

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 49th SESSION

WEEK 2: 7 – 13 March 2022

*Due to the holding of an Urgent Debate on “the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression”, the schedule of Week 2 of the Council had to be adjusted. Three lunchtime meetings are envisaged to accommodate the busy timetable.*

*The Council will continue to consider **country situations** under Agenda Item 2, namely, in **Sri Lanka** (continued from last week), **Nicaragua**, **Sudan**, **Afghanistan**, **Tigray region of Ethiopia**, as well as presentations of the OHCHR reports on **Colombia**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras**, **Cyprus**, and **Eritrea**. The Interactive Dialogues and Reports Presentations will be followed by a General Debate on Item 2.*

***Thematic interactive dialogues** will be held with the Special Procedures mandate holders on cultural rights, sale of children, foreign debt, freedom of religion, privacy, environment, torture, human rights defenders and the right to food.*

*The new Independent Expert on the effects of **foreign debt** will outline her six thematic areas. The newly appointed Special Rapporteur on **cultural rights** plans to focus on the cultural rights of refugees, migrants, minorities and indigenous peoples; and to study the junction of culture and the environment. The Special Rapporteur on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable **environment** concluded in his report that current approaches to managing the risks posed by pollution and toxic substances were clearly failing. In his last report, the Special Rapporteur on **torture** deeply regretted “the near complete indifference demonstrated by States in response to his requests for contribution through the questionnaire and during the online consultation”. The report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of **human rights defenders** specifically addresses the issue of human rights defenders working against corruption. Regarding the **country visits**, the Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children will present her country visit report to Montenegro, and the Special Rapporteur on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable **environment** has visited Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.*

*A full-day Annual Discussion on the Rights of the Child, a Panel on Access to COVID-19 vaccines, and a Meeting on technical cooperation in protecting human rights of vulnerable persons in the context of COVID-19 pandemic will also take place.*

### Panels:

7 March (10h00-12h00): Meeting on **enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building** in promoting and protecting the human rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations in **recovery efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic**.

9 March (10h00-12h00; 16h00-18h00): Annual full-day meeting on the **rights of the child** on the theme “**The rights of the child and family reunification**”. The morning panel will address the topic of “**Family reunification in the context of migration**” while the afternoon panel will focus on “**Family reunification in the context of armed conflict and counter-terrorism**”. The meeting will be informed by the report of the High Commissioner thereon.

**A/HRC/49/31<sup>1</sup>**: The report states that while all children have the right to family life, millions are **suffering preventable separation from their families** and associated **violations of their rights**. The report highlights **children on the move** or living in contexts of **armed conflict** being particularly affected by family separation, as well addresses the issue of children separated from their families in the contexts of **terrorism and countering terrorism**. The report acknowledges the heightened risk of children separated from their families to suffer multiple forms of violations to their rights, from violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking and exploitation,

<sup>1</sup> Advanced Edited Version published on the OHCHR website on 3 March 2022 in English only.

to other rights violations detrimental to their lifelong physical and mental health and development, and provides some advice on **preventing separation** and supporting family reunification. The report regrets the **serious gaps that remain** in the implementation of the relevant obligations of States under the CRC and other international human rights treaties, stressing that the best interests of the child be taken as the primary consideration in all actions affecting children. The report concludes in several recommendations for States to address the issue, including to develop and implement **global, gender-responsive child rights-based guiding principles** on family reunification.

10 March (09h00-11h00): Panel discussion on ensuring **equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic**.

## Item 2<sup>2</sup>: Country reports

### **Written reports:**

*7 March (continued from 4 March):* Interactive dialogue on the written update of the OHCHR on situation of human rights in **Sri Lanka**, including on progress in reconciliation and accountability.

[A/HRC/49/9](#)<sup>3</sup>: The report focuses on developments since the High Commissioner's last report on Sri Lanka in February 2021. OHCHR noted the **constructive engagement of the Government**, including detailed written inputs sent in response to a list of questions to the Government, the acceptance of the OHCHR visit in January 2022 (did not take place due to the COVID-19 situation) and virtual consultations.

