

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 49th SESSION

General debate on Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

21-22 March 2022

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This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 4 that took place between the **21st and 22nd of March 2022** at the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report includes the statements made by the Countries Concerned, 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.

Oral update by the High Commissioner on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, said that the Office continues to lay **foundations for future accountability** with respect to violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including by gathering, analyzing and preserving information on human rights violations, some of which may rise to the level of **international crimes**. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should commit to **systemic reforms** needed to end all human rights violations and to **hold those responsible to account**.

Statement by the Country Concerned

Democratic People's Republic of Korea	The human rights situations in the U.S. and western countries require more attention. The U.S. continues to operate several secret detention facilities abroad including the Guantanamo Bay and commit atrocities such as arbitrary detentions . The U.S. has caused the refugee crisis as well as aggressive wars in various parts of the world including Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan under the pretext of "safeguarding of democracy", "human rights" and "counter-terrorism". The human rights situation is also worrying in the EU, the United the Kingdom and Australia where racism, white supremacy, resurgence of neo-Nazism , hate crimes, and maltreatment of migrants and refugees prevail. Japan has committed unprecedented crimes against humanity such as forced abduction . The DPRK urges the HRC and OHCHR to carry out comprehensive and impartial investigation into atrocities against humanity committed by military personnel of the U.S. and western countries across the world. The DPRK will further consolidate and develop its socialist system .
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Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)

Member States: Joint Statements

France (on behalf of the European Union)	Will refer to the situations in DPRK, Iran, Venezuela, South Sudan and Syria during respective interactive dialogues. The EU condemns Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine and the ongoing campaign of repression and intimidation against all segments of civil society, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists in Belarus . Remains concern over the human rights situation in the OPT, Israel, Turkey, Myanmar/Burma and Sudan . The EU calls upon Nicaragua to guarantee full respect for human rights, including civil and political rights.
China on behalf of a group of countries ¹	Deeply concerned over serious violations of human rights of indigenous people by some countries, who are subject to systemic discrimination and inequality . Their disadvantaged position has further deteriorated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Called upon the HRC to continue to attend to these violations and take the necessary actions.
Poland (on behalf of a group of countries)	Concerned over the situation in Russia and the unprovoked attack on Ukraine . Russia continues to pass repressive laws against civil society organizations and punish those who contradict the government. There are growing restrictions on reliable information on the war on Ukraine and curtailing of freedom of expression. Calles on Russia to liberate those who are arbitrarily detained .

¹ Belarus, Bolivia, China, Congo, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela

<p>Pakistan on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</p>	<p>Reiterates the importance of the principles of impartiality and universality. All rights should be treated equally, especially the right to development. It is important to foster constructive engagement. Interfering in domestic affairs must be avoided as well as country-specific mandates. Expresses concern over the increase of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred. Highlights the urgency to attend to violations and impunity of foreign occupation.</p>
<p>Venezuela on behalf of a group of countries</p>	<p>Denounces country-specific mandates, which are politically motivated and whose practices constitute double standards when considering human rights issues. The practice of interfering in the internal affairs of states is a violation of the principles of the UN. Alarmed by the politicization of the discussion under Item 4. The UPR is the founding mechanism to address human rights situation in an equal footing and respecting countries' sovereignty.</p>
<p>Statements made by Member States</p>	
<p>1. Germany</p>	<p>Condemns Russia's aggression on Ukraine's territorial integrity and the curtailing of freedom of speech. Expresses concern over the human rights situation in Afghanistan, in particular women's rights, and by Belarus' repression against peaceful protestors. Denounces China's systematic human rights violations against minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet as well as Hong Kong's suppression of human rights law. Egypt must guarantee the free action of civil society organizations. Condemns the continued application of the death penalty in the country. Remains concerned about the human rights violations in North Korea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ethiopia and Syria.</p>
<p>2. Finland</p>	<p>Gravely concerned of the human cost of Russia's unprovoked, unlawful aggression against Ukraine. Indiscriminate attacks by the Russian military on civilian targets, including hospitals, residential areas and schools cannot be tolerated. Condemns the involvement of Belarus in this aggression. Expresses concern over the targeting of human rights defenders, opposition representatives, minorities, and journalists in China, highlighting the reports on the human rights situation of Uighurs in Xinjiang as especially grave. The situation in the OPT remains a concern. Calls on Saudi Arabia to abolish the death penalty; on the Taliban in Afghanistan to protect women's rights; and on Cambodia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Sudan and Venezuela, among others, to ensure full protection of persons in the frontline for human rights.</p>
<p>3. Luxembourg</p>	<p>Concerned over the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Syria, the OPT, and Ukraine, where the intensification of bombardments by the Russian forces of urban areas and civilian infrastructure continue to cause many innocent victims. In Yemen, Eritrea, Nicaragua, and Myanmar the humanitarian situation is extremely worrying. Deplores the enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists, political opponents and human rights defenders. Condemns the setback for women's rights in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover.</p>
<p>4. China</p>	<p>Rejects and opposes the fake accusations against China, stating that the human rights record should be judged by the people of the same country and not by others. Countries accusing China commit human rights violations against minorities, indigenous people, migrants, and women, and want to interfere in the internal affairs of others through military operations and by applying UCMs. Efforts by Kazakhstan and other countries deserve impartial treatment.</p>
<p>5. France</p>	<p>Concerned about Russia's unjustifiable military aggression against Ukraine, with the complicity of Belarus. The Russian forces are employing the same methods as those used in Syria. The Russian aggression has repercussions on</p>

