt issues, and financing development.</p>
<p><b>23. Lebanon</b></p>	<p>Benefits from the application of the <b>artificial intelligence (AI)</b> could be overshadowed by the threats they pose. The amount of data produced, the power they induced, the marginalization of human agency and human choices, the fact that they often operate beyond democratic scrutiny pose multiple risks for the application of the rule of law, privacy, freedom of thought, and could widen the digital and technological gap between nations, let alone aggravating competition between this. Common interests should be considered, and political commitment and cooperation is needed.</p>
<p><b>24. United Republic of Tanzania</b></p>	<p>The <b>right to clean, safe, healthy and sustainable environment</b> is fundamental to all persons in Tanzania. The environment is the first victim of poverty. The environmental policies in Tanzania are considered in the context of <b>development</b>. Environmental management is everyone's responsibility for the well-being of current and future generations. The Government of Tanzania will continue to address <b>environmental challenges and climate change impacts in the realization of socio-economic rights</b>.</p>
<p><b>25. Mauritius</b></p>	<p>The <b>right to education</b> is one of the founding pillars to the protection of all human rights. In addition to providing free education, Mauritius has adopted a number of measures, such as free transport for students, free meals in schools for children in disadvantaged situations, and providing life-long learning to make sure no one is left behind.</p>
<p><b>26. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN Women</b></p>	<p>Girls must be able to <b>complete their education</b> and have <b>access to age-appropriate information and services</b>, without discrimination, free of gender bias and with an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential. Globally, three-quarters of children of primary school age who may never set foot in school are girls; and approximately 21% of young women marry before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. <b>Parental guidance</b> must be provided in line with the child's best interests and evolving capacity. UNICEF and UN Women stand ready to support States in their efforts to <b>eliminate discrimination against girls in law, policy and practice</b>, and reiterate girls' rights to be informed, empowered and provided with opportunities to participate on an equal footing in all issues affecting them. It is imperative to <b>address social and gender norms</b> that perpetuate inequalities and condone violations of girls' rights.</p>
<p><b>27. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b></p>	<p>The UNEP is highly encouraged by the Council's increased attention on environmental issues in recognition of the undeniable <b>interlinkages between human rights and the environment</b>. UNEP thanks the High Commissioner for her powerful statement delivered at the beginning of the session on climate change and the environment and for <b>highlighting OHCHR-UNEP joint work programme</b>. UNEP commends the Council's leadership for <b>negotiating a draft during this session to recognize the right to a healthy environment</b>, and reiterates its strong support for this resolution. The right has a strong historical and legal basis, and is supported by many stakeholders, including States, UN entities, national human rights institutions, business actors and civil society actors, almost at an unprecedented level. The resolution will provide <b>a strong tool to address environmental crisis more effectively</b>, to promote and protect human rights better, and to facilitate the achievement of the SDGs.</p>

Recording of the General Debate on Item 3 is available on the [UN WebTV](#)