

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner

14-15 June 2022



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Photo: Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, 50th Session of the Human Rights Council, 13 June 2022. UN Photo by Jean Marc Ferré. Retrieved from UN flickr.

Presentation of the report¹ by the High Commissioner

Presenting her annual report, the UN High Commissioner **Ms. Michelle Bachelet** updated the Council on the analysis, relevant developments and priorities of her Office. She began by setting the backdrop for the current context, referring to the war in **Ukraine** destroying lives, causing destruction, and inflicting horrors on the civilian population leaving a mark for generations to come. She pointed to the serious socio-economic and political ramifications, with global food, fuel and finance crisis risking plunging millions into food insecurity and poverty which will be particularly devastating for the most vulnerable. 1,2 billion people live in countries severely vulnerable to finance, food, and energy shocks, and the WFP has estimated that the number of severely food insecure people will grow from 276 million at the start of 2022 to 323 million by the end of the year. Ms. Bachelet then drew attention to the growing inequalities between countries threatening COVID-19 recovery, implementation of the SDGs, and Climate Action. She reminded that the 2030 Agenda and Paris agreement must remain our blueprint for the ambition to build transformative societies and greener economies more resilient to crisis, and in addition to stronger immediate action, it is vital to address the underlying conditions of challenges and global crises. Ms. Bachelet called for bold and urgent action to meet the SDGs and referred to the Secretary-General's [Call to Action on Human Rights](#), calling for a more networked and inclusive multilateralism. She then highlighted four areas of intervention:

¹ [A/HRC/50/4](#): Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

- 1) **Tackling inequality and discrimination** is essential, and greater equality can be a more powerful in reducing poverty than growth. OHCHR continues work to tackle inequality and discrimination, including by contributing to efforts to develop metrics beyond the GDP, covering a range of inequalities to measure progress. In several countries in **Europe** and the **Americas**, OHCHR has provided guidance and delivered training to national authorities and UN entities on antidiscrimination and indigenous peoples rights. Several other countries, including **Georgia, Malawi, Mozambique, and North Macedonia**, have been supported to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In terms of seeking justice, OHCHR has provided technical advice to enhance investigation protocols for gender related killings of women e.g., in **Chile** and **Honduras**, and contributed to the development of UN system wide operational guidance to UN country level work. In **Guinea Bissau**, together with the UN country team and the government, OHCHR supported country-wide consultations including with most disadvantaged groups to ensure a human rights based approach in the country's first voluntary national review. In **Serbia**, they supported the government to mainstream the pledge *leave no one behind* in government policy and law-making, and the development of an action plan for the national anti-discrimination strategy will draw on this effort. The High Commissioner highlighted the importance of collecting disaggregated data in fighting inequality, which remains largely unavailable especially regarding multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, stating that "*we cannot fix what we cannot see.*" Together with UNDP, OHCHR launched a joint project to strengthen **UN Country Teams and NHRIs capacities** on SDGs and prevention, including on disaggregated indicators and data on marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- 2) **Integrating human rights into national budgets** can be a powerful lever for SDG progress, if designed and implemented through a human rights based approach and sufficient resources are allocated, as increasing spending in social sectors will strengthen countries capacity to withstand shocks. OHCHR is assisting countries to analyze their budgets, mobilize resources and create more fiscal space through a human rights lens. For example, in **Somalia**, through the UN assistance mission, the OHCHR helps assess the human rights compliance of the government's social protection Cash Transfer scheme. The pandemic had illustrated the stabilizing force of social protection, and positive steps had been made by some States in adopting and financing innovative measures, expanding coverage to informal workers, undocumented migrants, and specific vulnerable populations, integrating gender responsive elements, increasing social protection benefits and enacting laws to support employees and self-employed. Simultaneously, over 4 billion people remain without access to any social protection and developing countries lack 1,2 trillion USD per year to fill the social protection gap. OHCHR has supported states in their efforts in this regard. In **Timor Leste** together with the government and ILO, they are exploring strategies to extend social protection coverage to women and informal workers, who are disproportionately affected by poverty. In **South Africa** OHCHR is engaging with the development community in preparing its model on public finance management, providing guidance on human rights based social sector investment and recommendations on domestic resource mobilization options including progressive taxation. Ms. Bachelet hopes this can serve as a benchmark for national parliaments to reinforce the domestic legal framework on public financial management.
- 3) **Greater international cooperation and solidarity** including debt relief and a significant boost in financial resources to achieve the SDGs is needed. Ms. Bachelet urged countries to remember their commitment to *build forward better*, noting that it is time to redouble efforts towards the 0,007% ODA target, reminding that social spending today yields better societal outcomes tomorrow. The **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** can serve as a guide for better aligning private investment with human rights and development objectives. Reform of the international financial architecture is needed to shift towards a system with coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable debt solutions.
- 4) **Civic space as the most crucial element of building resilience.** The High Commissioner was particularly concerned over the continuing attacks against defenders and journalists offline and online. In making civil society participation more inclusive and safer, OHCHR has led efforts to develop UN Guidance Note on Civic Space and has supported human rights defender's networks in the **Pacific** and the **Americas**, as well as Women Human Rights defender's networks in **Ethiopia, Tanzania** and elsewhere in **East Africa**.

Two country visits were undertaken since the High Commissioners last update; one to **Afghanistan**, on which a separate update will be given during this session, and another to **China**, where Ms. Bachelet engaged in dialogue with senior leaders and officials at national level and met key representatives at the regional level in **Canton** and **Xinjiang**. Discussions on specific human rights concerns were held, including on human rights violations in the context of China's policy for countering terrorism and safeguarding national security; protection of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities; judicial and legal protection including for women; human rights in the digital space; and business human rights. Concerns over the human rights situation of the predominantly Muslim minorities were raised, including regarding broad arbitrary detention and patterns of

abuse in the VETC system and other detention facilities, and the human rights concerns in the **Tibet** and Hong Kong regions. The visit included exchanges with survivors, family members, and civil society representatives. Ms. Bachelet announced the agreement with the government of China of holding of an **annual senior meeting on human rights** and to continue exchanges of the topics and human rights issues of concern.