	global food security. In <i>Afghanistan</i> , the Taliban has multiplied human rights violations. Expresses concern over the extremely serious human rights violations in <i>Hong Kong</i> and <i>Tibet</i> , and against the <i>Uyghurs in Xinjiang</i> .
6. Venezuela	Rejects certain States attempting to turn the Council into a confrontation against the <i>countries of the South and</i> financing certain NGOs as instruments of aggression against sovereign States. An example are the unfounded accusations against <i>China on Xinjiang</i> . Opposes manipulation of human rights discourse to condemn countries such as <i>Belarus, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the DPRK, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan</i> .
7. Cuba	Denounces the use of this Council as a scene of political confrontation, urging countries to stop trying to subordinate the forum to agendas of subversion and attempts to change the constitutional order of sovereign countries . Condemns the use of unilateral coercive measures.
8. Japan	Russia's invasion of Ukraine violates its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Urges <i>Myanmar's</i> military to take concrete actions to immediately stop the violence, release detainees, and restore the democratic political system. Expresses grave concern over the situation in <i>Hong Kong</i> and <i>Xinjiang</i> and urges the <i>DPRK</i> to take concrete positive actions toward the immediate resolution of the abduction issue.
9. India	Believes that the Council should protect all human rights, including the right to development , in a fair and balanced way. The discourse in the Council continues to be politicized and polarized. Regrets the perpetuation and proliferation of country specific mandates under this Agenda Item. Believes that enhancement of a state's capacity through technical assistance and capacity-building measures with the consent of the State concerned is the best way towards improving the country's human rights situation. Remains concerned by the impact of terrorism and violent extremism on the enjoyment of human rights by people globally.
10. Netherlands	Expresses concern over the increasingly restricted civic space worldwide, condemns the decline of civic freedoms in Russia and Russia's aggression against Ukraine . Denounces the arbitrary detention of peaceful protestors in Russia as well as human rights violations against minority rights in <i>Hong Kong and Xinjiang by China</i> . In <i>Afghanistan</i> , women continue to suffer from violence and enforced disappearances. Urges <i>Nicaragua</i> to restore civic freedoms, freedom of association and democracy.
11. Armenia	States that once again, <i>Azerbaijan</i> intensified the violations of human rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh . A gas pipeline supplying energy to Nagorno-Karabakh was cut from the territories under control of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan constantly exerts the threat and use of force and obstructs people from obtaining their means of subsistence.
12. Pakistan	Expresses constructive engagement being the way to address human rights situations. Special attention should be paid to UN recognized foreign occupation. India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir has led to human rights violations. Urges the Council to consider the human rights catastrophe in this region and to continue monitoring the situation.
13. Indonesia	The Council should be an enabling platform for constructive dialogue and cooperation. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States must be observed unequivocally. Special focus should be given on vaccine nationalism and the inequitable distribution of vaccines; to racism, xenophobia, and intolerance ; to hate speech and incitement under the pretext of freedom of expression; and to the continued denial of human rights, particularly in the <i>OPT</i> . Promoting a pandemic recovery that upholds fundamental rights should be at the top of the Council's priorities.

