

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

### WEEK 1: 13 June – 17 June 2022

During the **first week** of the 50<sup>th</sup> session, the High Commissioner will present to the Council her **annual report** on the work of her Office; and an oral update on the **role of States in responding to pandemics**. Human rights situations in **Eritrea, the OPT, Myanmar, Sudan, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and Mariupol (Ukraine)** will be addressed under **Agenda Item 2**, as well as the presentation of the interim report of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**. Under **Agenda Item 3**, thematic interactive dialogues will be on **protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, discrimination against women and girls, freedom of peaceful assembly association, and elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**. The first out of eight panel discussions will take place during Week 1, focusing on human rights violations against **Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar**. The Council will also host a **High-level commemorative event on the occasion of the Council's 50<sup>th</sup> session**, providing stakeholders an opportunity to reflect on the achievements made and the lessons learned since its 1st session. No general debates will take place during the 50<sup>th</sup> session.

#### Panel discussions:

15 June (10h00-12h00): Panel discussion on **the root causes of human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar**. **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**<sup>1</sup>, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, will deliver an Opening statement. Access panel Concept note [here](#).

#### Item 2<sup>2</sup>

13 June: [Annual report](#)<sup>3</sup> outlining the **activities of the Office of the High Commissioner** at headquarters and in the field, conducted between 1 July 2021 to 15 March 2022. An interactive dialogue on the annual report will be held on 14-15 June.

#### Country reports

##### **Written reports:**

13 June: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Eritrea, Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker**.

[A/HRC/50/20](#): The report covers the period from 29 April 2021 to 22 April 2022, during which, the report states, **no progress was made** towards solving the ongoing **humanitarian crisis in Eritrea**. On the contrary, the report indicates to a **deterioration in the situation** in several areas. The report states that during the reporting period, Eritrea **used their Council membership to oppose internal scrutiny** over human rights violations, while UPR recommendations remain **largely unimplemented**. The report stresses that **urgent action is required** to address the **long-standing and widespread human rights violations** in the country, highlighting **worrying trends**, including increased militarization, continued indefinite conscription, further closure of civic space and prolonged arbitrary detention. The **Eritrean armed forces** continued their involvement in **serious human rights and humanitarian law violations** in the **Tigray Region of Ethiopia**, some of which might amount to **war crimes and crimes against humanity**. The **indefinite national/military service** remains one of the main sources of human rights violations. The Special Rapporteur observed a worsening in

<sup>1</sup> Henceforth, "the High Commissioner".

<sup>2</sup> Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

<sup>3</sup> Advanced Unedited Version in English available on [OHCHR website](#) as of 13 June 2022.

patterns of **forced conscription of children and** received information regarding the **deployment of Eritrean children in military combat** in Tigray, along with other grave violations linked to the national/military service. The report states that no progress has been made towards the development of the **minimum institutional justice infrastructure** to effectively protect and ensure respect for human rights; civil space is tightly closed, and the dismal human rights situation continued to push thousands of Eritreans to flee the country. According to UNHCR estimates there are 580,000 Eritrean asylum seekers and refugees globally (16 per cent of the population of Eritrea). The Special Rapporteur **highlights several recommendations**, urging the Government of Eritrea to put an immediate end to all human rights violations; to consider the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms; share substantive information about the concrete efforts made; end arbitrary detention and investigate allegations; develop independent rule-of-law institutions; take steps towards creating a safe civic space; and issue a standing invitation for country visits to the Special Procedure mandate holders and to the members of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, among other recommendations. The Special Rapporteur hopes the Government will revisit its current position, initiate dialogue with his mandate and invite him to the country.

