

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 49th SESSION

### General debate on Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

16 March 2022

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**This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 3** that took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 at the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report includes the statements made by the Member States of the Human Rights Councils, Observer States, other Observers, and a summary of statements by NHRIs and NGOs. The statements are not 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 Presentation of the Secretary-General's and the High Commissioner's thematic reports; as well as summaries of the reports of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and the fourth inter-sessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held on 18 January 2022.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
1. Qatar on behalf of a group of countries <sup>1</sup>	<b>Sports and human rights are mutually reinforcing.</b> Hosting mega-sporting events like the FIFA World Cup can be a great opportunity to promote better understanding of the traditions and cultures of host countries, help challenge stereotypes in society, and provide great investment benefits, especially in terms of job creation, and developing and improving essential infrastructure for host countries.
2. China on behalf of a group of countries <sup>2</sup>	The enjoyment of human rights <b>cannot be separated from the socio-political conditions</b> and historical and cultural traditions of different countries. The people of that country should judge the human rights situation in a country themselves, not by the standards of other countries, or even using <b>human rights as a political tool</b> to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.
3. France on behalf of the EU and other countries <sup>3</sup>	<b>Restrictions on human rights in the context of COVID-19</b> must be strictly <b>necessary, proportionate, temporary and non-discriminatory</b> . The EU strongly condemns threats and attacks against <b>human rights defenders</b> and calls for their safety. The EU denounces the <b>use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment</b> and upholds the protection of the <b>rights of women and girls</b> in humanitarian crises. Welcomes the creation of a Special Rapporteur on <b>human rights and climate change</b> .
4. India on behalf of 27 LMG countries <sup>4</sup>	It is key to ensure <b>universality, objectivity, and non-selectivity</b> in the consideration of human rights issues by the HRC as well as the elimination of <b>double standards and politicization</b> . The HRC should focus more on promoting <b>human rights education</b> and learning as well as providing <b>advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building</b> , in consultation with and with the <b>consent of concerned States</b> . The <b>proliferation of country-specific initiatives</b> that do not enjoy the support of the concerned countries is not conducive to improving the human rights situation on the ground.
5. Lithuania on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries <sup>5</sup>	Condemns <b>all forms of violence, online and offline, against journalists</b> and other media workers, including women journalists and media workers. <b>Independent media</b> play a critical role in informing the public, particularly in crises and global health emergencies. Denounced attempts of <b>Russia and Belarus</b> to <b>silence media sources and voices</b> through systematic manipulation and disinformation efforts by government-controlled media channels. Calls on all states to do their part in <b>defending media freedom</b> and the safety of journalists and by doing so - to <b>promote the right to freedom of expression and information</b> , which is vital to any democratic society.
6. Luxembourg on behalf of Core Group for the resolution on Human	Welcomes the summary report of the fourth inter-sessional for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held on 18th January this year. The meeting highlighted the <b>importance of investing in sustainable recovery, advancing gender equality, and strengthening partnerships</b> , especially after the severe socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Côte D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran - Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen

<sup>2</sup> China, Russia, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Cuba, Nepal, Argentina, Serbia, Venezuela, Zambia, Maldives

<sup>3</sup> Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Northern Macedonia and Montenegro

<sup>4</sup> Venezuela, Belarus, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Cuba, Egypt, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Russian Federation, Ethiopia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Burundi, Yemen, Viet Nam, Iran, Bolivia, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Iraq, People's Republic of China