She further updated the Council on a few critical situations that call for urgent action, noting that the situations in **Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Venezuela** will be addressed separately during this session.

- **Haiti:** the structural and long-standing challenge of impunity for corruption and human rights violations is one of the root causes of violence. The human rights situation in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince is deteriorating, with killings, kidnappings, and sexual violence, including against children, used to instil fear. The international community must take urgent comprehensive action.
- **South Sudan:** despite some progress in transitional justice, authorities must fight impunity, hold perpetrators of human rights violations to account, and encourage compensation to victims. The institutional vacuum impeding justice and accountability for violations including the killings of civilians in the context of intercommunal violence continues to be worrying.
- **Kazakhstan:** welcomed investigations related to events that took place early 2022.
- **Israel:** authorities must open investigation into the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Israel should, investigate and ensure appropriate accountability for every case of death and serious injury inflicted by Israeli forces.
- **Türkiye:** trials and prison sentences for activists and political opponents, such as Osman Kavala and Canan Kaftancıoğlu, are of concern. In the runup of the elections, special attention must be paid to fundamental freedoms, political participation, due process, gender equality and addressing the rise in violence and anti-refugee sentiments.
- **United Kingdom:** plans to replace the Human Rights Act with a more limited legislation is worrying, and risks undermining access to justice and the right to effective remedies, introduce legal uncertainty, and increase costs.
- **Guatemala:** a pattern of attacks against justice officials for their work involving emblematic cases of serious human rights violations, corruption and impunity. The State must guarantee the independence of the judicial institutions and protection of justice officials.
- **Mexico:** encouraged the strengthening of civil institutions to establish an orderly plan to withdraw the military from public security tasks.
- **Singapore:** recent executions over drug related offences are of concern. The government must pose a moratorium on the death penalty, especially for non-violent drug related crimes. All States should abolish the death penalty, positive steps taken in the **Central African Republic, Malaysia** and **Zambia**.
- **El Salvador:** measures adopted under the state of emergency to fight gang violence and the subsequent criminal law amendment increase the risk of arbitrary detention and torture of detainees. More than 38,000 people have been arrested in the context of the state of emergency, and particular concern over the at least 21 deaths in custody reported by official sources.
- **Colombia:** the peaceful and democratic character of the first round of the presidential elections was welcomed. The Peace Agreement must be effectively implemented and group responsible for increasing violence dismantled. Welcomed the significant transitional justice development, including acknowledgement by military officials over responsibility for killings of civilians falsely presented as killed in combat. State must ensure independence of transitional justice mechanisms and guarantee protection of participating witnesses and victims.
- On the recent unconstitutional changes of power in **Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, and Mali**, reasonable transitional road maps and election calendars to yield power to civilian led governments with democratic legitimacy must be provided. Transitions must be inclusive and address the wider grievances of the populations and build democratic societies grounded in accountability and rule of law.
- **Central African Republic** and **Mali:** worsening of the human rights situation as state military operations have increased, including with deployment of private military actors.
- **Burkina Faso:** civilians are victims of attacks and threats by extremist armed groups and national military and security operations. Regional partnerships and collective responses to security challenges and terrorist related threats are crucial in the **Sahel region**. Paralysis of the **G5 Sahel Joint Force** stemming from **Mali's** decision to withdraw from all G5 Sahel organs is regrettable.
- **Ethiopia:** new escalations in human rights violations and abuse as part of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, and attacks against civilians, arbitrary detentions, and destruction of property in the Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia regions. Growing religious tensions signals the need to tackle the underlying issues.
- **Yemen:** context of grave food insecurity. All parties must agree to extend the fragile truce which began 2 April 2022, and work with the UN Special Envoy.

Regrettably, the transfer of executive power to a Presidential Leadership Council, does not include women. The Council should prioritize a peaceful end to the judiciary strike that has had negative effects on due process safeguards.

- The impact of the war in **Ukraine** and on those caught up in protracted conflicts in the region, including parts of the **South Caucasus, the Western Balkans**, and the **Transnistria region** in **Moldova**. Engagement through existing negotiations needs to be stepped up to contribute to prevention, confidence building and protection in the region.
- **Sri Lanka**: in negotiating a recovery plan, the government must ensure immediate relief for the most marginalized and vulnerable groups and prioritize social protection. Focus on deeper institutional reforms to ensure greater transparency and accountability in governance, reduce inequalities, and advance reconciliation and justice for all communities is needed.
- **Lebanon**: growing poverty, inequality, food insecurity, and reduced access to health care and other essential services are troubling. Following recent elections, a new government must be formed urgently, that can enact human rights based reforms. Authorities must urgently enable resumption of investigations into the Beirut port explosion.
- **DPRK**: the human rights impacts of the reported COVID-19 outbreak in the absence of vaccination rollout, a limited health care infrastructure, and precarious food situation is of concern. Sanctions must be relaxed to enable

urgent humanitarian and Covid-related assistance. The DPRK must open channels for humanitarian support in the presence of UN staff.

- **Angola** and **Kenya**: hope for peaceful and inclusive elections.
- Welcomed **Colombia's** decision to de-criminalize abortion following positive developments globally, including most recently in **Argentina** and **Mexico**. *"It is time for progress not further restriction"* in this essential right, as is under consideration in the **U.S.**
- **Brazil**: threats against environmental human rights defenders and indigenous people alarming. Police violence and structural racism are of concern, as attacks against legislators and candidates particularly those of African descent, women and LGBTIQ+ people ahead of the general elections in October. Authorities must ensure respect for fundamental rights and independent institutions.
- **Russian Federation**: arbitrary arrests of many anti-war protestors, new criminal law restrictions, and increasing censorship and restrictions on independent media worrying.
- **Tajikistan**: due process standards must be respected in case of alleged human rights violations against activists, journalists, and bloggers. The government must seek constructive communication with all communities and secure freedom of expression for all.

