

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51st SESSION

Item 2¹: General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

13-14 September 2022

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This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 2 that took place on 13-14 September 2022 at the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council. The statements provided by the speakers are not exhaustive.

Please also refer to the Geneva Centre’s other summary reports considered under Item 2:

Oral Update by UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Nada Al-Nashif; Interactive dialogue on the report of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for **Myanmar**; Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on **Afghanistan** and; Enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights situation of **women and girls in Afghanistan** are [available here](#).

¹ Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)

Member States: Joint Statements	
All countries welcomed the appointment of Mr. Volker Türk as the next High Commissioner for Human Rights, paid tribute to the former High Commissioner Ms. Michelle Bachelet for the enormous work she did during her tenure, and commended the efforts made by the OHCHR during these past years.	
Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation - OIC)	Expressed grave concern over the continuing human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir , in Afghanistan and in the OPT , including East Jerusalem. Urged OHCHR to continue monitoring the human rights situation of such territories. The OIC called on the Council to secure justice and accountability for the Rohingya people , including through their safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar . The OIC condemned the damage and loss of properties inflicted by Armenia in Azerbaijan .
South Africa (on behalf of a cross-regional group of states ²)	Western Sahara : Reiterated grave concern about the illegal use of drones by the occupying power, targeting Sahrawi and foreigner civilians as well as the livestock. Concerned over the repression exerted by the Moroccan Occupying Forces against the Saharawi civilian population. The HRC should give special attention to violations of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from the Moroccan military occupation in Western Sahara.
Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States ³)	Strongly condemned Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine . Reiterated grave concerns about the human rights situation in China , underscoring the need for justice and accountability. Concerned about continuous violations of human rights in Venezuela and called for the full respect for human rights of all political and civil actors, including freedom of the media. Remained concerned over the human rights situations in Yemen, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Sudan and Mali . Deeply concerned about the systemic obstruction of the investigation into the cause of the explosion in Beirut, calling the Lebanese Government to seek justice and accountability.
Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African group)	Despite progresses made by the OHCHR in the area of technical and assistance and capacity building to ensure protection and promotion of human rights, human rights continue to be violated across countries. Remained concerned about the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and climate change for vulnerable groups.
United Arab Emirates (on behalf of a group of 35 States supporting the full Sovereignty of Morocco ⁴)	Western Sahara : a political dispute addressed by the Security Council (SC), which recognized it a serious and credible priority of Morocco's autonomy initiative to find a definitive political solution to the territorial dispute. The African Group welcomed the appointment of Mr. Staffan de Mistura as the United Nations Secretary-General's new Personal Envoy , mandated to relaunch the exclusive political process of the United Nations on the basis of the SC's resolution No. 2602 of 29 October 2021. The resolution of this regional dispute will contribute to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the African and Arab peoples for integration and development, for which Morocco continues to pursue and is making sincere and sustained efforts.

² Algeria, Angola, Bolivia, Botswana, Cuba, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

³ North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Liechtenstein align themselves with this statement.

⁴ Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jordan, Kuwait, Liberia, Maldives, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia

<p>China (on behalf of group of countries⁵)</p>	<p>Rejected allegations on the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region made by the OHCHR. These were based on disinformation and erroneous conclusions. The OHCHR should abide by principles of the UN Charter, respecting country sovereignty and territory integrity, as well as principles of impartiality, universality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization.</p>
<p>China (on behalf of group of countries⁶)</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic impacted severely economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development, and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by multilateral human rights mechanisms. Called on the OHCHR to put the elimination of inequality at the core of its work, and to help developing countries to overcome the challenges. The OHCHR should adhere to principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, and non-politicization.</p>
<p>Azerbaijan (on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement - NAM)</p>	<p>The NAM has serious concerns over multiple discrimination in many regions, widespread violations of economic and social rights and attacks motivated by stereotypes and hate threats. The NAM affirmed to holding universality of and building impartiality with all human rights with distinction among countries, while exercising their duty in relation to the member states.</p>
<p>Pakistan (on behalf of a group of more than 60 countries)</p>	<p>Expressed serious concern over the restriction and violation of the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly by the Israeli government. This undermines the vital humanitarian, human rights and development work of NGOs in the OPT. The Israeli Government must provide OHCHR official's visa extension to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the territory.</p>
<p>Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council)</p>	<p>Welcomed the appointment of Volker Türk as the next High Commissioner for Human Rights, wishing him all success. Affirming the important role of the OHCHR, recommended the Council to pursue efforts to meet challenges as climate change and its consequences. Welcomed training and technical assistance programmes aimed at straight capacity of countries in need.</p>
<p>Member States: Statements made in national capacity</p>	
<p>1. Qatar</p>	<p>Agreed with the update that multilateral collective action provides an opportunity to strengthen the commitment rooted in international human rights standards. Expressed concern over the socio-economic repercussions of armed conflicts and their severe impact on food shortages and poverty alleviation. Condemned increasing number of Palestinian deaths and injuries, especially children, by Israeli forces. Remained concerned about the human rights situation and the lack of a political solution and accountability in Syria.</p>
<p>2. Czech Republic</p>	<p>Remained concerned about the difficult financial situation of the OHCHR. Focused on concerns about crimes and human rights abuses committed in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nicaragua. Called on the Russian President to halt the war and to withdraw Russian military forces from the territory of Ukraine, insisted on accountability for violations, including those amounting to war crimes.</p>