<sup>5</sup> Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden

Rights and Implementation of the Agenda 2030 <sup>6</sup>	There is a <b>need for states to mobilise resources</b> , both domestically and through international cooperation, using all tools at their disposal, to invest in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to <b>aid recovery from COVID-19</b> . The investment of their resources into their civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights obligations should be <b>guided by accurate and disaggregated data</b> .
7. Pakistan on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Highlights the importance of the full realization and enjoyment of all human rights, <b>including the right to development, without any distinction</b> . There is an increasing resort to <b>selective approaches and double standards</b> in the Council. These approaches <b>erode the credibility of this body</b> . Urges the UN human rights system to prioritize <b>the right to development in all relevant programs, and activities</b> . Strongly condemns all types of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred. Calls upon the Council to push back against these extremely dangerous trends and draws its attention to the <b>UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation</b> .
8. Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group	Highlights the need for the promotion and respect of human rights of the most vulnerable populations, such as <b>women, children, the disabled, indigenous peoples, migrants, and all marginalized groups</b> . Crucial to strengthen <b>international cooperation and solidarity</b> among peoples with a view to fostering the promotion and protection of human rights within States and throughout the world.
<b>Statements made by the Member States</b>	
1. Armenia	Denounces <b>Azerbaijan</b> for blowing up a gas pipeline supplying <b>Nagorno Karabakh</b> and continuing to impose unbearable living conditions upon <b>indigenous people of Nagorno Karabakh</b> .
2. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Highlights the <b>social economic impact of COVID-19</b> that has increased <b>inequality and poverty</b> in historically vulnerable groups. Calls attention to the <b>digital divide</b> , the lack of access to <b>education</b> , and to the increased disregard towards <b>traditional medicine of indigenous people</b> . There is much to be done regarding <b>inequality in access to medication</b> . Extreme poverty has the face of <b>farmers (campesino), women and children</b> . Policies have been implemented to decrease poverty and resolve <b>environmental problems</b> . <b>Transnational companies</b> should respect all human rights, including the <b>right to food and basic services</b> . <b>Solidarity</b> should prevail among states under the values of <b>non-politicization and no double standards</b> .
3. Cuba	For more than 60 years, Cuba has been a victim of the <b>U.S. blockade</b> , which has been intensified in an opportunistic manner in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demand of the international community for the <b>lifting of this policy continues to be ignored</b> .
4. China	All countries must support a <b>person-centered policy</b> and strengthen all rights, including <b>environmental rights</b> . The human rights situation should be assessed by the people of the countries itself. Human rights should not be used <b>as a political tool</b> to interfere in other states' affairs. <b>Development</b> is vital for the exercise of human rights. China is prepared to work with other countries to implement the <b>2030 Agenda</b> and to leave no person or country behind.
5. Finland	<b>Women and girls</b> have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Prolonged school closures have increased risks for <b>sexual and gender based violence</b> , early marriages and teenage pregnancies. Opportunities for vocational education and training, particularly for all women and girls as well as persons with disabilities need to be enhanced. States must always <b>protect children, teachers, schools and educational facilities from military attacks</b> . The <b>unprovoked and unlawful Russian aggression</b> gravely risks children's safety and possibilities for school attendance.
6. Indonesia	There is a need to continue collaborative action for ensuring <b>equitable access to safe, affordable, effective and quality vaccines</b> and other health products. The country underscores that a <b>multistakeholder approach</b> is key for progressive realization of all human rights.

<sup>6</sup> Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay



7. France	Denounces <b>Russia's aggression against Ukraine</b> and the merciless battle <b>against media plurality and professional journalism</b> . Condemns <b>Russia's</b> manipulation of information and <b>restrictions on the right to freedom of expression</b> aimed at misleading the public opinion and making it accept its view of the facts. The enterprise of destruction underway in Ukraine aims at <b>denying the Ukrainian identity</b> , starting in a very tangible way with the <b>destruction of its cultural heritage</b> .
8. Kazakhstan	The <b>death penalty</b> will be excluded from the Constitution. It is crucial to strengthen the <b>role of civil society and the media</b> . All national projects and strategic documents will be presented for <b>public discussion with the participation of experts, NGOs and the media</b> . The country has decided to move to a more harmonious and <b>mixed electoral system</b> that fully respects the rights of all citizens. <b>Party registration procedures</b> will be significantly simplified.
9. Luxembourg	Calls attention to the importance of an open and pluralistic <b>civic space, guaranteeing freedom of expression, opinion and association</b> . Civic space is shrinking, undermining democratic institutions and principles. Condemns the attacks on <b>human rights defenders</b> and on the <b>rights of women and girls</b> , challenging <b>gender equality, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights</b> . It is essential to put <b>children's rights</b> back at the center of human rights work and to ensure the <b>voices of children and youth</b> are heard in all forums on all issues that affect them.
10. Malaysia	The fulfillment of all rights can only be achieved through <b>dialogue, consultation and cooperation</b> among states in good faith, without <b>discrimination and politicization</b> . Urges the international community to ensure <b>vaccine equity</b> and push for <b>intellectual property waivers for vaccines</b> and treatments during pandemics. Highlights the importance of the issue of <b>mental health</b> and human rights in the context of public service in upcoming Council sessions. <b>Environmental sustainability</b> is crucial, and all countries should re-double efforts and support each other <b>towards achieving our common climate ambitions</b> .
11. Malawi	Recognizes the need for everyone to be fully protected with no one left behind regardless of <b>race</b> or any background. The country is taking steps to formulate <b>inclusive legislation</b> . It believes in the <b>equality of States</b> and their <b>territorial dignity</b> . Key threats include <b>inequality, racism and climate change</b> and to face these <b>challenges international law and international institutions</b> are essential.
12. Namibia	Highlights the <b>Report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises</b> emphasising that important contributions of <b>NGO's and other stakeholders</b> should not be discarded. Reiterates commitment to the process of <b>elaborating an internationally legally binding instrument on Business and Human Rights</b> and will continue to work with like-minded States to guard against attempts to undermine or downgrade this process.
13. Nepal	The <b>operationalization of the right to development</b> is closely linked with the timely achievement of the sustainable development goals. Underscores that the <b>global solidarity and cooperation</b> is critical in the country's efforts to <b>create a people-centred, safe and human rights-focused environment</b> against the pandemics, both present and future.
14. Netherlands	<b>Access to information</b> is an essential component of the <b>right to freedom of expression</b> . The roles of <b>journalists, media outlets and human rights defenders</b> are crucial for access to information. Especially concerned about an <b>increase in internet shutdowns</b> in order to quell protests and criticism against governments. There is a <b>widening digital divide</b> , with specific attention <b>for gender inequality</b> .
15. Pakistan	<b>Right to self-determination</b> is an inalienable right for the <b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b> people. For seven decades, <b>India</b> , the occupying power, has not complied with its obligations. The Indian state terrorism is specifically targeting <b>political leaders, journalists, youth and human rights activists</b> .
16. Republic of Korea	It is crucial to <b>integrate a human rights-based approach with new technologies in humanitarian situations</b> , including in armed conflicts. Expresses deep concern over the disturbing trend of <b>employing sexual violence as a tactic of war</b> .