The High Commissioner stressed that the **drafting of a new Constitution** will be of fundamental importance, and addressed the issues related to **militarisation** and **land disputes**, increasing **majoritarianism**, the continued pattern of intimidation and **threats to civil society and victims**, and the cases of **custodial deaths, torture and ill-treatment**. She further discussed the **Prevention of Terrorism Act** Amendment Bill presented to Parliament in February 2022.

The High Commissioner expressed concern about the **continued lack of accountability** for past human rights violations and recognition of victims' rights and highlighted the **trends towards militarization and ethno-religious nationalism**. She concluded that a comprehensive vision for a genuine reconciliation and accountability process, and deeper institutional and security sector reforms were urgently needed. She also **reiterated the recommendations** previously made to Sri Lanka in paragraphs 60 and 61 of her 2021 report and offered several recommendations to the UN entities, including in relation to reviewing the contributions of Sri Lanka to UN peacekeeping operations and the systems for screening Sri Lanka personnel.

*7 March:* Interactive dialogue on the comprehensive written report of the High Commissioner on human rights situation in **Nicaragua** that assesses progress and challenges regarding that situation.

[A/HRC/49/23](#)<sup>4</sup>: The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021. Since August 2018, the OHCHR Regional Office has only been able to monitor the situation in Nicaragua **remotely**, despite repeated requests for access. It sent **six communications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** requesting information about the human rights situation: the Government responded by rejecting the legitimacy of its human rights monitoring, but without providing the information requested.

The report discusses the situation of human rights in Nicaragua in the context of the **electoral process** (presidential elections of 7 November 2021) and describes a pattern of serious violations of civil and political rights. The report also addresses the **right to personal liberty, freedom from torture and humane conditions of detention**; human rights of **indigenous peoples and people of African descent**, and gender equality, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights, mentioning increased **femicides** and the application of the **total ban on abortion** since 2006. The report further addresses the undue restrictions on the **right to freedom of expression** affecting the media, and the violations against **human rights defenders**, as well as the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

<sup>2</sup> Agenda 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.

<sup>3</sup> Advance Unedited Version published on the [OHCHR webpage](#) on 26 February 2022 in English only.

<sup>4</sup> Advance Edited Version published on the [OHCHR webpage](#) on 26 February 2022 in English only.

The High Commissioner issued a number of **recommendations** to the Government, including calls on Nicaragua to release all persons arbitrarily detained and waive all charges against them, restore the rule of law and amend all legislation that unduly restricts civic space.

**7 March:** Interactive dialogue on the comprehensive written report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in **Afghanistan**, focusing on, inter alia, the accountability of all perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses in the conflict.

[A/HRC/49/24](#)<sup>5</sup>: The report focuses on the period since the HRC resolution S-31/1, adopted on 24 August 2021, until the end of February 2022. It provides an **overview of the human rights situation in Afghanistan** and **highlights issues of concern**, with special attention to issues of economic, social and cultural rights and the **situation of women and girls**. The report uses as its benchmark the seven core UN human rights treaties to which Afghanistan remains a State Party and by which continues to be bound.

The report concludes that the economic system in Afghanistan is near a state of complete collapse with **profound impacts on economic, social and cultural rights**. Targeted **killings and summary executions** of former government officials and security force personnel have continued, and civilians continue to be killed by armed groups. The **imposition of restrictive gender norms**, practices and formal limitations has had serious adverse impacts on the rights of women and girls, including the freedom of movement and access to health, education, adequate standards of living and social protection. Former laws and institutions for the advancement of gender equality and women's rights have been dismantled.

The High Commissioner believes that **engagement with the *de facto* authorities** is of key importance. She stresses the importance of retaining an active human rights component within the UN presence in Afghanistan. The report concludes with 12 **recommendations** to the *de facto* authorities, and 6 recommendations to the international community.