Ms. Bachelet concluded by noting that increased globalization and converging economic and technological interests has not shielded us from division. Deepening polarization, global events and behavior is driving states further apart, some more emboldened in their positions, and others caught in the crossfire. She called for dialogue in pursuing challenges with a common purpose, focusing on what unites us, and urged for a greater sense of collective responsibility and ambition, that puts people, their protection, and their rights first. Ms. Bachelet then referred to her term as High Commissioner ending, this being the last session that she will brief.

Interactive Dialogue: Statements by States

Member States: Joint Statements	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of a group of countries) ²	Expressed deep concern over the situation in Sri Lanka . Violent attacks on peaceful protestors and subsequent violence against government aligned politicians and supporters. Urged the Sri Lankan authorities to address long-standing impunity and corruption and called on Sri Lanka to cooperate with the High Commissioner, expressing readiness to support the country on the implementation of HRC resolution 46/1.
Paraguay (on behalf of a group of countries)	Highlighted the importance of the UPR process and of regional consultations, as well as the important role of national human right mechanisms and strengthening their structure and function.

² Canada, Germany, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, United States

Gambia (on behalf of a group of 67 countries)	Emphasised the importance of the food security crisis, affecting more than 1.7 billion people. The war in Ukraine has disrupted agricultural production, destroyed infrastructure and deepened risks for the global supply chain increasing the risk of hunger and famine with huge implications on livelihoods. Hunger should not be used as a weapon of war.
Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group)	Concerned about the human rights situation in some parts of the world, particularly in a context marked by the Covid-19 pandemic , which has exacerbated existing inequalities and gaps between the marginalized and the privileged. Actions are required to find urgent solutions to address a deepening of food insecurity . Urged the High Commissioner to highlight the importance of international solidarity in a time of rising food crisis.
Republic of Korea (on behalf of a group of countries) ³	Welcomed the OHCHR's report on <i>"the practical application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP) to the activities of technology companies"</i> . Hoped that the OHCHR will continue to play its leading role in optimizing digital transformation through respect for human rights, based on multi-stakeholder cooperation.
Netherlands (on behalf of a group of countries) ⁴	Expressed concern over human rights situation in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region . Numerous credible reports indicate that over a million people have been arbitrarily detained. There are reports of ongoing widespread surveillance, discrimination against Uyghurs and other persons belonging to minorities as well as of severe restrictions on Uyghur culture and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Called upon China to urgently address these concerns and implement the CERD's eight recommendations relating to Xinjiang from August 2018, as well as the concerns raised by numerous Special Procedures. Expressed concern about the deterioration of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong and the human rights situation in Tibet . Urged China to ensure full respect for the rule of law and to provide meaningful and unfettered access for independent observers to Xinjiang.
Lithuania (on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries)	Condemned Russia's attack against Ukraine . Urged all States to uphold their obligations under international law; ensure that civilians caught in armed conflict are fully protected in accordance with IHL; immediately end violence; ensure full respect for the human rights of all protecting those in most vulnerable situations including children and persons with disabilities, women and girls, journalists and media workers, human rights defenders and other members of civil society; and to end impunity ensuring accountability for violations and abuses of IHRL and IHL.
Luxembourg (on behalf of a group of countries)	Urged the High Commissioner to include atrocious prevention measures in technical assistance provided by her Office. The UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes can be an important tool in identifying a country's individual protection gaps. Called upon the High Commissioner to work closely with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, mandated to provide early warning of atrocity crimes, to identify areas to strengthen cooperation and coordination, and to alert concerned States and the wider international community of necessary action considering deteriorating crises.
Cuba (on behalf of a group of countries) ⁵	Opposed the politicization of human rights. Tibet and Hong Kong are China's internal affairs . Rejected countries' double standards. All human rights should be treated with the same importance. The international community should uphold multilateralism and international solidarity.

³ Core group of the resolution on "New and emerging digital technologies and human rights: Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore

⁴ Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States

⁵ Algeria, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Lao PDR, Pakistan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

China (on behalf of a group of countries)	Concerned over the politicization and confrontational nature of the HRC. Highlighted the importance of the principles of equity, justice, inclusiveness, solidarity, objectivity, and impartiality. Respect of the sovereignty of States and geographical equality must be guaranteed.
Statements made by the Member States	
Mexico	Concerned about COVID-19, climate change, and armed conflict . It is important that Haiti combats violence, including sexual violence, and ensures accountability.
United States of America	Welcomed the High Commissioner's work on the human rights situations in Russia, Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, DPRK, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Burma, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Venezuela, and Yemen , among others. Condemned Russia's attack on Ukraine , denounced Russia's abuses against its own people and intensified repression of civil society and independent media. Concerned that Beijing's conditions imposed on the High Commissioner's visit did not enable independent assessment of the human rights situation, including in Xinjiang where genocide and crimes against humanity are ongoing.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Concerned about the human rights situation in China , especially in Xinjiang . Remains concerned about the worsening situation in Hong Kong , where arrests of lawyers, journalists and others under the National Security Law continue. Condemned Russia's repression against Ukraine and its own citizens. Called for the immediate release of politician and human rights activist Vladimir Kara-Murza and called out the continued imprisonment of Alexander Navalny. Repression continues against LGBT people, particularly in Chechnya, and freedom of religion continues to be curbed, particularly against the Jehovah's Witnesses across Russia.
Côte d'Ivoire	Concerned about the crises and conflicts that threaten international peace and security , and human rights, in particular the right to food, health, education and the environment . Reminded the Council to recall the values of impartiality, respect of sovereignty and universality, specifically regarding China, Xinxiang and Hong Kong .
Ukraine	Drew attention to the grave human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression, which remains one of the defining modern-day challenges to human rights. Russia's starvation plan is on the course of becoming a crime against humanity, aiming to deliberately starve tens of millions in Africa and Asia in order to extract political concessions in the war.
Malawi	Highlighted the importance of fighting discrimination and inequality . Agreed with the High Commissioner that national budgets should integrate human rights.
Armenia	Welcomed OHCHR's prioritization of prevention of genocide in its advocacy work. Valued the guidance that the Office provides , in particular for the adoption and implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. The situation in Ukraine has also had impact on those caught up in protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus . There is a need to step up engagement to contribute to prevention, confidence-building and protection, especially in Nagorno-Karabakh . Reiterated its adherence to One China policy and commended China for its determination to eradicate poverty.
Pakistan	Commended the OHCHR for its continued monitoring and reporting of India's escalating human rights violations in occupied Jammu & Kashmir . India continues to subvert the UN Charter principles, Security Council resolutions and 4th Geneva Convention provisions by illegally altering demographics of the disputed territory. The Council must take credible steps to uphold Kashmiri people's fundamental rights and hold India accountable.
Kazakhstan	Call upon all UN Member States to pay their contributions to the OHCHR and ensure that its activities are fully funded. The critical amendments to the Constitution supported by citizens that strengthened the human rights protection system are the explicit prohibition on the death penalty in the Constitution, establishment of a Constitutional Court and strengthening the independence