17. Russian Federation	Highlights the <b>double standards of Western countries</b> on the <b>right to access information</b> . The <b>U.S.</b> and <b>European countries</b> continue to have a policy of <b>closing down the media</b> . The <b>private sector</b> contributes to this through <b>social networks platforms</b> that censor and follow the political interests of some countries. The <b>West</b> has announced a <b>crusade against Russian media</b> , especially countries like <b>Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia</b> . Citizens are being deprived of <b>alternative sources of information</b> . A <b>large-scale information war</b> has been launched against <b>Russia</b> where media is being manipulated about the disproportionate destruction of buildings in Ukraine. The <b>media</b> is shamelessly producing <b>false reports</b> of disproportionate bombings in <b>Ukraine</b> . Accessing <b>objective information</b> on military operations has become very difficult for citizens. Members of the UN and the OHCHR are referring to <b>false information</b> .
18. Sudan	It is important to pay <b>more attention to a set of economic, cultural and social rights, including the right to development</b> , especially in light of the high rates of poverty and food insecurity. The phenomenon of <b>climate change exacerbates people's suffering</b> , threatening the lives of many around the world and prompting them to make decisions to migrate. During the past year, Sudan <b>acceded to the Conventions against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b> .
19. Ukraine	<b>Russia's</b> unprovoked attacks have targeted the country's <b>infrastructure, enterprises, power plants and factories</b> , taking away Ukrainian's labor rights. By dropping bombs on schools and kindergartens, Russia deprives the Ukrainian children of their <b>right to holistic development and education</b> . It has brought unprecedented violations of humanitarian and human rights law, which qualify as war crimes. <b>40 destroyed hospitals</b> left millions without life-saving treatment and <b>the right to healthcare</b> . <b>Russia's attacks deprive the people of Ukraine of the right to life</b> , by targeting civilians, killing unborn children and elderly, persons with disabilities. <b>Russia</b> must be held <b>accountable</b> and the newly established <b>Commission of Inquiry on Russia's human rights abuses in Ukraine</b> will play an important role towards achieving this goal.
20. UAE	It is highly important to work to eliminate <b>all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief</b> . The UAE is an incubator for the <b>values of tolerance, peace and cultural pluralism</b> . The country is working with the international community to <b>combat all forms of extremism, terrorism and discrimination between people in order to maintain peace and security</b> in the world. It will continue to support the <b>human rights mandates on climate change</b> recently adopted by the Council, as the <b>issue of climate change</b> is one of the sensitive issues that threaten all of humanity.
21. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Condemns the unprovoked attack of <b>Russia</b> in <b>Ukraine</b> targeting the most vulnerable. The country will refer <b>Russia's war crimes</b> to the <b>International Criminal Court</b> . Highly concerned about the escalating repression in <b>Russia of anti-war protestors</b> as well as new legislation that <b>criminalizes the dissemination of information of Russian armed forces</b> . This is a new way of repression to curtail <b>the freedom of expression and other rights in Russia</b> . Political opponents are being threatened and <b>arbitrarily detained</b> . Religious minorities and the LGBTQI+ community face <b>repression and extrajudicial killings</b> . If <b>Russia</b> continues to disregard its responsibility, the HRC must respond.
22. U.S.	<b>Russia's invasion</b> and premeditated <b>attack on Ukraine</b> violates international law and flouts the core principles of international peace and security. It has <b>created a human rights and humanitarian catastrophe</b> . <b>Democratic backsliding</b> is happening around the globe, and it is important to <b>hold authorities who deny or restrict individuals' human rights accountable</b> .
23. Venezuela	It is crucial to do a thorough <b>review of the external debt conditions</b> of the countries of the South, which undermine the capacity for recovery of their economies. <b>UCMs</b> have a negative impact on the fulfillment of the country's economic, social and cultural rights. Venezuela supports the establishment of mechanisms and binding extraterritorial norms <b>to regulate the activities of transnational</b>