**8 March: Presentations of the High Commissioner's reports on the activities of her Office in:**

#### Colombia

[A/HRC/49/19](#)<sup>6</sup>: The report discusses the human rights situation in Colombia in 2021, in the context of the **5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peace declaration** between the government and FARC-EP. The report addresses economic, social and cultural rights, the prevention of human rights violations, the rights of indigenous peoples and people of African descent, and the need of equal access to justice and fight against impunity. The report states COVID-19 pandemic has increased social and economic inequality placing Colombia with the **second highest level of inequality** in the region. The report regrets the **lack of progress in the fight against violence** by non-state armed groups and criminal organizations. In 2021, the overall number of **homicides** increased by 9.5% compared to 2020. The report highlights the dire situation regarding the **recruitment of children** by armed groups, that has a negative, profound and in many cases irreversible impact on the social fabric of the affected communities. The High Commissioner issues a number of **recommendations** to improve the human rights situation in the country, calling on Colombia to support the territories affected by violence, guarantee the rights of the indigenous population, the protection of women and children, and to open a debate on the reform of the police system.

*Detailed Comments on the report (refer to [A/HRC/49/G/7](#), in Spanish only) were received from the Permanent Mission of Colombia on 3 March 2022.*

#### Guatemala

[A/HRC/49/20](#)<sup>7</sup>: The report discusses the human rights situation and the activities of the OHCHR office in Guatemala in 2021. It highlights the progress that has been made but also the challenges that persist in the promotion and protection of human rights, paying special attention to issues related to **equality and non-discrimination, sustainable and inclusive human development, democratic space, justice and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on human rights in Guatemala. The report states that **61% of the population** in Guatemala lives in **multidimensional poverty**, this number increasing to **79% for the indigenous population**.

<sup>5</sup> Advance Edited Version published on the [OHCHR webpage](#) on 5 March 2022 in English only; report submitted under Agenda Items 2 and 10. The report should be read in conjunction with the High Commissioner's report A/HRC/49/90.

<sup>6</sup> As of 6 March 2022, only Unofficial English version is available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).

<sup>7</sup> As of 6 March 2022, only Unofficial English version is available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).



The High Commissioner issues several **recommendations** to improve the human rights situation in the country, including calling on Guatemala to improve the structural and systemic challenges related to inequality and discrimination, the justice system, democratic space, citizen participation and the fight against impunity.

*Detailed Comments on the report (refer to [A/HRC/49/G/4](#), in Spanish only) were received from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala on 28 February 2022.*

## Honduras

[A/HRC/49/21](#)<sup>8</sup>: The report discusses the human rights situation and the activities of the OHCHR office in Honduras in 2021, and highlights the **main advances and challenges** in the promotion and protection of human rights in Honduras, in particular access to justice, the promotion of civic space and citizen participation, the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, the promotion of equality and non-discrimination of people in situations of vulnerability, as well as the prevention and early warning of social conflicts and human rights violations. The **poverty level** in Honduras increased from 64,7% in 2019 to 73,6% in 2021. Violence against women and LGBTI population continues to be a serious problem. The High Commissioner reiterates her commitment to support Honduras in strengthening the protection of human rights for all people and urges the authorities to implement a number of **recommendations**, including the implementation of a criminal policy with a human rights approach, strengthening the independence of the Judiciary, protecting women and girls from gender-based violence and guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI.

## Cyprus

[A/HRC/49/22](#): The report provides an overview of human rights issues in Cyprus in 2021, including with respect to the right to life and the question of missing persons; the principle of non-discrimination; freedom of movement and the right to seek asylum; property rights; freedom of religion or belief and cultural rights; freedom of opinion and expression; the right to education; and the importance of adopting a gender perspective in the peace process. During the reporting period, the **COVID-19 pandemic** continued to have an impact on a range of human rights related to the continued division of Cyprus. Serious limitations on **freedom of movement** across the buffer zone were sustained and the number of official crossings decreased. As a result of the **division**, monitoring and reporting by international mechanisms on the human rights situation in the **northern part of Cyprus** has remained limited. Opportunities for engagement remained restricted, both within and between communities. Numerous people continued to face difficulties in accessing their economic, social and cultural rights. The effect has been particularly acute for persons and groups already in vulnerable situations. Representatives of **civil society**, religious leaders and faith-based actors, and many of the bicomunal technical committees continued to promote and protect human rights. Politically or ethnically motivated attacks were counterbalanced by the words and actions of community, religious, political and human rights actors on both sides.

## Oral updates:

**7 March:** Enhanced interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the **Sudan** since the military takeover.