14. Lithuania	Condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine as well as actions of Belarus , enabling the war. Expresses concern over the human rights violations in Afghanistan and the new level of violence and repression in Myanmar . Denounces human rights violations in Sudan and the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia .
15. Russian Federation	Western states deliberately ignore the Baltic countries , experiencing an increase in inequality and discrimination against national, ethnic and linguistic minorities. The duplicity of the West is manifested in the denigration of the efforts of the Belarusian authorities in the context of the recent migration crisis on the border with the EU . There is inhuman treatment by the Polish and Lithuanian authorities of migrants. Denounces the human rights violations committed by the U.S. military and the United Kingdom . Unprecedented level of Russophobia and in some countries, including Germany, Poland, Italy , attacks on truck drivers from Russia and Belarus have been recorded. Russian diplomatic missions in Iceland, Ireland, Canada, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Estonia were subjected to acts of vandalism.
16. Republic of Korea	Affirms concern over the human rights situation in Ukraine, Myanmar, Yemen, Afghanistan and Ethiopia , as well as over the human rights violations in Belarus , including a new restrictive abortion law , undermining the right of women and girls to health. Encourages Iran to allow meaningful access of the UN human rights mechanism. Regarding the OPT , calls for accountability and expresses concern over excessive use of force against peaceful protesters in Sudan . Calls on Venezuela to further efforts to expand civic and democratic space.
17. U.S.	Condemns in the strongest terms the Russian government for its unprovoked and unjustified war , and the continuing brutal repression of Belarusian civil society, anti-war protestors, and pro-democracy movement by Lukashenka's regime . China continues to commit genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang against predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other minority groups. Supports the call from Yemeni civil society for a new international, independent accountability mechanism for Yemen. Deeply concerned over the protracted human rights crisis in South Sudan . In Afghanistan , the Taliban must be pressured to respect the rights of all Afghans. Calls on Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to release unjustly detained prisoners and improve life-threatening prison conditions. The human rights situations in the DPRK, Myanmar, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Iran demand the Council's ongoing attention.
18. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Condemns Russia's illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine . Concerned about widespread violations in China . The situation in Tibet remains of deep international concern. Calls upon China to allow journalists to report without fear of arrest, especially in Hong Kong . Condemns the human rights violations against women in Afghanistan and restrictions on human rights defenders in Egypt . Expresses concern over situations in Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, Venezuela and Belarus .
19. Bolivia	Concerned by the ongoing politicization of debates and of country specific mandates. Calls upon the Council to promote constructive dialogue with all countries in line with their national priorities and concerns. Highlights the key role of solidarity through cooperation and multilateralism.
20. Kazakhstan	Committed to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. Kazakhstan and China consistently pursue this approach in their development of bilateral relations. Firmly supports the principle of " one China ". Questions related to Hong Kong are an internal affair of China .

<p>21. Ukraine</p>	<p>Russia's attack reminds of the worst crimes of the 20th century, part of the new breed of Nazi policies. <i>Russism</i> takes place when the aggressor purposefully attacks civilians, hospitals, infrastructure, and when children lose their lives from indiscriminate bombing. <i>Russists</i> employ prohibited methods like starvation to death and crimes that amount to genocide. War crimes and crimes against humanity deserve the upmost accountability. Acting in unison is the only way to prevent further loss of innocent lives.</p>
<p>22. Sudan</p>	<p>Supports the efforts of the HRC to protect human rights as a whole. Calls on all parties to cooperate in protecting human rights and reminds that the primary responsibility lies with States. Highlights the importance of the Council to continue its assessment of human rights issues and refrain from selectivity or politicization.</p>
<p>Statements made by Observer States (Joint Statements)</p>	
<p>1. Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States)</p>	<p>Highlights concern over and rejection of practices that deviate the Council from what it was established for. Stresses the refusal to target specific countries in a selective manner and double standards. Calls upon all States to address human rights issues within a framework of constructive international dialogue and cooperation.</p>
<p>2. Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement</p>	<p>Non-politicization and non-selectivity should be the guiding principles of the Council as well as non-interference in internal affairs. Deeply concerned over the proliferation of country-specific resolutions, which is a political tool that undermines cooperation. Encourages the Council to prioritize climate change, poverty, underdevelopment, the digital divide, foreign occupation, and damages to the cultural heritage of countries. Recognizes the need to promote cooperation and the role of the international system.</p>
<p>Statements made by Observer States</p>	
<p>1. Belarus</p>	<p>Denounces the large-scale racist and hateful manifestations in Western countries against the Russian-speaking population. The United Kingdom, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belgium, and France are at the forefront of a geopolitically motivated racist policy that has victimized tens of thousands of innocent people. Calls on these countries to take urgent measures to protect people from attacks and harassment. Polish authorities should openly investigate all cases of repression and arbitrary executions of migrants. Calls on Germany and other EU countries to comply with their international obligations on freedom of access to information. EU countries must return to millions of people the basic right to freedom of movement by lifting all air travel bans. The Ukrainian authorities must stop the policy of involuntary detention of citizens of different states and ensure their protection. The Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian authorities must stop deliberately destroying the culture, language and history of minorities living in these countries.</p>
<p>2. Philippines</p>	<p>Condemns the politicization of human rights. States have weaponized human rights and foreign policy against other States with less power. Calls for multilateralism. The Council's actions should aim to establish long-term effects on the ground. Calls upon all States to adhere to the principles of universality, non-selectivity and impartiality.</p>
<p>3. Israel</p>	<p>Remains extremely concerned about the numerous human rights abuses carried out by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) across the Middle East and beyond. The IRGC are the Hezbollah in Lebanon; they are the Islamic Jihad in Gaza; they are the Houthis in Yemen. The IRGC is an integral part of the brutal machine of oppression in Iran.</p>