	<b>corporations</b> , in order to ensure accountability and compensation to victims for violations committed by them. It condemns the HRC's <b>politicization, selectivity and double standards</b> as the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States should prevail.
<b>Statements made by the Observers (Joint Statements)</b>	
<b>1. Fiji</b> on behalf of CTI Core Group of States <sup>7</sup>	Fight against <b>torture and other ill-treatment</b> is a global challenge that requires to join forces to assist one another. The CTI will continue to serve as an <b>international hub for confidential exchange of States' experiences</b> , good practices and challenges. It will remain committed and ready to support States wishing to advance the <b>UNCAT (Convention Against Torture)</b> ratification and implementation.
<b>2. Azerbaijan</b> on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	All <b>rights should be treated equally</b> , including the <b>right to development</b> . Human rights issues must be addressed through non-confrontation and non-selective approach. Activities must be guided by the values of <b>non-interference on a State's internal affairs</b> and national integrity. Encourages States to engage in <b>constructive dialogue</b> with other countries. Reiterates the need to realize the <b>right to development</b> and a <b>legal instrument</b> encouraging its operationalization (including, through the elaboration of a Commission).
<b>3. Sweden</b> on behalf of a group of countries	Highlights the importance of <b>climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution</b> , and inequality crisis, exacerbated by the socio-economic effects of the global pandemic. There is also a democracy crisis, with the global trend of weakened respect for human rights and democratic principles. <b>Human rights defenders</b> play a crucial role in mitigating these challenges including those working in environmental matters. <b>Environmental human rights defenders</b> face increasing resistance, and the county urges accountability for all threats, harassment, attacks, and killings against them. <b>Women environmental human rights defenders</b> often face additional obstacles, risks, and reprisals, including <b>sexual and gender-based violence</b> . <b>Indigenous, Afro-descendent, and other minority environmental human rights defenders</b> should be protected and supported. Urges states to protect the right to freedom of expression and to seek, receive and impart information, to ensure access to <b>justice in environmental matters</b> .
<b>4. Syrian Arab Republic</b> on behalf of Group of Countries <sup>8</sup>	The <b>imposition of UCMs</b> and their expansion, in terms of scope and targeted countries, violate the principles of international law. They impede the full realization of <b>social and economic development</b> , hinder the well-being of the population, and severely undermine fundamental human rights in targeted countries, including, <b>the rights to health, food, water and sanitation</b> . Calls on the OHCHR to <b>allocate adequate financial and human resources</b> to support the work of the <b>Special Rapporteur in monitoring human rights violations resulting from unilateral coercive measures</b> .
<b>5. Bangladesh</b> on behalf of a group of countries <sup>9</sup>	Highlights the importance of <b>migrant workers stimulating the economies of the host countries</b> disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Urges all States to accelerate the progress of the <b>implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration</b> to address the challenges and needs of migrant workers, including their right to work and to consider entering into <b>Social Security Agreements</b> to ensure gaps in the social security coverage are addressed.

<sup>7</sup> Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Morocco

<sup>8</sup> Venezuela and Belarus

<sup>9</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kirgizstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe



