

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

### Organizational Meeting

30 May 2022

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, President of the Human Rights Council.

The Council agreed to postpone the consideration of the **UPR on Myanmar** to the 51<sup>st</sup> session in September 2022. The two IDs and one Panel discussion will move ahead as scheduled, without the participation of the country concerned. China and the Russian Federation took the floor highlighting the right of a country concerned to be present and participate in the discussion. The Council took note of the statements by the two delegations understanding that there was no formal objection.

This year the June session will last for four entire weeks from **13 June to 8 July 2022**. The length is due to continuing restrictions on lunch time meetings and creation of new mandates.

The Council agreed to hold a high-level event to mark the **occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Council** (15 June 2022, lunch time, Room XX). The event will begin with opening remarks from high-level invitees, followed by the statements and interactive conversation of invited speakers. States wishing to take the floor will raise their name plates and NHRIs and NGOs will be able to sign up to the list of speakers at the desk in the room.

During its 50<sup>th</sup> session, the Council will hold 8 panel debates:

- **Panel discussion on the root causes of human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.** 15 June 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.
- **Panel discussion on menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality.** 21 June 2022, 4 to 6 p.m. Introduced by Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group.
- **Panel discussion on good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.** 22 June 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Introduced by Poland on behalf of the main sponsors.
- **Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women (two accessible panels).** *Panel 1: Exploring the nexus between climate change and violence against women and girls through a human rights lens,* 27 June 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Introduced by Canada. *Panel 2: Human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems.* 27 June 2022, 4 to 6 p.m. Introduced by Chile.
- **Panel discussion on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations in the context of climate change.** 28 June 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Introduced by Bangladesh on behalf of core group on climate and human rights: Philippines, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.
- **High-level panel discussion on countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights.** 28 June 2022, 4 to 6 p.m. The event will be opened by the High Commissioner and high-level speaker from the government of Ukraine. Introduced by Ukraine on behalf of Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, United Kingdom, U.S. and Ukraine.
- **Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building.** *Theme: "Technical cooperation on the full and effective participation of women in decision-making and in public life and on the elimination of violence, with a view to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".* 4 July 2022, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Introduced by Thailand on behalf of the core group.

### Overview of the Programme of Work

The session will **begin** with the presentation of the Annual Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. On the **opening day** the Council will hear statements from 2 visiting dignitaries,

#### **Deadlines:**

- States: the online system for inscription in the list of speakers for all Interactive Dialogues and

the *Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs from the Republic of Indonesia*, and the *Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka*. During the session, the Council will hold 27 Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures mandate holders and mechanisms and 9 Interactive Dialogues with the High Commissioner. The Council will also adopt outcomes of the UPR.

No general debates will be held during the 50<sup>th</sup> session. Reports and oral updates of the High Commissioner, Secretary General and subsidiary bodies to be presented at the 50<sup>th</sup> session will be considered during the relevant General Debates at the 51<sup>st</sup> session, unless they are mandated to be considered in the context of an interactive dialogue.

**Eight Special Procedures mandate holders and Expert Mechanisms** are to be appointed by the Council.

Panel Discussions will open on **Tuesday, 7 June at 4 pm** and will close **24 hours before the meeting**. Inscription and withdrawal after the deadline are possible by email:

[hrclistofspeakers@ohchr.org](mailto:hrclistofspeakers@ohchr.org)

- The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate.
- Inscription for the list of speakers for the Adoption of UPR Outcomes will open on **Monday, 20 June at 9 am** and will close on **Thursday, 23 June at 6 pm**. No inscription will be possible after this deadline.
- The deadline for the submission of draft proposals is **Wednesday, 29 June at 1 pm**.
- NGOs: the list of speakers for all debates will open online on **Thursday, 9 June at 2 pm**.
- List of speakers for Panel Discussions: states will be asked to rank panels in the order of their priorities when inscribing on the list of speakers. Slots will be allocated by the system taking into account those priorities.

### Information Sharing on Initiatives

- **Mexico:**
  - draft resolution elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls; will be focused on the participation of **girls and young women**, renewal of the mandate of the Working Group;
  - will promote a joint declaration to be read in the ID around the thematic theme of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **migrants**.
- **Netherlands** (*on behalf of the cross-regional Core Group for freedom of expression consisting of Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Namibia, Sweden, Netherlands*): resolution on the importance of **digital and information literacy** for the enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- **Côte d'Ivoire** (*on behalf of the African group*): traditional draft resolution on **female genital mutilation**, invites all states and stakeholders to actively participate in the informal consultations.
- **Czech Republic** (*on behalf of the Core Group of Indonesia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico, U.S., Czech Republic*): draft resolution on the right to **freedom of peaceful assembly and association**, extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.
- **United Kingdom:**
  - (*on behalf of Germany, Norway, U.S., United Kingdom*): procedural resolution mandating the next report of the High Commissioner and designated experts on the human rights situation in **Sudan**.
  - (*on behalf of the Core Group of Germany, France, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, U.S., United Kingdom*): resolution on the human rights situation in **Syria**, focus on **SGBV**.
- **Uruguay** (*on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay*): draft resolution on the protection against violence and discrimination based on **sexual orientation and gender identity**, extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert. First informal consultation will take place 17 June at 1:30 pm in Room XXII.