	They continue to target minorities, including Baha'is and Kurds , and must be held accountable for their crimes both in Iran but also in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and elsewhere.
4. Estonia	Condemns Russia's military aggression against Ukraine , which will have global and long-term negative consequences changing the rules-based international order. Freedom of the media and opinion has been completely suppressed in Russia. Condemns the involvement of Belarus in the aggression against Ukraine and the repression of anti-war protesters in Belarus.
5. Spain	Reiterates strong condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and demands that Russia complies with its obligations to respect human rights. Expresses concern over the human rights situation in the Ethiopian region of Tigray and regrets the dismissal of the transitional government in Sudan . Expresses deep concern over the persistence of serious violations of human rights and IHL in the OPT condemning the settlement policy, confiscations and demolitions, as well as the attacks, incitements and violent acts against the civilian population. Asks Israel to facilitate in East Jerusalem the electoral process announced in 2020.
6. Switzerland	Condemns Russia's military attack against Ukraine . Reiterates its call on Russia to cease hostilities and withdraw forces from Ukrainian territory. Denounces the massive restrictions of the rights to freedom of expression and of the media in Russia. Expresses concern over violations of human rights and IHL in Yemen, Mali and in the provinces under siege in North Kivu and Ituri in the DRC . Concerned over the lack of progress in the respect for the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in China , particularly in Tibet and Xinjiang . Condemns the execution of 81 people in Saudi Arabia , opposing the death penalty in all circumstances.
7. Austria	Condemns Russia's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine and deplores the thousands of civilian casualties. Concerned over the escalating repression of peaceful protestors in Russia and the shrinking of space of civil society. Encourages the protection of Afghan women and girls from all forms of violence. Condemns the use of the death penalty in Saudi Arabia . Condemns the conflict in Northern Ethiopia and violations committed by all sides.
8. Cambodia	Conflicts should meet demand-driven and de-politicized capacity building rather than unilateral coercive measures. The surge of hate speech, disinformation and incitement disguised under freedom of expression is polarizing people and paralyzing societies. Wishes to see Hong Kong enjoy peace, stability, and harmony under "one country, two systems". China's achievement in lifting the population out of poverty in its territory, including Xinjiang , should be recognized.
9. Australia	Expresses concern over the human rights of the people of Ukraine arising from the illegal and unprovoked attack by Russia . Has imposed far-reaching sanctions to inflict heavy costs on those in Russia and Belarus who bear responsibility or hold power. Appalled by the mass executions in Saudi Arabia , reiterating its long-standing opposition to the death penalty. Remains concerned for the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and the abuses of human rights in the DPRK, Myanmar, Iran, and Syria . Calls on relevant parties to protect human rights and engage with the UN and its mechanisms in good faith. Concerned over the human rights abuses and violations against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang . Denounces the attacks on human rights and political freedom in Belarus, Nicaragua, and Venezuela .
10. Iceland	Calls upon Russia to immediately withdraw all military personnel and equipment from Ukraine . Deeply concerned about restrictions of fundamental freedoms and the erosion of the rule of law in Venezuela . Calls on the military of