	of the Ombudsperson from State bodies and officials and providing guarantees of her inviolability. Welcomed the High Commissioner's recent visit to China .
Nepal	The inequality gaps between and within countries have further widened. Committed to protect the rights of women, girls, children, elderly, migrants and other marginalized and vulnerable populations. Urged the international community for robust and collaborative efforts for climate action and the timely achievement of SDGs.
Republic of Korea	Concerned over Russia's invasion against Ukraine . The Republic of Korea has played a leading role with the Core Group in the discussion on local governments' critical role in the promotion and protection of human rights.
Mauritania	It is important to respond to climate change and the global consequences of armed conflicts as well as those of the pandemic . There must be a greater commitment to economic and social rights , as well as the right to a clean environment . The OHCHR must be provided with the necessary financial means .
Malaysia	Welcomed and encouraged by the positive cooperation of the OHCHR, through its offices in Geneva, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur to develop Malaysia's National Recommendations Tracking Database for UPR . The abolishment of mandatory death penalty in Malaysia is a great development.
Russia Federation	Regretted the unprecedented increase in the one-sidedness and politicization of the High Commissioner's approach assessing the situation in Ukraine . The High Commissioner ignores the evidence Russia regularly sends about crimes of the Kyiv regime in Donbass, including inhuman torture and killings of Russian soldiers. Western countries are fostering Russophobia. Condemned the supply of lethal weapons to Ukraine by Western countries.
Namibia	Called on the High Commissioner to refer to the situation of human rights in the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara .
Montenegro	Condemned the Russian aggression against Ukraine . Welcomed the Office's work in risk analysis, early warning and accountability for human rights violations to prevent conflict and violence and protect the human rights of affected individuals.
Luxembourg	Expressed concern about the climate crisis, destructive conflicts and the instrumentalization of the fight against terrorism for the purposes of repression. Expressed support to strengthen the capacities of all states to protect and promote human rights, with the help of the Office, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Expressed concern about the renewed attempts by some hegemonic countries to instrumentalize human rights against developing countries. There is a sustained "fake news" campaign about Xinjiang in China . Welcomed the visit by the High Commissioner to China, which deepened the bonds of cooperation through broad consensus. The Office must strengthen cooperation and assistance in human rights with the countries of the South and prioritize the fight against illegal UCMs .
India	Greater emphasis should be placed on technical assistance and capacity-building , in consultation with and with the consent of the concerned States, to bring about improvement in the human rights situation on the ground. Expressed its commitment to supporting the activities of the OHCHR , including through financial contribution.
France	Awaits with great interest the report of the High Commission on the human rights situation in Xinjiang . Condemned both Russia's attack on Ukraine and Belarus's complicity as well as violations against freedom of expression in these two countries. Denounced abuses in Mali , systematic repression against women in Afghanistan , and the human rights abuses of the Syrian regime.
Germany	Expressed concern about the human rights situation in China , in particular Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong and urged for the release of the announced OHCHR-report on Xinjiang. Condemned President Putin's illegal annexation of Crimea and occupied parts of

	eastern Ukraine . Also expressed concern about the human rights situation in Afghanistan, North Korea, South Sudan, Egypt, Venezuela and Yemen .
Japan	Emphasized the protection of the right to freedom of expression . Condemned the abductions carried out by the DPRK and said it must be resolved with utmost urgency
United Arab Emirates	The UAE has combatted terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations and was one of the first countries to adopt a comprehensive strategy in this regard.
Paraguay	For a better fulfillment of its obligations, Paraguay established an executive inter-institutional commission (CICSI) to carry out effective actions for the follow-up and implementation of the commitments derived from the international system for the protection of human rights.
Senegal	Concerned about the impact of conflict, terrorism, unconstitutional regime change, and inequality . The rise of supranationalism, racism, religious intolerance and climate change undermine the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms for millions of people. Urged the international community to pay particular attention to the issue of climate change, the fight against impunity, the guarantee of equitable, affordable and universal access to vaccines and medicines in the context of the fight against pandemics, racism, the debt crisis and the strengthening of international cooperation.
Qatar	Highlighted the importance of international solidarity and cooperation and working to achieve equality and reduce poverty and inequality between countries so that no one is left behind. Condemned the Israeli forces' assassination of the Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh, which comes as part of an organized policy of assassination and deliberate killing of a Palestinian civilian. Welcomed the extension of the armistice period in Yemen .
Czech Republic	Condemned the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine as well as Byelorussian complicity . Also concerned about restrictions of fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, as well as freedom of association and peaceful assembly in Russia and Belarus . Reiterated its serious concern over the human rights situation in Myanmar and China , particularly human rights violations against minorities in Xinjiang, Tibet and inner Mongolia .
Cuba	Impartiality and universality in the treatment of human rights must prevail in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the fight against politicization and selectivity . Welcomed the recent visit of the High Commissioner to China . Expressed concern about actions under the so-called prevention agenda, which does not enjoy consensus and is dependent on the political interests and financing of developed countries.
Finland	The unlawful Russian invasion has severely hampered Ukraine's vital grain production and export. This combined with COVID19-pandemic disruptions and drought has devastating effects for millions. Expressed concern over severe free speech restrictions in Russia and China , human rights violations against girls and women in Afghanistan , and attacks against the rights of Uighurs, Rohingyas, LGBTIQ-persons and other minorities.
Lithuania	Condemned the attack of Russia against Ukraine . Expressed concerned over the deterioration of human rights in Russia, Belarus and Afghanistan .
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Committed to implementing social and collective policies in line with human rights. Commended the High Commissioner's visit to China and fostering constructive dialogue. Urged for professionalism in the High Commissioner's visits and called on countries to avoid double standards and interference in domestic matters. Highlighted the importance of the exacerbation of inequalities as a