- **Liechtenstein** (on behalf of the cross regional group: Croatia, Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, Liechtenstein): resolution on **casualty recording** and the promotion and protection of human rights.
- **Bangladesh** (on behalf of the Core Group on climate change: Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh): resolution on human rights and climate change, focusing on the **impact of climate change on the right to food**.
- **Brazil** (on behalf of China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, India, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Brazil): draft resolution on the **access to medicines and vaccines** in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- **Morocco**: side event **“the urgency to act together to face water stress through the implementation of sectoral strategies”** (27 June, 2:00 to 3:30 pm.).
- **Azerbaijan**:
  - draft resolution on the enhancement of **international cooperation** in the field of human rights.
  - a virtual panel discussion **“Public services delivery and human rights advancing towards SDGs”**, together with the Permanent Missions of Malaysia and Azerbaijan (UN Public Service Delivery Day, 23 June).
- **Hungary** (on behalf of Botswana, Australia, Maldives, Mexico, Thailand, Hungary): biennial resolution on independence and impartiality of the **judiciary, jurors and assessors** and the independence of lawyers, with emphasis on the **participation of women** in the administration of justice.
- **Ecuador**: resolution on human rights and the regulation of the **acquisition, the possession and the use of firearms by civilians**.
- **Ukraine**: a side event to discuss the consequences of Russia’s led war against **human rights in Ukraine**. Ukraine hoped that the focused attention by the Council could contribute to preventing further abuses, demonstrate the Council’s relevance to the situation on the ground and make a difference in the lives of affected populations.
- **Argentina**: announced the participation of their Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity in Panel 2 on the **Annual Debate on Women’s Rights**. Intersessional multistakeholder meeting on older people will take place on the 29 and 30 August 2022 organized with the support of Argentina and Slovenia.
- **European Union**:
  - resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Belarus**;
  - resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in **Eritrea**.
- **Switzerland**: new draft resolution with Costa Rica on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of **peaceful protest**; focusing on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.
  - three side events: to discuss the report of the Special Rapporteur on **Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association** (20 June); on human rights **online**; and on **drug policies**;
  - (on behalf of a cross-regional group of delegates): will organize a new edition of the **National Dress Day** to be followed by a multicultural party (17 June).
- **Pakistan** (on behalf of OIC): resolution on human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in **Myanmar**.
- **Canada**: resolution on **violence against women**, its causes and consequences, renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.
- **Austria** (on behalf of cross regional Core Group: Honduras, Uganda, Austria): resolution on the human rights of the **IDPs**, updates and renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.
- **Israel**: event **“A seat at the table: Models and best practices for children’s meaningful participation in policy-making”**, together with the Permanent Missions of Uruguay, Israel, Portugal, Greece, and the Permanent Delegations of EU and UNFPA. (9 June at 3:00 p.m. at EUDEL in Geneva).
- **Lithuania**: side event on the human rights situation in **Belarus**; and side event on **“Climate change and persons with disabilities - How to ensure equal participation and right to safe environment”**,



together with Mexico and other partners.

- **Chile:** event on the achievement and challenges of the mandate of the **Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**, together with the Core Group on the resolution (14 June); event on **smart cities**, and their potential impact on human rights (23 June).
- **Malaysia:** cultural event showcasing the culture of **Malaysian indigenous communities** (21 June, 1:30 pm).
- **Indonesia:** side event on the fulfilment of human rights during and after the **Covid-19 pandemic** (14 June).
- **Honduras:** side event on **combating corruption** (1 July).
- **South Africa** (*on behalf of a cross regional group*): a High-Level web-conference on the international community's responsibility of the **decolonization process of Western Sahara** (14 June, 2-4 pm).
- **Cuba:**
  - resolution on **international cooperation** and human rights;
  - traditional draft resolution on the **Social Forum** of the Council, extension of mandate.

### Other matters:

- **Draft resolutions:** at least one informal open-ended consultation should be held on each draft resolution or decision before the Council can take action on it. These consultations should be scheduled in a transparent, constructive, cooperation and inclusive manner.
- **Modalities:**
  - The 50th session will be held in Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and on online platform (Zoom). **Room XX can now be used in full capacity** for the first time since March 2020. No restriction on the number of people entering the room. State delegations can participate in person, via pre-recorded video statements, or by Zoom. Point of order can be raised via Zoom by using the raise hand function. The delegations can exercise their right of reply remotely in the same manner as during the 49<sup>th</sup> regular session, by sending an email to [ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org](mailto:ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org).
  - Special Procedures mandate holders, Investigative Mechanisms and Panelists unable to travel to Geneva would be able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
  - **NGOs with ECOSOC status and NHRIs with "A" status** would be invited to deliver their statements for the interactive dialogues, panel discussions and UPR adoptions in person from room XX or through pre-recorded video statements.
  - Given the impact of the Strategic Heritage Plan on the availability of rooms, side events cannot take place inside the Palais des Nations during the 50th session. In case NGOs decide to organize virtual events in parallel to the 50th session, information on such events could be listed on the OHCHR civil society webpage along with a statement indicating that the events are not official Council events.
  - All oral statements should be electronically submitted to the interpreters at least 1h00 prior the estimated time of delivery, to ensure the quality of the interpretation. Submission of transcript is mandatory for all online statements.
- **Accessibility:** a Task Force on enhancing accessibility has been established, and the focal point for accessibility in the Secretariat can be contacted. Statements to be uploaded in Word format, and delegations encouraged to ensure live captioning and sign interpretation during their panels.
- **Reprisals:** a climate of trust and safety is essential, where states provide protection. Constructive, safe, and respectful atmosphere is essential. Intimidation and reprisal can take many forms, and our common duty is to ensure reprisals will not happen in any circumstances.
- **Documentation:** out of 76 reports for the 50th session, 42 reports are already available in all UN languages, and 20 in some of the official languages.