6. Peru on behalf of Group of Friends of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture <sup>10</sup>	The need of <b>torture survivors for rehabilitation and redress continue to outweigh the response</b> . Again, this year, the Fund in its report stresses that its <b>budget is insufficient</b> to meet the requests for support.
7. Bangladesh on behalf of a group of countries	Urgent action is needed to combat <b>climate change and build resilience</b> . Urges Member States to implement the Paris Agreement and all associated international agreements and step up their measures from COP27. In addition, urges States to <b>mainstream the issue of climate change and human rights</b> with a special focus on <b>women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities</b> .
8. Sweden on behalf of a group of countries <sup>11</sup>	The <b>COVID-19 pandemic has posed additional obstacles to women's rights</b> . Women and girls are subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which require tailored humanitarian responses. Their <b>participation</b> is essential as well as holding <b>accountable</b> those responsible for violating their rights. Countries should <b>mainstream gender and an inclusive approach</b> .
9. Egypt on behalf of a group of countries <sup>12</sup>	The empowerment of <b>women and their full participation</b> in all spheres of society is essential to guarantee <b>equality and peace</b> . Ensuring <b>gender equality</b> and guaranteeing women's full enjoyment of their human rights is of key importance, including the right to equal pay, education, sexual and reproductive healthcare services and a social protection system. <b>Growing informality and climate change</b> are also important issues affecting women, highlighting the importance of <b>women's economic empowerment</b> .
10. Ecuador on behalf of a group of countries <sup>13</sup>	Highlights the importance of promoting <b>community-based interventions for violence prevention</b> and rehabilitation of <b>children and youth affected</b> by the <b>availability of weapons</b> . Supports the need for States to consider adopting requirements <b>for firearms manufacturers</b> and dealers in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to ensure their effective implementation. States should consider <b>prohibiting the acquisition, possession and use of firearms by children and youth</b> .
<b>Statements made by the Observers</b>	
1. Afghanistan	Denounces the <b>Taliban's threat</b> to all rights and calls attention of the international community to support an inclusive government that allows for meaningful <b>participation of women and minorities</b> .
2. Burkina Faso	Highlights the importance of providing <b>economic, social and judicial responses to the problems of a large part of the population</b> and the indivisible and interdependent nature of human rights.
3. Egypt	Condemns <b>hate speech, xenophobia, racial discrimination, discrimination against refugees, and the rise of the far-right rhetoric</b> . These are attacks on tolerance, inclusion, diversity and the very essence of shared human rights norms and principles. Expresses concern over <b>the rise of hate speech in Germany, Iceland and Luxembourg</b> , among others.
4. El Salvador	Highlights the need for meaningful participation of <b>young people in decision-making processes</b> and facilitating progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The country wishes to <b>renew its international commitments made in favor of children through specific policies</b> .
5. Iraq	Highlights the principle of <b>non-interference</b> and the need to strengthen <b>international solidarity and cooperation</b> by increasing the provision of <b>technical assistance and capacity building</b> , in consultation with and with the approval of the concerned countries.

<sup>10</sup> Argentina, Austria, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Switzerland, United States of America

<sup>11</sup> Canada, Fiji, Uruguay, Georgia

<sup>12</sup> Costa Rica, Malaysia, Spain, Sweden

<sup>13</sup> Peru

6. Mauritius	There is a need to <b>accelerate the SDG implementation</b> process, which the strengthening of coordination between international institutions can facilitate. <b>Inequity in vaccine access</b> during this pandemic highlighted how a single event can have a lasting impact on the development of a country. As the effects of <b>climate change</b> multiply, the disparity between countries becomes clearer. It is important to <b>re-think models of development in line with SDGs</b> .
7. Nigeria	The realization of the <b>right to development</b> is a precondition for the attainment of <b>global peace and security</b> . Underscores that the repatriation of <b>illicit funds</b> to countries of origin is pertinent to securing necessary leverage for developing countries to generate resources and alleviate widespread poverty. Highlights the importance of <b>international cooperation</b> and concrete multilateral engagements to ensure the right to development becomes a reality.
8. Peru	Peru invited the High Commissioner to visit the country. Peru will coordinate the Latin American and Caribbean region in the HRC with a focus on <b>children's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, the fight against poverty, the rights of people of African descent, people with disabilities, environmental issues</b> , as well as <b>universal access to vaccines against HIV/AIDS</b> , among others.
9. Philippines	Welcomes the OHCHR's work plan for 2022 to 2023 seeking the integration of the <b>"shift" areas of climate change and environment; inequality, inclusion, and the situation of people of African descent; and digital technology</b> and leveraging data on human rights. Requests the OHCHR to strengthen efforts in <b>economic, social, cultural, and development rights</b> to help bring balance in her Office's work toward fostering greater ownership among duty bearers.
10. Switzerland	Highlights the crucial role of <b>transitional justice</b> in the prevention and transformation of conflict. In <b>Colombia</b> , Switzerland closely accompanies the integral <b>system of truth, justice, reparation, and non-repetition</b> , which incorporates this holistic approach. Transitional justice is a key element for sustainable development and for addressing the root causes of conflict.
11. Sweden	Condemns in the strongest terms <b>Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression</b> , with the involvement of <b>Belarus</b> , against <b>Ukraine</b> . It is important to ensure that everyone can enjoy their human rights, a prerequisite to achieving <b>gender equality and sustainable development</b> . <b>Human rights defenders</b> play a crucial role.
12. Togo	<b>Human rights education</b> should be a priority at the national, regional, and international levels. It is crucial that the mechanisms for strengthening <b>partnerships and cooperation</b> at all levels are consolidated. Analytical studies should be conducted to determine the best way to continue to provide effective <b>human rights education</b> despite the constraints of the pandemic. Considering the <b>context and realities</b> of countries by development partners and donors is a determining element for effective and efficient implementation of projects promoting human rights through <b>education and training</b> .
13. Tunisia	Highlights the importance of <b>the right to development</b> . <b>International cooperation</b> and the establishment of an appropriate international environment are prerequisites for the implementation of this right. Stresses the importance to ease the <b>burden of indebtedness</b> on developing countries. Tunisia attaches importance to achieving <b>gender equality, empowering women, and ensuring the full participation of women in all fields</b> , given that women are half of society and the core of the development agenda.
14. Uganda	HRC through its mechanisms can do better with more focus on development across all the Member States. Government has introduced various projects to empower the population from small income households increase productivity, job, and wealth creation as well as empower specialized skills among marginalized groups like PWDs, women and the youth.
15. Panama	The majority of <b>firearms</b> in the world are in the hands of <b>civilians</b> . However, there is a dearth of reliable global data disaggregated by age group. States must protect their populations against the risks posed by the <b>excessive availability of firearms</b> . This involves taking