*13 June:* Interactive dialogue with the ongoing independent, International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. **Navanethem Pillay, Miloon Kothari and Christopher Sidoti.**

[A/HRC/50/21](#): The report describes the activities carried out by the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. It assesses the findings and recommendations of previous COIs, fact-finding missions and other UN human rights mechanisms and entities, identifying overarching issues and focusing on **findings and recommendations** directly related to **root causes of tensions, instability and protraction of conflict**. These include perpetual occupation; transfer of the civilian population; discrimination, violations and abuses of individual and collective rights; settlements and settler violence, among others. The report indicates that Israel has **no intention of ending the occupation**, has clear **policies for ensuring complete control** over the OPT, and is **acting to alter the demography** through a **repressive environment for Palestinians** and a **favourable environment for Israeli settlers**. The report voices concern over the **persistent discrimination and human rights restrictions** against Palestinians throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem, that will continue to **contribute to cycles of violence**. The report clearly indicates that **ending the occupation of lands** by Israel remains essential in ending the persistent cycle of violence. While the **Government of Egypt** indicated its willingness to cooperate with the Commission, it has not yet responded to the request to access the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing. The Commission **regrets the lack of cooperation by the Government of Israel**, and its refusal to allow entry to Israel and access to the OPT, obstructing the engagement of many Israeli and Palestinian victims, witnesses and other stakeholders with the Commission. The report concludes that the Commission will continue to deploy all its efforts to engage the Israeli authorities in a dialogue and to seek their cooperation and access to Israel and the OPT. It will also continue to seek the cooperation of Egypt in enabling access to the Gaza Strip.

*15 June:* Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the **situation of human rights since, and human rights violations and abuses committed during, the period of the military takeover in the Sudan.**

[A/HRC/50/22](#): The present report covers the period from 25 October 2021 to 10 April 2022, and its preparation was supported by the expert on human rights in Sudan, **Adama Dieng**, who visited the country from 20 to 24 February 2022. The report states that the coup in October 2021 has **undermined many achievements** made by the Sudan under the transitional Government as regards to improving respect for and protection of human rights, including in the areas of legal and institutional reform, transitional justice, civic space, equality and non-discrimination, and women's rights. The pattern of human rights violations concerned the repeated use of **excessive and lethal force** by the joint security forces to disperse peaceful protests, **widespread arbitrary arrests** and detention without respect for due process, and **sexual violence**. The sweeping nature of the **state of emergency** and **lack of a defined end date** are also of concern, as are the **extensive law enforcement powers** and **temporary immunity from prosecution** conferred on the **security forces**, including members of the General Intelligence Service, by emergency decree. The deterioration of the economic situation, insecurity, suspension of aid, and global developments affecting imports of fuel and wheat have led to **serious retrogression in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights**. The High Commissioner recommends the Sudanese authorities to set an end date for the state of emergency, take credible steps towards the

reinstatement of a civilian-led transitional government, and to Immediately repeal Emergency Decree No. 3/2021, which confers immunity on members of the General Intelligence Service and the regular forces in the performance of their duties, among other recommendation. The report calls the international community to **continue to engage with the Sudanese authorities** and identify ways to aid those most in need, and support in finding a durable political solution.

**16 June: Presentation** of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**.

A/HRC/50/19<sup>4</sup>: An interim report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution 76/178 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation.

### Oral Updates:

**13 June:** Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the central **role of the State in responding to pandemics and other health emergencies**, and the socioeconomic consequences thereof.

**14 June:** Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar**.

**15-16 June:** Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in **Afghanistan**.

**16 June:** Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in **Nicaragua**.

**16 June:** Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in **Mariupol (Ukraine)**.

### Other reports:

- Written [report](#) of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the **activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women**. Note by the Secretary-General.

[A/HRC/50/30-E/CN.6/2022/9](#): The report describes the **impact and achievements of the trust fund and its grantees in 2021**. The year 2021 marked the twenty-fifth year of the trust fund, created in 1996 in direct response to the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Since then, the trust fund has supported a total of 609 of the most promising and high-quality projects to prevent, address and end violence against women and girls. The report analyses **key results, challenges and lessons learned** from the previous **strategic plan (2015-2020)**, as well as **future policy implementations and projects for the 2021-2025** strategic plan, strengthening coordination efforts to end violence against women across the UN system and with civil society partners. The trust fund will continue to **fund interventions under three outcome areas**:

- (a) improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services;
- (b) improved prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes; and
- (c) increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems.

## Item 3<sup>5</sup>: Thematic reports

<sup>4</sup> Report unavailable on [OHCHR website](#) as of 13 June 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Agenda Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

16 June: Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on protection against **violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**.