⁵ Belarus, Bolivia, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Cuba, DPRK, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Venezuela, Yemen, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia

⁶ Burundi, Cameroon, Tajikistan

3. Finland	Remained deeply concerned over the serious violations of human rights reported in the province of Xinjiang , underlining the need for justice and accountability. Remained concerned over restrictions on civic space, media and education in Afghanistan . Considered Russia's unlawful, brutal military aggression in Ukraine and the detention and interrogation of civilians and prisoners of war alarming.
4. Luxembourg	Remained deeply concerned about the serious violations of human rights, international crimes and crimes against humanity in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China . Expressed concern about the democratic decline and restrictions on civic space in Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Burundi . Condemned Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine.
5. Cuba	Rejected the illegitimate report against China , resulting from pressure by the West with geopolitical objectives. Called upon the Office to ensure respect, a balanced approach, objectivity, dialogue and cooperation, as well as impartiality and universality. Denounced and condemned the economic, commercial and financial blockade of U.S. , which constitutes a flagrant and systematic violation of human rights.
6. Germany	Condemned the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the following fuel, food and financial crisis. Remained concerned about situations in Turkmenistan, Türkiye, the Philippines and Lebanon , including human rights violations, widespread impunity and restriction to freedom of expression and civic space.
7. Lithuania	Condemned Russia's brutal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. An independent monitoring and reporting mechanism on Russia must be established. Belarus, China and Afghanistan must abide by international obligations and OHCHR's recommendations. Welcomed Ethiopia's efforts for cooperation by accepting the visit of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.
8. India	Affirmed that democratic and inclusive policy, independent judiciary, rule of law, free media, and active civil society organizations contributed to meeting human rights obligations . The Governmental policy measures resulted in empowering and improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized. Reaffirmed commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights, informed the Council about the voluntary contribution of USD 400,000 to various UN Trust Funds . Promotion and protection of human rights are best pursued through dialogue, consultation and cooperation among States and provision of technical assistance and capacity building.
9. China	Firmly opposed and categoric rejected the OHCHR's report and assessment over the situation in Xinjiang region . The report uses misinformation and lies as its main source. The assessment is another example of a UN body being pressured and human rights politicized and instrumentalized by Western countries.
10. Republic of Korea	Remained deeply concerned over the worsening human rights situation in Myanmar , urging the military regime to immediately stop violence, release all unjustly detained, commence constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, investigate human rights violations and get the country back on the democratic process. Acknowledging Sri Lanka's efforts to enhance its human rights situation and to ensure accountability, encouraged the government to find a way forward to address the root causes of the crisis and the grievances of the people through an inclusive dialogue with all corners of society.
11. Netherlands	Deeply worried about restrictions on the right to freedom of religion or belief around the world. Gravely concerned about atrocity crimes and human rights violations in Xinjiang region . Called on Brunei, Iran, Afghanistan, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to place a moratorium on the death penalty for apostasy and blasphemy.