	result of the pandemic in developing countries and the South. Discrimination, racism and economic, social and cultural rights must be prioritised.
Brazil	It is important to strengthen the fight against racism and discrimination . Fair and transparent elections are being guaranteed in the country.
Eritrea	The report on Eritrea perpetuates negative narratives . Commended the High Commissioner's visit to China and expressed it is important to guarantee the full integrity of the country.
Uzbekistan	Respect of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States are all fundamental principles. Supported the One China Policy. The protection of human rights must be guaranteed through constructive dialogue. Welcomed the agreements reached between the High Commissioner and China.
China	Welcomed the visit of the High Commissioner to the country. Condemned the spread of false information about the country as well as countries that support the report on Xinjiang . More than 100 countries in the Council supported China and echoed its position. The report on Xinjiang violates the mandate of the OHCHR and should not be published.
Statements made by the Observers (Joint Statements)	
European Union	Condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine . The war of aggression has affected the food chain. Condemned the crackdown on human rights in Belarus and Russia. Urged China to respect human rights in Mongolia, Xinjiang and Tibet . Expressed concern over the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Venezuela , and Türkiye . Commended Libya for the cooperation provided to the FFM. Expressed concern over the situation in the OPT and Israel .
South Africa (on behalf of a group of countries) ⁶	Expressed grave concern about the illegal use of drones by Morocco targeting civilians and livestock in the Western Sahara . The repression exerted by Morocco against the Saharawi civilian population, notably human rights defenders, journalists and political prisoners, has increased. Called upon the High Commissioner to dispatch an observation mission to the Occupied Western Sahara.
Comoros (on behalf of Group of support of the Territorial Integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco) ⁷	Called upon the preservation of the bilateral character of the interaction of Member States with the Council and the High Commissioner to avoid any instrumentalization and counterproductive political debates. The Sahara issue is a political dispute handled by the Security Council that recognizes the pre-eminence of the Autonomy Initiative presented by Morocco as credible and serious for a definitive political solution to this regional dispute over the Sahara.
Panama (on behalf of a group of countries) ⁸	Global military spending is at records levels. Called upon States to reduce military spending and reallocate resources towards the realization of human rights and SDGs, including gender equality, while addressing the specific needs of women, children, persons with disabilities, people of African descent, indigenous peoples and people in vulnerable or marginalized situations; and to promote and ensure effective public participation and oversight in national budgeting processes.
Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group)	Highlighted the importance of avoiding selectivity, politicization and ensuring accountability in order to maintain the credibility of the Council. It is important to find innovative solutions to enhance food security .

⁶ Algeria, Angola, Bolivia, Botswana, Cuba, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

⁷ Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Morocco

⁸ Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, State of Palestine, Tunisia, Uruguay

Statements made by the Observers	
Cambodia	Called for the OHCHR to work in a fair and depoliticized manner . Denounced the OHCHR Spokesperson for making unfounded allegations that opposition candidates in the country were reluctant to register electoral complaints and kept silent on dangerous populist rhetoric of certain opposition elements in Cambodia. Appreciated China for receiving the High Commissioner's visit, leading to the creation of Annual Senior Strategic Meeting and a Working Group to facilitate human rights cooperation.
Tunisia	Reaffirmed the country's commitment to democracy and respect and promotion of rights and freedoms within the framework of the reform path that Tunisia embarked on since July 25, 2021. The country created the National Consultative Commission for a New Republic to oversee the course of the national dialogue and prepare proposals for constitutional, economic and social reforms that will be submitted to a popular referendum on next July 25, in view of organizing legislative elections in December 17, 2022 .
Ghana	Ghana welcomed the recent visit of the High Commissioner to China and commended China for facilitating the visit.
Panama	Welcomed the collaboration provided to the country through the increased implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights , the promotion of the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people and capacity building to enhance the engagement of various stakeholders with human rights mechanisms.
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	The UN human rights mechanisms need to be safeguarded against political biases . Concerned on the impact of gun violence on children, families and communities in the U.S . Condemned the U.S for not being able to protect children from gun violence, particularly in schools. UCMs continue aggravate the food crisis across the globe, especially in the South.
Burkina Faso	Concerned about the human rights situation in the Sahel region. Grateful to the OHCHR for the technical assistance and capacity building that the country receives which enables it to face the complex challenges imposed by terrorism.
Lesotho	Highlighted the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of another State, which is intertwined with the right to equality and respect for sovereignty of states without exceptions.
Sweden	Condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine . Concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus, Afghanistan, Iran and OPT . Condemned the military coup and the violence against civilians in Myanmar and the human rights violations in China .
Mali	Remains attentive to the proposal for an international instrument on the prevention of pandemics , essentially guided by a spirit of collective solidarity, anchored in the principles of equity, inclusion and transparency. There is a persistence of armed terrorist group activities in Mali and in the rest of the Sahel .
Uganda	Highlighted the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in all spheres to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights for all people around the globe. After the pandemic, countries need to focus on the right to development and economic growth to guarantee a better management of the crisis in the future.
Hungary	Reaffirmed its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and expressed concern over the food crisis. Highlighted the importance of the rights of the child and persons with disabilities ; elimination of violence against women and girls ; protection and promotion of the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities ; as well as the support of persecuted ethnic and religious communities , such as persecuted Christians. Concerned about the disproportionate and biased attention towards Israel .
Yemen	Houthi militias have not abided by the terms of the armistice. The Yemeni government attaches great importance to lifting the siege and opening the main crossings and outlets to the city of Taiz. Called upon States to put pressure on the Houthi militia to stop its aggressive behavior and racist policy towards the Yemeni people.