**7 March:** Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the **Tigray region of Ethiopia** and on progress made in the context of the joint investigation undertaken by OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.

**8 March:** Oral update by OHCHR on progress made in the cooperation between **Eritrea** and OHCHR, and its impact on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

<sup>8</sup> As of 6 March 2022, only Advance unedited version in Spanish is available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).

### Item 3<sup>9</sup>: Thematic reports

8 March: Interactive dialogue on the report of the new Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, **Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki**.

[A/HRC/49/54](#)<sup>10</sup> *"Cultural rights: Capturing the state of the art"*: In her first report to the HRC, the newly appointed Special Rapporteur presents an overview of **her vision for the mandate**. She emphasises the **positive nature of culture** for the individual, communities and societies. She also recalls the clear and legally binding obligations that States have undertaken to ensure the realisation of cultural rights. Taking stock of the work accomplished, the Special Rapporteur recalls the **list of cultural rights falling into her mandate** and the corresponding work developed by her predecessors, including the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage in all its forms; to participate in shaping multi-perspective historical and memorial narratives; to freedom of artistic expression and creativity; to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which one is the author; to access knowledge and the creativity of others; to benefit from scientific progress and its application; to take part in cultural life and in decision-making processes that have an impact on one's cultural life. The Special Rapporteur is interested to study more closely the **cultural rights of marginalised individuals and groups** in order to allow them to access all cultures as well as freely enjoy and develop their own cultures. She plans to focus on the **cultural rights of refugees, migrants, minorities and indigenous peoples** and apply intersectional lens. Another priority will be the study of the **junction of culture and the environment**.

8 March: Interactive dialogue on the report of Special Rapporteur on the **sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material**, **Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh** as well as her country report on her visit to **Montenegro**.

[A/HRC/49/51](#) *"A practical approach to addressing the sale and sexual exploitation of children"*: the report provides a set of **concrete measures and good practices**, collected from across the world, to tackle the sale of children for the purpose of **child marriage** and the sexual exploitation of children in **prostitution**, in the context of travel and **tourism**, and **online**. The report refers to prevention, protection and rehabilitation services, and **offers a checklist** on the Special Rapporteur's web page for States and other stakeholders as a concrete tool in their work to prevent these forms of sale and sexual exploitation, to protect children and provide adequate services to child victims and survivors. The report aims to support more decisive steps by States towards effectively implementing their obligations to addressing the sale and sexual exploitation of children. The **prevention measures** include robust legal and policy frameworks, disaggregate data collection, specialized investigation units and investments in law enforcement, building gender-equal societies, and providing universal education for all children, among other measures.

[A/HRC/49/51/Add.1](#), *visit to Montenegro*: the Special Rapporteur highlights legislative initiatives, institutional framework and child protection policies implemented to combat and prevent the sale and sexual exploitation of children in Montenegro, as well as the measures taken to provide care for and ensure the recovery and reintegration of child victims. The Special Rapporteur notes that the real magnitude of the problem is difficult to determine, due to the **unavailability of centralized and disaggregated data** on the different forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. A small number of cases of sexual violence against children reported suggests that there may be an **underreporting and underidentification of victims**. Child sexual exploitation and abuse is believed to be most prevalent among children belonging to **marginalized communities** and to be more frequent **during the summer season in tourist areas**. The Special Rapporteur makes **recommendations** to strengthen efforts to prevent and eradicate the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

9 March: Interactive dialogue on the report of the new Independent Expert on the **effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States** on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, **Ms. Attiya Waris**.

[A/HRC/49/47](#) *"Taking stock and identifying priority areas: a vision for the future work of the mandate holder"*: the new Independent Expert intends to focus her work on the following **six thematic areas**:

<sup>9</sup> Agenda Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

<sup>10</sup> As of 6 March 2022, only Advance unedited version is available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).

- (a) Fiscal legitimacy and human rights;
- (b) Engaging the evolving nature and role of the State;
- (c) Crises, natural emergencies and financial obligations;
- (d) The environment, illicit financial flows, debt and financial transactions;
- (e) Transparency of financial and tax information and digital systems;
- (f) The global fiscal system and its implications for human rights.