12. Mauritania	Gravely concerned about human rights violations in the OPT, Myanmar and China . Reaffirms its commitment to work constructively with the Council and its mechanisms, in compliance with the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. The Council must cooperate with the States, paying due attention to economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.
13. Mexico	Recognized that the work of the Office , as well as that of treaty bodies and special procedures, is essential to guide countries in addressing the human rights challenges. Reaffirmed commitment to address the recommendations issued by the mechanisms of the universal human rights system.
14. Kazakhstan	National efforts aimed at building economic stability, social justice and democracy, and initiatives and funds to meet the needs of people and to improve their social-economic well-being. National armistice for protestors facing criminal charges. This does not apply for those linked to terrorisms, extremisms and torture activities.
15. Japan	Affirmed that the role of OHCHR in protecting and promoting human rights in the international community remains vital. Spoke out firmly against serious violations of human rights , promoting the voluntary efforts of each country through dialogue and cooperation, while taking into consideration their specific circumstances. Continues efforts in cooperation with the international community and civil society, based on the principles of human security and “leaving no one behind.”
16. Venezuela	Reiterated serious concern at the renewed attempts by some hegemonic countries to instrumentalize human rights against developing countries, including in the case of Xinjiang’s fake news. Demanded to the Office the balanced and objective treatment of countries in the reports; as well as to prioritize and strengthen cooperation and assistance in human rights and in the fight against illegal unilateral coercive measures , and that resources are not wasted on unfounded politicized remarks.
17. Namibia	Highlighting the repression of civil society space and the targeted campaigns by Israeli authorities against Palestinian Human Rights Organizations and called on accountability and justice for the unlawful killing of journalist in the OPT . Affirmed that these actions constitute serious violations of human rights and serious attacks on freedom of expression. Noting the absence in mentioning the human rights situation in Western Sahara , hoped that the new High Commissioner will reserve more attention to it.
18. Armenia	Reported the recent unprovoked and unjustified aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia by Azerbaijan , which has led to numerous casualties, both military and civilian. Expressed deep concern about the deteriorating security situation along the Armenian-Azerbaijani borders.
19. France	Remaining concern about Russian aggression in Ukraine and the related crimes and called on the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate abuses. Concerned about violence in Mali and Xinjiang , the institutional crisis in Haiti and the shrinking space of civil society in the OPT .
20. Malaysia	The work of the human rights bodies and HRC mechanisms should be complementary, guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. Ongoing attention to the concerns of developing and least developed countries, particularly on vaccine equity and universal health care . Stressed the importance of applying human rights approach to public service .
21. United States of America	Remained concern about the widespread use of restrictions of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, and detained activists and outspoken critics of governments in Algeria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Viet Nam . Deeply concerned about the situation in Xinjiang, Uganda and Haiti , human rights abuses in Mali , and the situation of justice actors and journalists who address corruption in Guatemala .

22. Nepal	Highlighted the impact of climate change and expressed solidarity with Pakistan that faced devastating climate-induced floods. Affirmed that HRC and OHCHR mechanisms are important forums for genuine dialogue and cooperation for the universal protection and promotion of human rights. They must pursue approach of non-selectivity, objectivity and impartiality on issues of human rights.
23. Indonesia	Condemned heinous crimes and violence in Papua, Indonesia , and is taking measures to hold perpetrators to justice. Violence against civilians by armed separatist (West Papua National Liberation Army) is an obstacle to peace and justice. Condemned in the strongest terms acts of terror against civilians. Despite risk from armed separatist violence, Indonesia continues to make concrete actions to ensure the fulfillment of political, economic, and social rights of all Indonesian citizens, including in the Papuan Provinces.
24. United Kingdom	Remained concerned over violence, arbitrary and discriminatory detention, torture, and killings in Xinjiang, Sudan, South Sudan and Libya . Called on the Government of South Sudan to hold the perpetrators of abuses to account, end impunity, and protect civilians; urged the Sudanese authorities to allow peaceful protests.
25. Argentina	Stressed that the monitoring of national situations is an essential tool for the prevention of human rights violations, and it should be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, avoiding politicization of this body. Appealed to all countries to defend multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation.
26. Bolivia	Shared the Acting High Commissioners concerns about the serious human rights violations around the world and the negative impacts of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and food situation . Called the international community to act and welcomed the work of human rights mechanisms. Considering the situation reported in the region of Xinjiang , did not accept the politicization of human rights for advancing the end of certain States.
27. Ukraine	The war launched against Ukraine by Russia , has led to a number of civilian and child casualties and its effects continue to be devastating. Thousands of citizens were apprehended on occupied territories and subjected to torture, inhumane treatment and killing. Reiterated the call for continuing strong support and response of the UN members states and its human rights mechanisms.
28. Malawi	Urged the Council and key international institutions to move from business as usual to a radical action-oriented approach in order to decisively deal with numerous human rights challenges.
29. Sudan	Despite challenges and difficulties, reaffirmed its commitments to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and demonstration . Stressed the need to respect and adhere to the noble principles established by the UN, in particular with regard to respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and to adhere to the accuracy and sincerity of the information taken. Concerns over climate change, heavy rains and floods faced by the country.
30. Côte d'Ivoire	Remained concerned about the critical situation of women, children and elderly caused by famine, natural disasters, armed conflict and terrorism . Invited the Council to remain loyal to universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. In consideration of human rights issues, avoiding politicization of human rights situations in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet .
31. Gambia	Calling for increased support to States to improve and strengthen their democratic processes and create an enabling environment, congratulated Angola and Kenya for their peaceful elections. Affirmed that the human rights needs of minorities, vulnerable groups, the disabled, women, children, the elderly and others should be addressed without