Burundi	Welcomed the High Commissioner's fruitful visit to China , including the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, at the invitation of the Chinese government. Regretted that some States take advantage of the work of the Council to implement their hidden political agendas, based on human rights issues, in order to continue to tarnish the image of China.
Niger	Welcomed the High Commissioner's support in the process of revising Law No. 2015-36 on the smuggling of migrants , in order to bring it into line with international standards. Pointed out that after several years of implementation, the law has proved to be ineffective in the prevention and protection of migrants. This is why the Nigerien government has undertaken the process of overhauling it, with the participation of all stakeholders, in order to correct these shortcomings.
Nigeria	Reiterated the importance of genuine international cooperation , devoid of polarization, politicization, and double standards to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people. Expressed concern over the prevailing attempts to create new notions, standards and misinterpretation of international treaties and other salient human rights instruments with the introduction of several non-consensual concepts and languages into the UN System.
Malta	Condemned Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and remain concerned about the attacks on civilian infrastructure. Expressed concern over the human rights situation in Afghanistan , in particular to the rights of women and girls, in Belarus and the OPTs .
South Africa	Welcomed the High Commissioner's strong focus on addressing inequalities and discrimination and supported the High Commissioner's four-point transformative agenda to uproot systematic racism and put an end to impunity . Reiterated its concern regarding the declining regular budget of the OHCHR and its increased dependency on voluntary funds, as this creates the risk of bilateralization of the work of the Office. Encouraged the High Commissioner to focus on the lingering crises and issues such as the situation in Palestine and Western Sahara .
Belarus	The conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated and accelerated a number of Western elites' shift away from multilateralism and international rules and leads to the crisis of a number of UN bodies. UCMs are used by Western countries as a foreign policy tool. Called on the UN to establish an international accountability mechanism for the use of UCMs. Condemned that Paralympians and athletes from Belarus and Russia are banned from competing and demanded that the UN and the International Olympic Committee take firm measures to fully restore their rights. Opposed the preparation by the OHCHR of any report on Xinjiang . This is an attempt to launch a pressure mechanism against China for political purposes.
Sri Lanka	Welcomed the visit by the OHCHR to China , including the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region , at the invitation of the Chinese government. Respect for the sovereignty and non-interference must form the bedrock of engagement in all multilateral fora. Sri Lanka will continue to adhere to the One China policy.
Georgia	Concerned over Russia's attack on Ukraine . It is imperative that accountability is ensured and justice is served for these gross violations through all available international legal mechanisms. Pointed out the deteriorated situation in the Russia occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, where the list of human rights violations includes ethnic discrimination, kidnappings, torture, ill-treatment, illegal detentions, restriction of freedom of movement. Called upon Russia to ensure unhindered, immediate and safe access of the OHCHR and other international human rights monitoring mechanisms to both occupied regions of Georgia.
Syrian Arab Republic	Western countries continue to resort to double standards and UCMs , which need to be monitored and eliminated. The rise of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in the U.S. and many EU countries . Called for monitoring violations associated with them and

	holding their perpetrators accountable. Condemned the illegal U.S. military presence on its territory under the pretext of combating ISIS , and the repeated threats by Türkiye and attacks on Syrian territory that claim the lives of innocent civilians and cause their forced displacement. Condemned the crimes of the Israeli in its settlement practices and its racist policies in the occupied State of Palestine and in the occupied Syrian Golan , and its acts of aggression which threaten peace and security in the region. Welcomed the agreements reached during the visit of the High Commissioner to China .
Republic of Moldova	Extended its solidarity to the people of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Syria . Expressed its gratitude to the OHCHR for the valuable technical assistance provided to national and local authorities in combating anti-discrimination, trainings and guidance to the Roma community mediators' institution as well as support for the confidence building measures with the Transnistrian region . Condemned the continuous degradation of the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region as there has been an increase of abuses, committed by the secessionist regime in Tiraspol against local political opponents, against freedom of speech and assembly, against human rights defenders and activists and freedom of movement between both banks of the Nistru river.
Türkiye	Called out the silence of the international community on the externalization of refugee policy of some countries, pushbacks and impunity. Highlighted the importance of the voluntary and safe return of Syrians . Reiterate that fundamental human rights, religious freedoms and cultural identities of the Uyghur Turks and other Muslim minorities should be respected and guaranteed by the Chinese authorities in a transparent manner.
Greece	Concerned that the war in Ukraine had global spill-over effects and is contributing substantially to the current food insecurity throughout the world. Welcomed the focus of the OHCHR on promoting the rights of women and girls , combating the global escalation of hate speech in the digital sphere as well as dealing with the global climate emergency . Concerned over the human rights situation in Afghanistan and Myanmar .
Uruguay	Reaffirmed that Uruguay values OHCHR's efforts throughout Latin America , including with respect to the growing challenges faced by human rights defenders and journalists to operate safely and without fear of reprisals. Recognized the leadership of the High Commissioner.
Denmark	Concerned with the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Belarus, China, Egypt, Israel , and the occupied Palestinian territory, Russia, Türkiye and Venezuela . Insisted that peace, justice, equality and the rule of law are essential elements in the prevention of human rights violations and abuses.
Egypt	Egypt has advanced in the field of promoting and respecting human rights in recent years through the launch of the first national strategy for human rights for the next five years. The Egyptian government believes in the importance of strengthening its partnership with civil society, listening to its concerns, and fully implementing the law regulating the work of non-governmental organizations.
Italy	Italy exercised its Presidency in an inclusive and participatory manner, with a result-oriented approach and with the aim of preserving the organization's role in the protection of human rights. Recalled that promoting women's and girls' rights and female empowerment as well as the rights of children , alongside the fight against all forms of discrimination are a priority.
Viet Nam	Called upon the international community to continue extending support and assistance to developing countries in the COVID-19 recovery process, to ensure a greener, more sustainable and more resilient post pandemic recovery while focusing on the economic, social and cultural rights of the states and people. Stressed the importance of socio-cultural and historical diversity .
Republic of Maldives	Expressed the importance of investing on the youth . Leaving no one behind is the key to ensuring progress and development. China has been an important development partner of Maldives. Reiterated its firm commitment to the long-standing One-China policy.

