

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 48th SESSION

Overview of Week 3 (27 September - 1 October 2021)

During the **third week** of the 48th session, the Council will hold **five panel discussions**, including on topics such as the integration of a gender perspective, deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, human rights education, promotion of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, and the rights of indigenous peoples. The topic of the rights of **indigenous peoples** will be given special prominence during this week, as the Council will also hold interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism (EMRIP).



The Council will further consider the report by the Secretary-General on **reprisals**, the High Commissioner's report on the allocation of **water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**, and several reports by the **Advisory Committee**. The Council will also hold **General Debates** under Agenda Item 4, Agenda Item 5, Agenda Item 6 and Agenda Item 7.

Finally, the Council will consider **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcomes of 14 countries**, namely Namibia, Niger, Mozambique, Estonia, Belgium, Paraguay, Denmark, Somalia, Palau, Solomon Islands, Seychelles, Latvia, Singapore and Sierra Leone.

Panel Discussions

(27 Sep 2021, 3 - 5 pm). **Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms.** Theme: *The gender digital divide in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

(28 Sep 2021, 10 am - 12 pm). **Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples.** Theme: *The situation of human rights of indigenous peoples facing the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on the right to participation.* H.E. David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Vice-President of Bolivia, will take part in the panel.

(28 Sep 2021, 3 - 5 pm). **Half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for the realization of human rights.**

(29 Sep 2021, 10 am - 12 pm). **High-level panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward.**

(29 Sep 2021, 3 - 5 pm). **Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests.**

Presentation of Thematic Reports followed by Interactive Dialogues



(27 Sep 2021) [Report](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the **rights of indigenous peoples, Mr. José Francisco Calí Tzay** (*Maya Kaqchikel from Guatemala*) focuses on **the impact of COVID-19 recovery phase and related plans on the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples.** [Agenda item 3]

The present report supplements and follows up on the report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly in 2020, the findings of which are still very valid. The **present report** examines the impact of the recovery phase on the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular in relation to the **rights to land, territories and resources and land tenure**, observing **regulatory rollbacks**, acceleration of **resources exploitation**, impediments to consultation and **free, prior and informed consent**. The Special Rapporteur highlights the need to address the **correlation between deforestation and zoonotic diseases** and the **long-term needs and financial impacts** of the pandemic on indigenous peoples in terms of **education, employment, housing, health and other social services**. The Special Rapporteur also calls for greater protection of **indigenous human rights defenders**, in the face of militarization,



violence and criminalization; and concludes with recommending **greater inclusion** and participation of indigenous peoples in the recovery process, and calls for increased **support for indigenous-led initiatives** to sustain their cultures and economies in the COVID-19 recovery period.



(28 Sep 2021) [Annual Report](#) of the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. *Chair-Rapporteur, Ms. Megan Davis*. [Agenda item 5]

Owing to the COVID-19 crisis, the Expert Mechanism conducted its fourteenth session virtually, from 12 to 16 July 2021, which included four regional meetings. The Expert Mechanism postponed its study entitled on the right to land in order to include information on the responses to and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, it will prepare a **study in 2022 on treaties and constructive arrangements**. Its **study for 2023** will be on the **impact of development policies on indigenous heritage, focusing on indigenous women**, and its **report for 2023 will be on establishing effective monitoring mechanisms** at the national and regional levels for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Expert Mechanism made **twelve proposals**, including on participation of indigenous peoples in the Human Rights Council; on more active engagement of States; on promotion of the country engagement mandate of the Expert Mechanism; on protection of indigenous human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders and indigenous leaders; on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; on international repatriation of indigenous peoples' sacred items and human remains; on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact; and on collaboration with the mechanism of the UPR, among others. Regarding the **country engagement**, the report refers to the Expert Mechanism's country engagement mission to **New Zealand** on the development of a plan of action; the country engagement with **Sweden** on repatriation of the Yaqui Maaso Kova from the National Museum of World Culture in Sweden; and the finalization of an advisory note requested by indigenous peoples in **Brazil**. The Expert Mechanism is currently discussing the focus of a mission to **Canada** with indigenous peoples and is engaging in follow-up to its mission to **Finland** in 2018.



(28 Sep 2021) [Study](#) of the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** on the **rights of the indigenous child under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. [Agenda items 3 and 5]

Among other issues, the **Study addresses** the impact of development activities, including the extractive industries on indigenous children; the issue of alternative care and forced removals; registration and nationality; the access to education, including in indigenous languages. The Study concludes with **Advice No. 14** on the rights of the indigenous child under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



(28 Sep 2021) [Thematic Report](#) of the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** on the efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: **indigenous peoples and the right to self-determination**. [Agenda items 3 and 5]

The report examines good practices regarding efforts to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, focusing on self-determination initiatives undertaken by indigenous peoples and States since the adoption of the Declaration in 2007. The self-rule government and parliament were initiated by **Greenlanders** themselves and negotiated peacefully with the Government of *Denmark*. The **Sami peoples** have parliamentary structures across three countries (*Finland, Norway* and *Sweden*). In the **United States of America**, over 500 federally recognized tribes retain jurisdiction over their own territories, to a significant extent. Some indigenous peoples have significant levels of autonomy in their regions, including **the Guaraní** in *Bolivia*, the indigenous Comarca of **Guna Yala** in *Panama*, the **Wampis** in *Peru*, the **Onondaga Nation** in the *United States*, among others. A further expression of indigenous peoples' self-determination is through the **indigenous-led protocols for free, prior and informed consent** in *Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Suriname, United States*. The report also addresses the topic of indigenous self-determination and the rights to culture, language, ceremony, spirituality and sports and traditional games.