Throughout her work, she will focus on the impact of fiscal policies on marginalized population groups. She will also provide advice and policy recommendations. Additionally, in addressing interlinkages between human rights and international financial obligations, the Independent Expert set out the **key themes** that will underpin and guide her approach to the work.

- A. In order for human rights to be effectively respected, protected and promoted, fiscal resources are essential.
- B. Promoting the work of the mandate can gain more visibility could assist in ensuring that it is more widely implemented and deeply embedded into the ongoing work of States and institutions.

**10 March:** Interactive dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on **freedom of religion or belief**, **Mr. Ahmed Shaheed**.

[A/HRC/49/44](#)<sup>11</sup> *"The rights of persons belonging to religious or belief minorities in situations of conflict and insecurity"*: the evidence gathered for the report questions narratives that overestimate the relationship between religion and conflict and fail to recognize the **multiplicity of factors**, including political, social and economic, that **contribute towards violence and insecurity**, which overshadow and undermine prospects for peacebuilding. The report also challenges prevailing discursive binaries that depict religion as either a source of violence or peacebuilding, and argues for "right-sizing" religion or belief in understanding and responding to these challenges. It contains evidence-based analysis to inform policy and practical efforts. Consistent with his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has also adopted a gender lens in identifying gender-specific abuses. The report proposes **recommendations** for advancing a human rights approach that protect and promote religious or belief minorities' rights during crises and to lay the groundwork for inclusive peacebuilding efforts.

**10 March:** Interactive dialogue on the report of the new Special Rapporteur on the **right to privacy**, **Ms. Ana Brian Nougères**.

[A/HRC/49/55](#) *"Privacy and personal data protection in Ibero-America: a step towards globalization?"*: the report acknowledges the **central role of technology** and the **growing importance of privacy and personal data protection** as fundamental individual rights linked to human dignity and promoting autonomy, decision-making, innovation and the development of the human personality. The Special Rapporteur analyses the issues in Ibero-America through **developments in the Uruguayan system**, describing the evolution of personal data protection systems in other Ibero-American countries, and considers how these systems have coalesced in recent years to form the Ibero-American personal data protection system. The report highlights the growing interest, concern and commitment shown in Ibero-American countries on the protection of personal data concluding, that Ibero-America is moving towards a personal data protection system based on European personal data protection principles. A useful mechanism for cooperation between Ibero-America and Europe has been developing in Latin America over the past two decades. The report suggests this could be a model for the development of privacy and data protection principles in the global context, provided the integration is achieved harmoniously, on the basis of reciprocal respect and with less discrimination.

**10 March:** Interactive dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a **safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**, **Mr. David R. Boyd**.

[A/HRC/49/53](#) *"The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: non-toxic environment"*: The report addresses the issue of **ongoing toxification** of people and the planet, causing environmental injustices and creating "sacrifice zones", where the burden of contamination falling disproportionately upon the shoulders of individuals, groups and communities that are already enduring poverty, discrimination and systemic marginalization. The report regrets that the devastating toll inflicted by pollution and hazardous substances

<sup>11</sup> As of 6 March 2022, only Advance unedited version is available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).



continues to be largely overlooked, despite pollution and toxic substances causing at least 9 million premature deaths, and one in six deaths in the world involving diseases caused by pollution. The report acknowledges the often **transnational nature of environmental injustices**, with consumption in wealthy States resulting in severe impacts on health, ecosystems and human rights in other States. High income States continue to irresponsibly export hazardous materials to low- and middle-income countries, taking advantage of weaker regulations and limited enforcement. Pollution and the production, export, use and disposal of toxic substances are rooted in racism, discrimination, colonialism, patriarchy, impunity and political systems that systematically ignore human rights. The report concludes that current approaches to managing the risks posed by pollution and toxic substances are failing, and immediate and ambitious action to detoxify people's bodies and the planet is needed. The report highlights the **obligations of States and businesses**, urging them to vigorously pursue zero pollution and the elimination of toxic substances, and rehabilitating contaminated communities.