	<p>Myanmar to cease all violations and abuses against the people. Urges all parties to the conflict in Ethiopia to respect IHL. Condemns the Taliban in Afghanistan for violating the rights of women and girls, including the right to education and the right to work.</p>
11. Norway	<p>Freedom of expression and access to credible information are foundations of democratic societies. Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, and Belarus' involvement has led to gross violations of human rights in Ukraine. In Syria, Afghanistan, and Myanmar, de facto authorities must stop surveillance, attacks and harassment of journalists and civil society. Calls on China, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to respect, protect and ensure the freedom of expression of all inhabitants. China must ensure unrestricted access to Xinjiang for the High Commissioner.</p>
12. Sweden	<p>Condemns Russia's unjustified and unprovoked aggression, supported by Belarus, against Ukraine. Concerned over the deteriorating human rights situation in Afghanistan, especially for women and girls. Denounces human rights violations and abuses in Ethiopia and Myanmar since the military coup. The human rights situation in China remains concerning, including in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet. The human rights situation in Iran is deeply worrying, including the human rights defenders and persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities. The use of counter-terrorism legislation to restrict human rights in Egypt and Saudi Arabia remains seriously concerning. The human rights violations in the OPT continues to be of concern, including increasing settler violence. The Palestinian government needs to ensure respect for human rights in areas under its control.</p>
13. Ireland	<p>Concerned by the worsening human rights situation in Ukraine and strongly condemns the further invasion of Ukraine by Russia abetted by Belarus. Expresses deep concern over increasing violations of human rights in Russia, in particular the restrictions on freedom of assembly. Denounces human rights violations in Ethiopia, including systematic sexual and gender-based violence. Concerned over the high number of civilian casualties in the conflict in Yemen and condemns the systematic erosion of the rights of women, girls, and minorities, and the situation of human rights defenders and shrinking civil society space in Afghanistan. Reiterates concern over the intensification of settler-related violence in the OPT and reports of human rights violations and abuses in Xinjiang. Calls on China to comply with its obligations under international law to respect and protect human rights.</p>
14. Uruguay	<p>For protection to be effective it must be objective and impartial. There must be no politicization on the Council's decisions. Council members must not stray away from its founding principles: impartiality, universality and non-selectivity. The Council's initiatives need further dialogue.</p>
15. Denmark	<p>Condemns Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, and the human rights situations in Belarus, Ethiopia, Myanmar, South Sudan and Syria. Concerned over reports of human rights violations in Xinjiang and Tibet. Urges China to ensure unfettered access for the High Commissioner during the planned visit, including in Xinjiang. Denounces the detention of civil society activists in Iran, and the recent mass executions and the death penalty in Saudi Arabia. Deeply concerned about gross and systematic human rights violations in DPRK and strongly opposes Israel's illegal expansion of settlements in the OPT and evictions in East Jerusalem. Urges the Palestinian authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression, peaceful association and assembly. Concerned by the human rights situation in Egypt, including shrinking civic space and the freedom of expression, and calls on Bahrain to release arbitrarily detained persons.</p>

16. Belgium	<i>Russia's aggression on Ukraine</i> is causing devastating consequences for the civilian population, and an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe. Russian aggression is accompanied by an unprecedented increase in internal repression against the Russian people. As a longtime opponent of the death penalty, Belgium is deeply shocked by the mass execution on terrorism charges by <i>Saudi Arabia</i> .
17. Afghanistan	Condemns human rights abuses in the country, including arbitrary detentions of journalists, women, human rights defenders and members of government. States that culture is being erased . Asks the international community to support the transition to an inclusive government that protects the rights of all people.
18. Azerbaijan	Families went missing during the war with <i>Armenia</i> . Atrocious methods practiced by Armenia, including extrajudicial killings, have prevented families from knowing where their members are. Armenia will not cooperate regarding the missing persons to ensure justice and accountability. Respect for territorial integrity of sovereign states is key, including towards <i>China</i> . Extends its support towards <i>Kazakhstan's</i> policies.
19. Czech Republic	Condemns <i>Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine</i> . The human rights situation in <i>Belarus</i> remains dire. Reiterates concern over human rights violations and restrictions of fundamental freedoms in <i>China</i> , and the restrictions of political pluralism, media freedom and rule of law in <i>Hong Kong</i> . Further concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in <i>Sudan</i> and abuses in <i>Syria</i> . Will refer to the situations in <i>DPRK, Iran, Myanmar and Venezuela</i> during the respective interactive dialogues.
20. Nicaragua	Urges the Council to address human rights issues with impartiality and stop the practice of country specific mandates. Has suffered from sanctions imposed by Council members, and human rights violations have to be addressed in the <i>EU</i> .
21. Malta	Concerned over the human rights situation in <i>Ukraine</i> , particularly the effects on children. Calls on authorities in <i>Belarus</i> to guarantee the right to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. Concerned over the curtailing of fundamental freedoms of women and girls in <i>Syria</i> .
22. Georgia	Concerned over the human rights situation in <i>Nicaragua, Syria and Venezuela</i> . Condemns the indiscriminate attacks of <i>Russia</i> in <i>Ukraine</i> , calling Russia to seize its aggression against Ukraine. In Russia's occupied regions of <i>Georgia</i> , Russia has been responsible for torture and other war crimes.
23. South Sudan	Committed to the implementation to revitalize the peace agreement . Emphasizes its rejection of any further extension of any mandate under agenda Item 4 and Item 2. Welcomes capacity-building assistance under Agenda Item 10.
24. Burundi	Condemns the accusations against <i>China</i> . Reiterates that human rights are not the monopoly of some countries and should not be utilized to interfere with internal affairs. Condemns the politicization of issues in <i>Xinjiang</i> and <i>Hong Kong</i> .
25. Sri Lanka	Concerned over the continuation of adversarial country-specific resolutions. In the absence of the consent of the country concerned, these initiatives only serve to polarize societies and minimize any chances of genuine dialogue. Issues related to <i>Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet</i> are <i>China's</i> internal affairs. Commends China's achievement in lifting millions of people out of poverty. Demands lifting of UCMs that have a devastating impact on the economic and social rights and the right to development of many populations.