(29 Sep 2021) [Report](#) of **Secretary-General on reprisals**, followed by an interactive dialogue. [Agenda items 2 and 5]

The report of the Secretary-General highlights activities, policy developments and good practices within the United Nations system and beyond to **address intimidation and reprisals** against those seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. The report contains information on allegations of intimidation and reprisals during the reporting period of 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021, in the following countries: **Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen**. The report includes 2 annexes: on selected cases, and on follow-up to cases included in previous reports.



(30 Sep 2021) [Report](#) of the **Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on negative effects of terrorism** on the enjoyment of human rights. [Agenda items 3 and 5]

The report addresses the lack of an international definition of terrorism, the applicable legal framework and existing instruments, and the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. The report also provides **recommendations** addressed to States, United Nations human rights mechanisms and civil society organizations.



(30 Sep 2021) [Report](#) of the **Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on moving towards racial equality**: study of the Advisory Committee on appropriate ways and means of assessing the situation. [Agenda items 3 and 5]

The report addresses main standards on racial equality, the role of special measures, programmatic framework and commitments. The report further focuses on policy and institutional framework, deconstructing racism to build racial equality, and **means and tools to assess the progress**, such as National action plans, equality bodies, collection of data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, development of indicators, and identification of parameters to assess levels of structural or systemic racism.



(30 Sep 2021) [Note](#) by the **Secretary-General on Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee**. [Agenda item 1]

The secretariat received nominations of five candidates for the 2021 elections to membership of the Advisory Committee from the Governments of **Brazil, Greece, Iran, Saudi Arabia** and **Senegal**. The nominations received are listed in the Note; biographical data relating to the candidates are contained in the annex.

- Reports of the **Human Rights Council Advisory Committee**: the report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-fifth session is contained in document [A/HRC/AC/25/2](#). The report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-sixth session, which will be contained in document [A/HRC/AC/26/2](#), will be made available to the Human Rights Council **once it has been finalized**.



(1 Oct 2021) [Report](#) of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the allocation of water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**, including East Jerusalem. [Agenda items 2 and 7]

OHCHR requested Israel and the State of Palestine to provide information on any action taken or envisaged concerning ensuring the **equitable access to safe drinking water** to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The State of Palestine responded with multiple submissions in May and June 2021, while Israel has not responded. Following publication of Human Rights Council report A/HRC/43/71 in February 2020, the Government of **Israel announced it would freeze its relations with the OHCHR**. The reports assesses water availability, water quality, accessibility and affordability in West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza. This report also recommends measures to ensure the implementation of equitable access to safe drinking water in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with international law.

Agenda Item 6: UPR Adoptions

Namibia: [Report](#) of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (henceforth “Working Group”) lists 283 recommendations received by Namibia, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Fiji, Sudan and Venezuela.

Niger: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 254 recommendations received by Niger, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Argentina, Côte d’Ivoire and the Marshall Islands.

Mozambique: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 266 recommendations received by Mozambique, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Armenia, Eritrea and the Philippines.

Estonia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 274 recommendations received by Estonia, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bangladesh, Netherlands and Senegal.

Belgium: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 218 recommendations that enjoy the support of Belgium. Belgium noted 21 recommendations, and will provide responses on 69 other recommendations during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Austria, Indonesia and Togo.

Paraguay: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 210 recommendations received by Paraguay, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Germany, Namibia and Uruguay.

Denmark: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 288 recommendations received by Denmark, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: France, India and Mauritania.

Somalia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 273 recommendations received by Somalia, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Denmark, Malawi and Poland.

Palau: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 67 recommendations that enjoy the support of Palau. Palau noted 75 recommendations. Troika of rapporteurs: Gabon, Pakistan and Ukraine.

Solomon Islands: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 160 recommendations received by Solomon Islands, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bahrain, Brazil and Burkina Faso.

Latvia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 244 recommendations received by Latvia, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bolivia, Italy and Japan.

Singapore: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 324 recommendations received by Singapore, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Cameroon, Russian Federation and Uzbekistan.

Sierra Leone: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 274 recommendations received by Sierra Leone, which will provide responses during the 48th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: China, Libya and Mexico.

The consideration of the report of the Universal Periodic Review of **Myanmar** is postponed to the 49th session.

*The report of the Working Group on **Seychelles** was not available on HRC Extranet as of 27 September 2021.*

General Debates

(27 Sep 2021) **General debate on Agenda Item 4:** Human rights situations that require the Council’s attention, that started on 24 September 2021, will continue on 27 September.

(30 Sep 2021) **General debate on Agenda Item 5:** Human rights bodies and mechanisms.

(1 Oct 2021) **General debate on Agenda Item 6:** Universal periodic review.

(1 Oct 2021) **General debate on Agenda Item 7:** Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.