	discrimination. COVID-19 vaccines must be uninterruptedly available and accessible to all, especially to those living in developing and least developed countries.
32. Senegal	COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis Ukraine exacerbates existing health and socio-economic inequalities and gaps. All States must strengthen international cooperation and solidarity to effectively face current challenges and prevent future crises. Priorities should include peace and security, fair and equitable energy transition, health, education and training, digital innovation, empowering youth and women, and combating terrorism.
33. Pakistan	Expressed concern about the human rights situation of Jammu & Kashmir Indian Occupied Territory. Human rights violations, restrictions to freedoms and systematic abuses committed by the Indian authorities. The international community must step up and restore the rule of law and respect for human rights. Called for a mechanism to hold perpetrators accountable.
Statements made by the Observer States	
1. Sovereign Order of Malta	Remained committed to assist the civilian population, refugees and IDPs and protecting their human rights in Ukraine, neighboring countries and beyond. Remained concerned about the impact on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular in relation to the negative effect of climate change in Pakistan.
2. Switzerland	Expressed concern about the restriction of civic space and the adoption of laws and policies that over-regulate NGOs in Bangladesh, and in Israel and the OPT. Particularly concerned about the closure of the offices of seven Palestinian NGOs and called on Israel to explain the reasons which led to these measures. Palestinian authorities must respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Strongly condemned the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, calling on all parties to respect international humanitarian law, human rights and ensure humanitarian access.
3. Tunisia	Contrary to the OHCHR's report, affirmed that since July 2021 all actions taken are in accordance with the law and that the judicial system is independent. Affirmed the absence of practices that undermine opposition, as freedom of expression and demonstration are guaranteed to all, as is freedom of movement and travel.
4. Norway	Stressed that the current set of crises including war, food and energy insecurity, and climate change, affect the most vulnerable. Reiterated condemnation of Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine and the deteriorating human rights situation in Russia. Remained concern about the human rights violations in Xinjiang.
5. Ecuador	Considered it essential to strengthen the multilateral system and international cooperation in order to face global challenges, in particular poverty, inequality, discrimination, intolerance, violence and environmental challenges. Continues to cooperate with human rights mechanisms to guarantee the human rights of all, with particular attention to vulnerable individuals and groups.
6. Slovenia	Affirmed that the international community should respond to triple planetary crisis, food crisis, persistent systemic inequalities, shrinking democratic and civic space, and gender-based discrimination and violence with a human rights-based approach and inclusive, gender-sensitive policies and measures. Accountability for violations is critical for prevention.
7. Morocco	Important reforms concerning the status of women in Morocco, aiming to put into action the constitutional institutions in charge of applying parity. Informed the Council on future events in the country to promote the respect of human rights at regional and international levels, as well as on its future contribution to 10 draft resolutions addressing country situations, education, development, transitional justice, youth, the role of prevention, safety of journalists, and technical assistance.