26. Cyprus	Condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine . Expresses concern over the massive displacement and the social and demographic engineering practice in Syria . Libya's and Afghanistan's cases should be prioritized. Concerned over the human rights situation in Turkey .
27. Syrian Arab Republic	Stresses the unfairness of time allocation in interactive dialogues against the concerned country. There is an absence of clear criteria for evaluating the mandate's investigative work and defining its responsibilities. U.S. and France use terminologies that do not follow appropriate UN language against the concerned countries.
28. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Western countries instrumentalize this Item to interfere in other countries like in Venezuela or China . The U.S. must be held accountable for human rights violations resulting from UCMs. Those acting with the U.S. also are responsible. Arbitrary banking restrictions are adversely affecting countries' capacity to fulfil their human rights obligations. South Korea should end its collusion with the U.S. against the Iranian nation.
29. Ghana	Supports China's sovereignty rights, independence and territorial integrity. Calls on all Member States to uphold multilateralism, solidarity and collaboration, and promote and protect human rights through constructive dialogue and cooperation. Condemns the politicization of human rights.
30. Jordan	Welcomes the agreement reached between the High Commissioner and the Government of China to conduct a visit to the country in May 2022. Reaffirms the principles guiding the Council's work, including universality, objectivity, impartiality, transparency and justice.
31. Madagascar	States must do more in the new post-COVID-19 context. Supports China's approach to human rights issues and rejects the politicization of the Council.
32. Trinidad and Tobago	Highlights the importance of the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States as the foundation to ensure fraternal relations between States.
33. Turkmenistan	All rights should be protected, including the right to development . Highlights the principles of non-politicization and non-selectivity. The UPR review is an example of constructive dialogue.
34. Egypt	Committed to the principles of impartiality, non-selectivity and constructive cooperation . Rejects political instrumentalization of the Council. Allegations against the country continue to be based on false grounds.
35. Saudi Arabia	Coalition forces in Yemen are doing the utmost to put an end to the actions of the Houthis. Yemen has suffered from the repercussions of the aggressive actions perpetrated by the Houthi against this country.
36. Liberia	Highlights principles of sovereignty and non-interference. Supports peaceful dispute and territorial integrity of sovereign States. Upholds and supports the "one China policy" and supports each State to choose their own developmental path following national priorities. Supports the ideal of not politicizing human rights.
37. Viet Nam	Country-specific human rights situations should be considered through dialogue and constructive engagement with the concerned State , with full respect for the principles of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.
38. Cape Verde	Encourages strengthening technical cooperation and assistance aimed at boosting capacity building of countries in the implementation of international legal instruments related to human rights. Emphasizes the importance of the

	LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund with a view of the participation of SIDS in the work of the Council. Calls on all States to uphold multilateralism, solidarity and collaboration, and to promote and protect human rights through constructive dialogue.
39. United Republic of Tanzania	Highlights the importance of upholding multilateralism and promoting and protecting human rights through constructive dialogue and cooperation to achieve sustainable development and eliminate poverty. Politicization of human rights issues in matters related to Xinjiang should be avoided as these are China's internal affairs.
40. Eritrea	Every state is responsible to promote the human rights of its people following its own values . While international cooperation is key, some Western countries continue to target others through country-specific mandates for political motives, including regional changes, unwarranted sanctions and UCMs to consolidate neoliberal practices and compromise the neutrality of the Council.