	steps to reduce their proliferation and diversion, including <b>strict compliance with international law governing arms transfers</b> ; prohibit their acquisition, <b>possession and use by children</b> .
<b>16. South Africa</b>	Reiterates support to the <b>intergovernmental group on transnational corporations</b> . There are increasing negative effects of <b>TNCs and OBEs on various human rights</b> , including the <b>right to food, to the environment, of financial flows</b> , and even to <b>vaccine access</b> . The country has developed <b>positive obligations</b> for TNCs and OBEs and it is working to create a <b>social compact</b> where they can contribute to the development of States. <b>Access to justice and accountability</b> are important in this regard. There is an urgent need for the <b>timely conclusion of this process</b> .
<b>17. Algeria</b>	Draws the Council's attention to the <b>suffering of people under occupation</b> who face violations of their rights, especially the <b>right to self-determination</b> . Has strengthened the <b>balance and independence of authorities</b> , participatory democracy, protection of vulnerable groups from all forms of violence, and basic freedoms, especially the right to <b>freedom of assembly</b> . The <b>Constitutional Court, the Supreme Youth Council, and the National Civil Society Observatory</b> have been established to strengthen the rule of law, the role of civil society, and the role of youth in developing and implementing public policies.
<b>18. Belarus</b>	The events in <b>Ukraine</b> and the subsequent reaction of <b>Western countries</b> and some international institutions revealed the default of the entire system of international protection of human rights. Notices unprecedented levels of <b>racist manifestations in Western countries</b> , often encouraged, in the fields of culture, education, sports, leisure, ICT and business. <b>UCMs</b> affect everyone, disrupt inter-state economic and trade relations, and affect the social and economic situation of citizens, including in <b>Europe</b> .
<b>19. Azerbaijan</b>	Underlines the government's <b>implementation of sustainable development goals</b> as crucial components of State policy. Faces social, humanitarian, economic and environmental constraints due to the <b>occupation of Armenia and the conflict</b> . <b>Rehabilitation and reconstruction</b> of affected areas are underway as well as mechanisms to integrate them into value chains. Will continue to contribute to <b>peace, security, and cooperation</b> in the region.
<b>20. Romania</b>	The <b>rights of women and girls</b> are one of Romania's priorities as a <b>candidate State for a new mandate</b> for the Human Rights Council for the 2023 – 2025 term. The country aims to prevent and combat discrimination on all grounds and remains committed to working for the consolidation and enhanced resilience of <b>human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and freedom of expression</b> .
<b>21. Georgia</b>	Reiterates its full support to <b>Ukraine</b> after <b>Russia's full-scale military aggression</b> . The country elaborated a <b>human rights strategy</b> for the upcoming years. Protecting <b>women and girls' rights</b> is crucial in <b>humanitarian situations</b> , which is being violated amidst <b>Russia's aggression</b> .
<b>22. Iran</b>	The Council and the OHCHR should place <b>equal attention to all rights</b> . Concerned over those being left behind and the rise of <b>religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence</b> , in particular <b>islamophobia</b> . The <b>protection of cultural rights</b> is essential. The imposition of <b>UCMs</b> hinders <b>international cooperation</b> , prevents countries to reach <b>sustainable development</b> and the fulfilment of the <b>right to development</b> .
<b>23. Sovereign Order of Malta</b>	The country is concerned about the worsening human rights situation due to conflicts, politico-social and humanitarian crises exacerbated by the <b>invasion of Ukraine</b> and the COVID-19. Countries must continue to recognize the <b>crucial role played by faith-based actors</b> in promoting human rights, as well as the necessity for <b>interfaith dialogue</b> . It is important to prevent <b>gender-based violence</b> .
<b>24. Holy See</b>	Highlights the importance of <b>inequitable access to COVID-19 vaccines</b> , the fact that <b>health care</b> should never be subjugated to private interests. Policies and laws should focus on <b>solidarity and the promotion of human dignity</b> , while promoting efficient coordination within and among nations.