Mozambique	Welcomed the support provided by the OHCHR to some countries including Mozambique to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to ensure the UN Pledge on Leave No One Behind.
Latvia	Concerned about the attacks on journalists and other media workers worldwide. Civil society actors play a vital role in protecting and promoting human rights, as well as preventing human rights violations. Alarmed by the ever-shrinking civil society space worldwide and the increasing attempts to restrict the work of civil society organizations.
Holy See	Regarding the human rights situation in Ukraine, immediate attention and adequate response must be given to guaranteeing food security , which places millions of people at a drastically higher risk of acute hunger. Reiterated that a comprehensive commitment on the part of the international community is needed more than ever in order to reach a peaceful and swift resolution of the ongoing conflicts. Recalled the appeal of Pope Francis to reject war as a means to settle disputes.
Thailand	Highlighted the right to privacy in the digital age and the Personal Data Protection Act which has been reviewed to better govern data protection and to provide more online safety for individuals. Also highlighted, the draft Civil Partnership Act, a part of which recognizes the rights of LGBTI+ , has been submitted for the Parliament's consideration. Thailand has successfully expanded COVID-19 vaccine rollout for all, regardless of nationality and migration status.
Iceland	Concerned over the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation , including erosion of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, systematic crackdown on civil society, political opposition and media, and the use of disinformation contributing to Russia's war against Ukraine . Also expressed concerned over the human rights situation in Belarus, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Afghanistan .
Australia	Called on all member states to support the OHCHR's financial and institutional sustainability . Condemned the illegal and unprovoked Russian aggression in Ukraine . Stressed the importance of the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda , including in Ukraine. Highlighted the importance of climate change which exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and indigenous issues . Expressed concerned about the severe human rights violations against Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities .
Ecuador	Highlighted the importance of discrimination, inequality, poverty and the climate crisis , which undermine progress in achieving the SDGs. Welcomed the assistance of the Office to promote the implementation of the SIDERECHOS platform and, consequently, the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms.
Iraq	Iraq continues to work with the OHCHR in Baghdad in a cooperative spirit and in good faith and encourages the Office in Baghdad to work in a participatory spirit with national institutions. Urged States to continue working to keep the Council's work based on the principles of objectivity, non-selectivity, equality, and non-politicization .
State of Palestine	Condemned Israel's human rights violations and mentioned that since the start of 2022, more than 68 Palestinian civilians have been killed by Israel. Israel continues to target human rights defenders and journalists. Further condemned the killing of the veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Israel continues destroying Palestinian homes and properties and forcibly displacing Palestinian families. The international community must hold Israel accountable.
Switzerland	Condemned Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and the involvement of Belarus . Also expressed concern over gang violence in Haiti and its serious impact on human rights, human rights violations in Mali, Sri Lanka and Iran . Reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to the human rights situation in Libya and pleaded for the extension of the mandate of the FFM.

Estonia	The human rights situations have deteriorated further in Afghanistan, Belarus, Eritrea, Myanmar, and Syria . Russia's aggression against Ukraine has caused profound and lasting damage to the children. Condemned the forced deportation of unaccompanied children to the Russian Federation by the Russian authorities and their local collaborators, as well as their illegal adoption.
Colombia	With the Peace with Legality policy , the national government helped more than nine million victims. The country expressed its commitment with the Peace with Legality policy to fulfill a historic debt with the territories most affected by violence and poverty in Colombia. To achieve this, the international community must show a greater commitment in the fight against drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking.
Spain	Condemned Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine . Highlighted the importance to address the food crisis that has been the result of Russia's attacks, extreme weather events and the pandemic. Spain is committed to continuing to advance in gender equality from the conviction that human rights cannot be fragmented.
Kingdom of Bahrain	Highlighted the grave repercussions of wars and armed conflicts and their rapid impact on the deterioration of the human rights situation and international insecurity. Stressed the need to intensify international efforts and the importance of commitment to international cooperation and solidarity in order to ensure the application of international principles and standards for human rights,
Morocco	Morocco acceded to the optional protocol relating to the international covenant on political and civil rights and to the optional protocol to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women . Morocco organized, at the beginning of this month, an international conference on the "protection of human rights against all forms of extremism" and plans to organize in the coming months an international conference on "the prevention of underage marriage".
Norway	Focused on the importance of health, climate, war, and a looming food insecurity crisis . Condemned Russia's attack against Ukraine . Expressed deep concern for the deteriorating human rights situation in Afghanistan and Xianjiang, China .
Slovenia	Emphasised the importance of fighting against discrimination, hate speech and stigmatization towards the LGBTI community. Countries must ensure equal treatment of all people without discrimination on any grounds. Human rights education is a central tool to develop a respectful and peaceful society. Condemned Russia's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine and the impact on displaced children.
Canada	Strongly condemns President Putin's unjustifiable and illegal invasion of Ukraine . Called upon States to end sexual and gender-based violence, including rape as a weapon of war.
Philippines	Strengthening multilateralism is key to address human rights challenges. Recognized the importance of inclusiveness, empowering civil society and respecting the civil space. It is important to enhance inclusivity in the management and working methodologies of the OHCHR.
El Salvador	Education is a priority for the country. Reaffirmed that all measures that have been adopted in the State of emergency seek to guarantee the right to life . Torture is not being conducted in the country. Criminal organisations continue to threaten citizens.
Austria	Condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine . Encouraged to pursue dialogue with human rights defenders in China , especially to protect minorities' rights. Also expressed concern over the scale of repression in Belarus and demanded the release of political prisoners in Türkiye .
Chile	Welcomed the High Commissioner's cooperation with Chile after the protests. Highlighted the importance of multilateralism to address the consequences of the pandemic, climate change and conflict.