Summary of statements made by NHRIs and NGOs

99 NHRIs and NGOs took the floor during the general debate on Item 4.

Regarding UCMs: UCMs and secondary sanctions **affect all foreign companies and trade partners**. The ban on banking transactions between the sanctioned countries and the rest of the world prevents any formal financial exchanges with foreign countries. Consequently, **domestic medicine companies** and medical equipment companies **cannot pay for medicine**, raw materials or the items they import. The Council was called to assess the impact of unilateral sanctions on the **rights of people with disabilities** in the targeted States.

Regarding hate speech: Calls on **Finland and European democracies** to repeal "**hate speech**" laws. The current wave of *social silencing* pervading the Western world is creating a climate of fear and self-censorship among individuals whose viewpoints are deemed unpopular or even offensive vis-à-vis the government-sanctioned orthodoxy.

Regarding the effective control of firearms: The production, distribution, trade, trafficking and theft of firearms **without effective controls** facilitates human rights violations, including acts of torture, arbitrary executions, forced disappearances, injuries, robberies and extortion that affect entire populations, forcing them to displace or migrate to flee violence.

Regarding human rights defenders: Environmental human rights defenders are being targeted and silenced. The future Special Rapporteur should better promote participation of civil society actors in national processes. The voices of those whose human rights are already affected by climate change, many who are part of faith communities, are important for fulfilling the new mandate.

Country-specific situations addressed:

- **Sri Lanka:** Some speakers stated that if the propaganda war conducted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) supporters outside Sri Lanka continues to sway international opinion, finding genuine reconciliation will be more challenging. Others expressed that the draconian

Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and *One Country One Law* strategy are undermining the democracy in Sri Lanka. The LTTE perceive the 2015 OISL investigation on Sri Lanka as a limited office-investigation.

- **Algeria:** Grave concerns over **freedom of religion or belief in Algeria**. Women in the Tindouf camps suffer from all types of violence and practices that degrade their dignity.
- **Bahrain:** Prisoners released under the Alternative Penal Code are subjected to various **restrictive measures** that violate their basic rights.
- **El Salvador:** There is a **decline of democratic freedoms** and the predominance of an authoritarian government, led by President Nayib Bukele and the Armed Forces.
- **Saudi Arabia:** The **death penalty contravenes basic human rights principles**. This week's mass execution of 81 individuals in Saudi Arabia signals an appalling escalation in the authorities' use of the death penalty.
- **Egypt:** Egypt continues to **severely repress the rights** to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and to arbitrarily detain thousands in conditions violating the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.
- **India and Bangladesh:** deteriorating human rights situations.
- **India:** Increasing hatred, discrimination, and violence against **religious minorities**. Authorities have used repressive laws to deny civil society organizations access to foreign funding. India is both a country of transit and destination of exploited children. **Trafficking of children** for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the primary manifestations of exploitation of children in India. Northeast Indians living in miserable socio-economic and human rights conditions in India.
- **Jammu and Kashmir:** Systematic violations of human rights by **Pakistan, India and China**, including attacks on journalists and civil society. There is a lack of accountability of security forces. There is a **need to establish an independent international investigation mechanism**. Women are repeatedly used as weapon of war by India in occupied Jammu Kashmir. The prisoners are kept in different jails in India in which they have no medical facilities. The Council was called to adopt and formalize the term 'China occupied Jammu & Kashmir' for referring to the large portions of my homeland that Beijing illegally holds today.
- **Iran:** Deep concerns over the state-driven systematic persecution of the **Bahá'ís**. Iran is supporting international terrorism via proxies, threatening **Israel** and other states in the region and causing global instability.
- **Pakistan:** Some organizations urge the country to **abolish its blasphemy laws**, and to do everything it can to end all violence provoked by allegations of blasphemy or apostasy. Others denounce Pakistani state aggression in **Balochistan**.
- **U.S.:** The systemic **racism problem** presented by the Floyd incident. After the invasion and occupation of **Iraq** in March 2003, Iraq has only suffered. The invasion left the country in chaos, under the hegemony of the militias, and the attacks of terrorist.
- **Russia:** Russian authorities have embarked on a severe **crackdown on civic freedoms** after authorities brutally responded to nationwide anti-war protests, threatened and shut independent media outlets for reporting about the war in **Ukraine**, and blocked access to social media and media websites. Serious concerns over reports of "arrests" and abductions of Ukrainian activists by the Russian military. Russia's expulsion from the **Council of Europe** deprives millions of people of access to the European Court of Human Rights.
- **UAE:** The rights to **peaceful assembly, expression and association** are significantly threatened.
- **Kazakhstan:** Protests in January turned lethal, and thousands of protesters faced **arbitrary mass detention**. There has been no effective investigation of allegations of widespread torture and ill-treatment and unnecessary and excessive use of lethal force.
- **Azerbaijan:** The issue of **internally displaced families** requires the Council's attention.

