

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Opening Statement

13 June 2022

The President of the Council, H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, opened the 50th session and reminded that the extraordinary modalities were still in place for the session.

Mr. Villegas welcomed the **10 Delegations** participating by the general support of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund, supporting the participation of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Council. The Delegates are from **Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Jamaica, Madagascar and Maldives.**

He further pointed to a **historical perspective which is necessary at the 50th session of the Council's work**, inviting everyone – representatives of Governments, members of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretariat, NGOs, and the press – to pause and reflect why and for whom these enormous efforts been made to collectively make the HRC machinery work.

Since its first session, the Council has held 2007 formal meetings, 34 special sessions, 7 urgent debates, 932 Interactive dialogues, and 232 panel discussions, never stopping even amidst the pandemic. The Council has adopted 1372 resolutions, established 18 thematic Special Procedures, 8 country Special Procedures, and 35 Investigative mechanisms. Furthermore, NGOs participation in the Council has increased since the first session by 152%, and since the first quarter of 2022, the Council was one of the inter-governmental bodies in the UN system with the highest presence in the social media. Mr. Villegas highlighted that “these numbers underscore the **importance of our responsibility.**”

The President of the Human Rights Council announced that the Council will hold a **high-level commemorative event to mark the occasion of the fiftieth session of the Council on 15 June.** This event will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the achievements made as well as the lessons learned since the first session held in June 2006. Additionally, three lunch time meetings will be scheduled.

Regarding the **participation of Myanmar** during the 50th session, Mr. Federico Villegas informed the delegates that, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the representation of Myanmar in the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat cannot process requests regarding the participation of anyone as part of the delegation of Myanmar in Council meetings. The Council **postponed the consideration of the report of the Universal Periodic Review of Myanmar** and approved the programme of work, with the understanding that the **holding of interactive dialogues** with Myanmar, one with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar and another one with the High Commissioner, following her oral update, both held pursuant to resolution 46/21, during this session would be **subject to further consideration** by the Bureau and the Council.