Madagascar	Focused on the exacerbation of poverty and inequality . Welcomed the visit of the High Commissioner in Xinjiang and commended the spirit of cooperation of the Chinese government . Called upon the Council to avoid politicization of all issues and to uphold the principles of non-selectivity and non-interference .
Dominican Republic	It is important to uphold the principles enshrined in the UN charter . Commended the cooperation between China and the High Commissioner. Relevant principles such as solidarity, cooperation, constructive dialogue, and self-determination should be upheld.
Chad	The political transition in Chad has followed an inclusive process bringing together all parts of the population. Remained hopeful that this process is the only path to the definitive reconciliation between all. Expressed its desire to receive mandate holders and special rapporteurs in the country. Encouraged the HC to visit the country and commended its cooperation with China .
Tanzania	A false narrative of violence has been deployed in the country. The government has not attacked or evicted anyone. Peaceful inclusion has been guiding the discussions between the government and the different communities.
Jordan	Underscored the principles of universality, justice, transparency and international cooperation . Important to continue the visits of the High Commissioner to China . Economic challenges remain such as the food and human crisis . Important to protect human rights as a collective responsibility .
Botswana	Expressed its commitment to the responsibility to protect . Committed to ensuring a human rights-based approach to the adoption of laws.
Guatemala	The public ministry has been strengthened to effectively investigate cases to guarantee impartiality of the judicial system . Committed to fighting corruption and impunity.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Prepared to present their report to the Committee of the rights of persons with disabilities . Commended China for receiving the HC, including to Xinjiang . Encouraged constructive consultations with China. Tibet and Hong Kong are China's internal affairs and the respect for the internal affairs of States should be upheld.
Ethiopia	Committed to implementing the recommendations outlined in the joint report of the Office in the context of the conflict. Committed to upholding reconciliation, redress and accountability by empowering national institutions The country has held inclusive national dialogues to resolve the conflict and delivered humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected communities.
Algeria	Highlighted the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of sovereignty, peaceful settlement of disputes and the right to self-determination . Urges the High Commissioner to refer to the human right situation in Western Sahara , which suffers the consequences of foreign occupation by Morocco .
Kenya	Commended the support of the Office to human rights institutions in the country. Welcomed the visit of the High Commissioner to China .
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	Human rights defence should promote international cooperation and constructive dialogue . Welcomed the visit to China . The report on Xinjiang is not authorized by the HRC.
Bangladesh	Highlighted the importance of vaccine inequality . The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and extreme poverty . There should be greater international support, including boosting ODA. Climate change is an obstacle to realizing economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights. Concerned over the situation in Myanmar and the conditions of the Rohingya .
Peru	Political polarization and the war in Ukraine challenge human rights. Focusing on dialogue is important to ensure a collective response to collective challenges.

Nicaragua	The High Commissioner should not be influenced by lies. Welcomed the visit of the High Commissioner to China . The principles of objectivity, sovereignty, non-interference in domestic affairs, and non-politicization should be upheld.
Azerbaijan	Highlighted the importance of cooperation of the Office with the country and the principles of sovereignty and non-interference. The situation of human rights in China must be further investigated.
Portugal	As COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine dominate global concerns, progress in the promotion and protection of human rights fell further behind. Economic, social and cultural rights have been seriously affected. Supported the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity .
Ireland	Condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine and urged the international community to guarantee accountability. Expressed concern over the human rights situation in Russia and the repression of civilians in Belarus. Urged for an investigation on the assassination of a journalist in the OPT and denounced the human rights situation in Afghanistan . Concerned over the abuses in China , particularly in the Tibet and Xinjiang .
Belgium	Condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the negative consequences of the war on food security. Concerned over the human rights situation in the East of the DRC .
Mauritius	Committed to the principles of international law and the rule of law. Multilateralism and cooperation remain key to strengthening human rights.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP continues to support NHRIs in over 40 countries, including jointly supporting over 20 countries with OHCHR and the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions to strengthen and establish national human rights institutions. Appreciated the important joint work the UNDP does with the Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Sudan, Togo, Kazakhstan, and El Salvador .
FAO	Expressed concern over the various impacts of the Pandemic especially when it comes to food security and the right to adequate food for all . It has forced millions of more people into poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in all its forms . FAO is committed to working towards better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better lives.

Interactive Dialogue: Summary of statements made by NGOs

Thematic Issues raised:

- Conscientious objection to **military service**
- **Drug use criminalization**: The human rights impacts of the criminalization of drug use and possession for personal use, and the promotion of legal frameworks that stop criminalization.
- **Reducing military spending** and reallocating resources towards human security based on human rights for all.
- **Civil society restrictions** as early warnings for further deterioration in human rights protection: Abuses against civic space, including **freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, movement, and non-discrimination**. Effective protection of human rights defenders (HRDs).

Country-specific situations:

- **India**: Deterioration of the situation faced by **religious and ethnic minorities**, including **Dalits, Adivasis, and human rights defenders**. **Increasing restrictions threaten the ability of civil society** to carry out its work. Authorities continue to arrest and use **violent force against** those participating in peaceful protests.
- **China**: The recent visit by the High Commissioner to China **has failed victims of repression, their families, and communities**. **Civic space is closed and space for dissent is non-existent**. Activists have been detained and indicted for speaking up, and thousands have been detained in legalized form of enforced disappearance.

The government continues to arbitrarily detain **human rights defenders**, tighten control over civil society, the media, and the internet, and deploy **invasive mass surveillance technology**. By refusing to accurately describe the scale and gravity of the violations committed by the **Chinese government**, the High Commissioner has undermined efforts to **advance accountability**.

- **Russia:** Systematic repression against peaceful dissenters and civilians within Russia.
- **Kenya:** Concerns are mounting ahead of the **elections scheduled for August 2022**.
- Other countries mentioned were: Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Mozambique, Nigeria, The Greater Sahel, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

List of NGOs that took the floor (11):

Human Rights Watch, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, IDPC Consortium, Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI), Mr. Derek Brett, Minority Rights Group, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, East and Horn of Africa HR Defenders Project.

Full recording of the Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner on Item 2 is available on the UN WebTV, [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) and [Part 4](#).