25. Kyrgyzstan	<b>Interethnic relations</b> is a strategic goal of the country as well as guaranteeing the <b>right of all ethnic groups</b> to preserve their native language and create conditions for their study and development. <b>Discrimination</b> is criminally prosecuted. Continues to <b>promote policies for linguistic development</b> . Thanks the support of the OHCHR and reiterates its commitment to <b>minority rights</b> .
26. Cambodia	All human rights must be treated in a <b>fair and equal manner</b> . <b>Respectful dialogues and exchange of best practices</b> should be promoted. Highlights the principles of <b>non-selectivity, non-politicization, and no double standards</b> . The <b>empowerment of women</b> should be at the forefront of all sectors. Cambodia will host the second <b>ASEAN women's summit</b> .
27. Chad	Welcomes the pertinence of good practices, particularly on <b>gender issues</b> and the <b>human-based approach</b> to recover from the <b>COVID-19 pandemic</b> . It is essential to achieve <b>SDGs 5 and 17</b> . Highlights the aggravation of <b>poverty and inequality</b> jeopardizing achievement of Agenda 2030. There is a need for economies that invest in human rights. Echoes the importance of a <b>more integrated approach</b> to human rights by 2030.
28. Niger	The international community must continue to work towards <b>the acquisition by as many States as possible of vaccine production capacities</b> and the facilitation of access to them by the greatest possible number of populations.
29. UN Women	<b>Inclusion and participation</b> are essential elements, for a <b>transitional justice process</b> to contribute to sustaining peace and sustainable development. It is crucial to guarantee the right of <b>women and girls to participate in transitional justice processes</b> . <b>Guatemala and Kosovo</b> have implemented reparation measures of transitional justice decisions in order to create the conditions for non-repetition.
30. UNFPA	<b>Women and girls</b> living in crisis settings face increased risks to their safety, dignity, and well-being. The risk of <b>gender-based violence</b> has increased. UNFPA will continue to advocate for the centrality of <b>sexual and reproductive health and rights</b> in crisis preparedness and response plans, including access to emergency family planning methods, maternal health services, and psychosocial support. It is important to highlight <b>youth rights</b> in development, peacebuilding, and in humanitarian settings.
31. UNESCO	It is indispensable for a country to adopt or strengthen <b>legal and policy frameworks dedicated to implementing access to information</b> . Information frameworks need to make special arrangements for <b>people with disabilities to exercise their right to information</b> . Improvements are needed in <b>record-keeping</b> about requests for information and how these are treated by the authorities.

#### Summary of statements made by NHRIs and NGOs

**120 NHRIs and NGOs took the floor during the general debate on Item 3.**

**Regarding the war in Ukraine and Russia's attack:** Many expressed their concern for civilians trapped in **Ukraine** unable to safely evacuate, particularly **older people** who have been unable to flee attacks and have limited access to safe shelter, food, water, and life-saving medication. The international community must ensure that the need for **enhanced protection of older civilians in armed conflict** is recognized and addressed in a comprehensive manner in its work on the **war in Ukraine** and on other **international and non-international armed conflicts**.

**Regarding the negative impact of transnational corporations and business enterprises in the promotion and realization of human rights:** organisations expressed the need for TNCs and OBEs' actions and regulations to comply with international law. International obligations are needed to end **corporate impunity** and to ensure access to justice and effective remedy. There is a need to establish an **international court** focused on human rights violations and abuses committed in the context of business operations. Furthermore, speakers demanded access to remedy for victims of occupation, colonization, and apartheid in the ongoing **occupation of Palestine**, in which

the utilization of transnational corporations and business enterprises to expand **illegal Israeli settlements** and appropriate natural resources perpetuates the denial of the Palestinian people. People of the **Global South** are in dire need of a **legally binding instrument to regulate TNCs**. **Regarding arms producers and dealers**: they have responsibilities to conduct robust human rights due diligence, which not only covers the way the arms are used by third parties, but also **companies' responsibilities** for marketing strategies targeting **children and youth**.

**Regarding human rights education**: Organisations asked the incoming **Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education** to focus on **Human Rights Education** and to engage meaningfully with **young people** as the “leaders and key partners in designing and conducting human rights education” efforts. Reminded Member States to review progress in the **national implementation of human rights education** and training, by submitting their mid term reports on the fourth phase of the World Programme to OHCHR and share the collective responsibility for Human Rights Education and Learning.