[A/HRC/49/53/Add.1](#)<sup>12</sup> *visit to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*: The Special Rapporteur visited Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (25 November to 2 December 2021), to examine how the country is implementing its human rights obligations related to environmental protection, to identify good practices, and to consider the environmental challenges that the country faces. The visit was the first in almost 10 years by an independent expert appointed by the HRC. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines represents a **textbook example of global climate injustice** and faces a complex web of **interconnected environmental challenges**. The Special Rapporteur was impressed by the **progress being made** on many fronts, including water, solid waste management, and adapting to climate change, and issued some **further recommendations** including accelerated efforts to shift to renewable electricity.

**11 March**: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on **torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment**, **Mr. Nils Melzer**.

[A/HRC/49/50](#): in his last report, the current mandate holder aimed to evaluate the reception and utilization by States of his thematic reports as a driver of change in national laws, policies and practices. Mr. Melzer provided a historical overview of topics covered since the **creation of the mandate in 1985** and standard-setting impact of previous thematic reports.

The Special Rapporteur deeply regretted “the **near complete indifference** demonstrated by States in response to his requests for contribution through the questionnaire and during the online consultation”.

- Questionnaire: of the 193 Member States, 186 States did not provide any response, while responses were received from 7 States: **Azerbaijan, Iraq, Italy, Mauritius, Poland, Qatar and Switzerland**.
- Online consultation: of the 193 States invited, only 20 attended and only 2 States contributed to the discussion, namely **Denmark and Guatemala**. After none of the remaining States provided any input or an explanation for their silence, despite several calls to take the floor, the online consultation had to be brought to an early close without being able to achieve its declared objectives.

Due to a near complete failure on the part of States to contribute to the written and online consultations, with 96% and 99%, respectively, of States failing to provide feedback and in the light of the limited information provided by the seven States, it appears that **Governments rarely, if ever, take measures to incorporate the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur's thematic reports into their national laws, regulations, policies or practices**.

**11 March**: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the **situation of human rights defenders**, **Ms. Mary Lawlor**.

[A/HRC/49/49](#) “*At the heart of the struggle: human rights defenders working against corruption*”: in her report, the Special Rapporteur stressed that human rights defenders fighting and exposing corruption are often **in severe danger**, and she was committed to making the situation of human rights defenders fighting corruption one of her key priorities. **Protection frameworks applicable to human rights defenders should apply to those working against corruption**. The report includes examples of the types of threats and structural difficulties faced by human rights defenders fighting corruption, and suggests ways that relevant stakeholders might act to protect them and to promote their work. The Special Rapporteur noted the **lack of an unanimously agreed definition of corruption**. She further noted positive trends in several Member States to take measures to

<sup>12</sup> As of 6 March 2022, only Advance unedited version is available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).

prevent corruption and to protect human rights defenders and whistle-blowers, as well as a number of remaining challenges.

The report specifically addressed the attacks faced by human rights defenders working against corruption, as well as by the journalists, whistle-blowers, lawyers, academics exposing corruption, local anti-corruption defenders, and defenders working against corruption in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and gender-based attacks. Additionally, the report addressed several cases of **reprisals** against human rights defenders fighting corruption. The conclusions and recommendations provided are aimed to States, relevant international organizations and civil society. The Annex provided an update on the killings of human rights defenders since the Special Rapporteur's last report to the Human Rights Council.

A/HRC/49/49/Add.1 Addendum<sup>13</sup> – Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received.

**11 March:** Interactive dialogue on the report of Special Rapporteur on the right to **food, Mr. Michael Fakhri**.

[A/HRC/49/43](#) "*Seeds, right to life, and farmers rights*": the report provides a framework for the advancement of **farmers', indigenous peoples' and workers' rights** and a **guide for States** to ensure that the world's seed systems are biodiverse and safe and fulfil human rights obligations. It discusses how seed systems is a human rights concern and the challenges posed by industrial intensification and corporate concentration of power, argues that **farmers' rights** are human rights – and thus should be promoted and protected. The report also names **pesticides** as a human rights concern. The report concludes that flourishing and resilient seed systems are key to the full realization of the rights to life and to food, and regrets that **Global South communities are disproportionately harmed**, especially smallholder farmers/peasants, indigenous peoples, women, children and agricultural workers.

### General debates:

**Item 2 (8 March):** Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

<sup>13</sup> As of 7 March 2022, this document is not yet available on the [OHCHR webpage](#).