- **Madagascar:** The lack of **prenatal facilities** in rural areas; government's failure to implement the prevention component of their "National Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula"; the continued high level of early pregnancies.
- **Brazil:** Violence against **indigenous peoples** has intensified in recent years. In 2020, once again, **invasions and illegal exploration of natural assets** in indigenous territories increased, mainly by loggers and mining.
- **Poland: Ukrainians** fleeing to **Poland** because of the *Russian* aggression, especially women and children face increased risks of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and their sexual and reproductive health and rights are under threat.
- **China:** Calls on **Hong Kong** and **China** to end the arbitrary punishment of critics and media figures and to repeal all laws inconsistent with Hong Kong's Basic Law. There is a continued crackdown on civil society in Hong Kong. Chinese authorities' continued crimes against humanity in **Xianjing**. China should give unfettered access to **Tibetan regions** during the High Commissioner's visit this year.
- **Saudi Arabia and Yemen:** Saudi Arabia and its coalition allies twisted their way to impunity by lobbying the HRC members to terminate the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts. This has resulted in the doubling of civilian casualties in **Yemen**.
- **Yemen:** Alarmed by reports of increased suppression of girls in Houthi areas including forced separation of gender-mixed school classes, encouraging assault on girls who do not respect an **imposed strict dress code**, and the **radicalization of the education system** to mobilize and recruit children for war. The Houthi militia has committed a number of murders, displacements, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests.

List of NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (99):

Center for Global Nonkilling, European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, B'nai B'rith, Human Rights Watch, Villages Unis (United Villages Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), Chinese Association for International Understanding, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers), World Jewish Congress, MsCentre Europe - Tiers Monde, Disability Association of Tavana, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, World Evangelical Alliance, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Peace Track Initiative, The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development, Mr. Junaid Qureshi Edmund Rice International Limited, Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Society for Threatened Peoples, International Action for Peace & Sustainable Development, Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des revendications démocratiques/culturelles du peuple Azerbaïdjanais-Iran - « ARC », Amnesty International, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Promotion du Développement Economique et Social (PDES), Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Alliance Creative Community Project, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, Human Rights Now, Mr. Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil, Reprieve, Global Appreciation and Skills Training Network, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Alliance Defending Freedom, Alsalam Foundation, Iraqi Development Organization, Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Centre Zagros pour les Droits de l'Homme, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, OCAPROCE Internationale - Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale, Global Welfare Association, Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, World Barua Organization (WBO), Integrated Youth Empowerment - Common Initiative Group (I.Y.E. – C.I.G.), Association Internationale pour l'égalité des femmes, Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group, International Muslim Women's Union, Human Rights House Foundation, Peace Brigades International, Coordinating Board of Jewish

Organizations, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Minority Rights Group, Federation for Women and Family Planning, International Service for Human Rights, Baha'i International Community, Presse Embleme Campagne, British Humanist Association, Association of Iranian Short Statured Adults, International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities, Franciscans International, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, World Muslim Congress, Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Africa Culture Internationale, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, American Association of Jurists, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Humanist and Ethical Union, African Green Foundation International, Ingenieurs du Monde, Réseau unité pour le développement de Mauritanie, Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, Youth Parliament for SDG, International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, VIVAT International, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), Christian Solidarity Worldwide, The Next Century Foundation, Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI), United Nations Watch, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The Partners For Transparency, International Commission of Jurists, Zéro Pauvre Afrique, Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration, iuventum e.V., Prahar, Human Is Right, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Shivi Development Society, Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Tumuku Development and Cultural Union (TACUDU), Japan Society for History Textbook, Union of Northwest Human Rights Organisation, Global Life Savers Inc, Comité International pour le Respect et l'Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CIRAC), DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture.

Full recording of the General Debate meetings on Item 4 is available on the UN WebTV, [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#).