**Regarding women's and girl's rights**: women's and girls' sexual and reproductive rights are violated, de-prioritized and overlooked in humanitarian situations. This is especially true for persons facing intersectional discrimination. Rights-based accountability also involves focusing on the continuum of human rights violations faced by women and girls, addressing their root causes and recognizing the responsibility of all stakeholders in the international community. **Natural disasters disproportionately affect women** due to entrenched societal gender roles in many parts of the world. In Pacific Island countries, where natural disasters are increasingly likely, many **women lack financial independence** and are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation when disaster strikes. It is important to urge Member States and Intergovernmental Agencies to **reassess disaster risk reduction strategies** to include gender-sensitive approaches. In addition, it is crucial to ensure that girls living in humanitarian settings are able to safely and meaningfully **participate in decisions** affecting their lives, **address ongoing data gaps** on adolescent girls in humanitarian settings, particularly child marriage through better coordination between humanitarian actors, and **prioritize funding** that addresses the distinct rights violations experienced by girls in humanitarian settings.

Some of the **country-specific topics** raised:

- The ongoing **discrimination of the Bahá'ís in Qatar** which is solely based on their religious beliefs and which, if it persists, will lead to the elimination of this religious community from Qatar's shores.
- The **Yemeni crisis** that has been exacerbated by unmitigated impunity and HRC's failure to adopt the mandate renewal of the **Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen (GEE)**
- **Regarding the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community**: Black trans-woman and LGBTIQ+ persons are being subjected to racism, misogyny and environmental degradation in **Brazil**. This issue is also present in the current human rights situation in **Ukraine** stemming from the **Russian aggression** where trans women are not being able to cross borders, experiencing difficulties with traveling within the country and are considered fit for military duty. It is important to establish clear and **accessible protocols for the evacuation of trans persons**.
- **Colombia: Public authorities' protest repression in Colombia during 2021**. Despite some progress, **implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia is slower** than expected (at the current rate, the treaty will not be fully implemented until 2047), making the human rights situation increasingly dramatic. **Statistical invisibility as a manifestation of the racial discrimination** faced by the **Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Latin America**.
- **Japan**: To give support and compensation to all victims of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
- **Mexico**: The mass killing of human rights defenders.



**List of NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (120):**

Ombudsman of Croatia (on behalf of the European Network of NHRIS), International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos - IDDH, World Organization of the Scout Movement, Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), Centre Europe - Tiers Monde, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Save the Children International, Al-haq, Law in the Service of Man, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Peace Brigades International, International Service for Human Rights, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Human Rights Watch, Franciscans International, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, American Association of Jurists, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Baha'i International Community, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, iuventum E.v., International Humanist and Ethical Union, Vivat International, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Sikh Human Rights Group, International Commission of Jurists, Fian International E.v., Human Rights Advocates Inc., Edmund Rice International Limited, Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, International Disability Alliance, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, European Centre for Law and Justice / Centre Européen pour le droit, les justice et les droits de l'homme, Society for Threatened Peoples, Réseau Unité pour le développement de Mauritanie, Fundacion para la mejora de la vida, la cultura y la sociedad, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Chinese Association for International Understanding, Villages Unis (United Villages), Il Cenacolo, Disability Association of Tavana, Youchange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Congregation of our lady of charity of the good shepherd, Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, World Muslim Congress, International Muslim Women's Union, Association D'entraide Médicale Guinée, Africa Culture Internationale, United Nations Association of China, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, Chunhui Children's Foundation, Human Rights Information and Training Center, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, African Green Foundation International, China Foundation for Human Rights Development, Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Institut international pour les droits et le développement, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Youth Parliament for SDG, International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, The Next Century Foundation, Réseau International Des Droits Humains (RIDH), Make Mothers Matter, Association for defending victims of terrorism, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, United Nations Watch, Partners for Transparency, Zero Pauvre Afrique, Mouvement national des jeunes patriotes du Mali, International Action for Peace & Sustainable Development, War Resisters International, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des revendications démocratiques/culturelles du peuple Azerbaïdjanais-Iran - « ARC », Promotion du Développement Economique et Social - PDES, Organisation Internationale Pour Les Pays Les Moins Avancés (OIPMA), Alliance Creative Community Project, Tourner La Page, Association Solidarité Internationale Pour l'Afrique (SIA), Commission Africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), Centre du commerce international pour le développement, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, Alliance Defending Freedom, Alsalam Foundation, Iraqi Development Organization, Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee.

*Full recording of the General Debate meetings on Item 3 is available on the UN WebTV, [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#).*