A/HRC/50/27<sup>6</sup>: The realization of the right to health in relation to Sustainable Development Goal No. 3.

A/HRC/50/27/Add.1: Visit to Tunisia.

16-17 June: Interactive dialogue with the Working Group on **discrimination against women and girls**.

[A/HRC/50/25](#): In the report on girls' and young women's activism, the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls highlights important contributions made by girls and young women to the **promotion of gender equality** and the advancement of human rights. The report covers the main activities of the WG during the review period up to April 2022 and includes a thematic analysis. The WG held three sessions virtually during the period under review and conducted a visit to Kyrgyzstan from 4 to 15 April 2022. The report highlights the contextual and conceptual framework and ways for States to proactively remove the **structural and systemic barriers** impeding girls' and young women's activism. While girls and young women are mobilizing worldwide to **demand and catalyse change** on critical global issues, they experience **unique challenges** to their activism, rooted in the **intersection of gender and age and exacerbated by several factors**, including economic insecurity; lack of access to education; restrictions on access to sexual and reproductive health goods, services and information; unequal access to quality education; narrowing civic spaces both online and offline; rising fundamentalism; armed conflict; environmental disasters; and health crises. The report states that the empowerment of girls and young women through the respect, protection and fulfilment of their fundamental human rights is an indispensable precondition for just, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable societies and the achievement of gender equality. The report concludes in several recommendations to States on **creating safe and enabling spaces** for girl and young women activists, and shares recommendations for the private sector, civil society organizations, NHRIs, donors and the UN.

17 June: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Nyaletsossi Voule**.

[A/HRC/50/23](#): The report addresses trends, developments and challenges threatening civil society's access to financial resources, including laws, policies and practices that impede such access. Freedom of association protects the right of civil society organisations to **access the funding necessary** to carry out their work. Associations' access to funding is essential not only to the existence of the association itself, but also to the realisation of other human rights, to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to Covid-19 resilience and recovery plans. The report includes several recommendations to States and other key stakeholders to **better respect and ensure the right of associations to seek, receive and use financial resources**. States should ensure that associations can fully enjoy their **right to seek, receive and use funding** and other resources from natural and legal persons. The donor community should implement the **OECD Development Assistance Committee recommendation** on enabling civil society in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The report also recommends **financial institutions** to adhere to their human rights obligations to respect the right to freedom of association and exercise human rights due diligence when designing and implementing policies and practices that affect civil society organisations' access to resources.

A/HRC/50/23/Add.1<sup>7</sup>: Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received.

A/HRC/50/23/Add.2: Visit to Niger

A/HRC/50/23/Add.4: Follow-up to country visits to Armenia, Tunisia, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

17 June: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of **discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, Alice Cruz**.

[A/HRC/50/35](#): The report discusses the right to health in order to detail the content and application of the right for persons affected by leprosy and their family members, as well as for persons who experience neglected tropical diseases other than leprosy. The data presented in the report show leprosy and its consequences as the **product of structural violence, linked to the systemic restrictions on the disadvantaged**

<sup>6</sup> Report unavailable on [OHCHR website](#) as of 13 June 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Report unavailable on [OHCHR website](#) as of 13 June 2022.

**in societies.** The report states that considerations on global health and national health programmes tell us little about structural violence as cause, and human suffering as consequence, of leprosy. The report further highlights, that to fulfil the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for the most disadvantaged, **diseases must be acknowledged as political issues** and action to tackle them must be subjected to accountability mechanisms at all levels from the global to the local. Persons affected by leprosy demand to be recognized as people who are **entitled to self-determination over their bodies**, and whose special needs, such as accessibility, accommodation and support must be guaranteed. The report concludes by providing several recommendations, including urging States, especially those where leprosy is endemic, to **develop a country-owned political agenda** for fighting leprosy and protecting, promoting and fulfilling the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for persons affected by leprosy and their family members; and for non-endemic States to fulfil their international cooperation obligations, to accept responsibility for **drug development**, and **facilitate access** by the world's poorest to **high-quality medicines**.