8. Colombia	Appreciated the Office’s support for the Total Peace Strategy and the implementation of the Peace Agreement, stressing the central role of protection of the rights of victims.
9. Bahrain	Shared concerns about the grave acts of multiple forms of discrimination and widespread human rights violations in many regions. Stressed the importance of upholding the universality of all human rights, dealing with them impartially and without discrimination among States. Promoted constructive dialogue, cooperation and technical and financial assistance to support their human rights work and programmes, while respecting States' sovereignty and territorial integrity.
10. Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)	Opposed the release of the assessment on the human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China by the OHCHR. It was written without the consent of the Chinese government or the authorization of the Human Rights Council and it runs counter to the OHCHR’s mandate to promote dialogue and cooperation on human rights, and seriously betrays the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization. In DPRK all people fully enjoy the political freedom and rights as well as the right to work and rest, and the right to free education and medical services guaranteed by superior policies for them, without discrimination, and exercise their genuine human rights in all spheres of social life. The government has protected the lives and safety of the people by taking preemptive and timely measures since the outbreak of the global health crisis.
11. Belgium	The government forces in Mali and Burkina Faso are targeting civilians due to alleged cooperation with terrorists and other armed groups. Commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its openness to UN human rights mechanisms. Remained concerned about decline in civic space, rising hate speech and the glorification of war criminals. Pleased to listen to the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine .
12. Australia	Welcomed the global trend in abolishing the death penalty and remained concern about the disproportional execution of people with disabilities. Concerned over the serious human rights situation of religious minorities in Xinjiang , as well as the board application of security law and the regional act of freedom in Hong Kong . Called for justice and accountability for the victims in Lebanon .
13. Russia Federation	Regretted the unprecedented increase in the one-sidedness and politicization of OHCHR’s report, ignoring mass violations of human rights in Europe , the U.S. and other Western countries . Outraged that the Office ignores the materials Russia regularly sends about the crimes and the atrocities committed by Ukrainian militants and foreign mercenaries.
14. Zambia	Remains deeply concerned about the continued violations of human rights in many parts of the world. National measures adopted to ensure the respect of human rights, the rule of law and the strengthening of the criminal justice system.
15. Panama	Climate emergency situation: all responses aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change in the coming years must be grounded in human rights, allowing new strategies based on vulnerability and climate risk analysis to be implemented, taking into account the importance of cooperation, access to information and gender equality for climate resilience.
16. Maldives	National reforms: affirmed the importance to establish an impartial, efficient and competent legal system and an independent judicial system vital for a democracy country. China: Reiterated strong commitment the longstanding China policies.
17. Afghanistan	Expressed gratitude for the former High Commissioner in making the human rights situation of people of Afghanistan a priority in her agenda. Described the situation on the ground and the reported and underreported violations since the beginning of the Taliban regime. Called on intensified responses and robust monitoring and documentation mechanism

	for accountability and prevention. Requested to the OHCHR to continue to provide assistance to the diplomatic missions of the country and to support the civil society at home and around the world to solve the monitoring and advocacy gaps.
18. Austria	Concerned over the human rights and humanitarian situation in Yemen, Nicaragua and Cameroon . Called on States to respect international human rights standards and obligations and to cooperate with human rights mechanisms, ending repression against political opponents, independent media, civil society and human rights-defenders, and guaranteeing full respect of human rights.
19. Malta	Concerned about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the direct threat to nuclear powerplants. Concerned over the human rights situation in Syria and called the authorities to ensure humanitarian access to the women, men, boys and girls.
20. South Africa	Expressed its support for the people of Palestine and the right of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara . Reiterated that all human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat all human rights, globally, and in a fair and equal manner.
21. Peru	The international community is facing challenges related to the climate and environmental crisis, post pandemic recovery efforts, human rights violations in Xinjiang and other part of the word , and grave polarization and clashes. The multidimension impact of the crisis in Ukraine affects the most vulnerable groups.
22. Syrian Arab Republic	Condemned human rights violations and colonial settlements in occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, urging the Israeli regime to be held accountable for aggression and war crimes against civilians and civilian facilities inside and outside the occupied territories. Rejected the assessment of human rights in China's Xinjiang Province , which undermines the principle of cooperation and dialogue between the Office and Member States and feeds politicization and polarization in the work of the Council.
23. Estonia	Remained concern about the war of aggression in Ukraine , resulting in mass casualties and horrendous human rights violations in a sovereign state; the deteriorating the human rights situation in Afghanistan ; and the repression of freedom of expression of human rights defenders, media workers, political opponents and civil society organizations in Belarus .
24. Bosnia and Herzegovina	Informing the Council on the OHCHR's visit and recommendations received, stressed the responsibility to ensure healing and reconciliation and to build an inclusive and democratic future, based on equality of all citizens. Remained consistent with the efforts for active participation and cooperation with international organizations for protection, promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms.
25. Chile	Agreeing to the OHCHR's report, mission and efforts, highlighted the need to consider the impact of energy policies on climate change crisis that direct impacted human rights.
26. Canada	Welcomed the critical report on the situation of human rights violations and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang . Urged China to uphold international human rights obligations and to respond to recommendations and concerns. Committed to coordinated action to help address the situation and ensure the Government be hold accountable.
27. Bangladesh	Informed the Council on the existence of an independent election commission aimed to hold a free, fair, and participatory election. In relation to the millions of forcibly displaced Rohingyas , urged OHCHR and the international community to redouble its pressure on Myanmar to commence repatriation of the Rohingyaas.
28. Croatia	Raised concern about the negative impacts of Russia's aggression against Ukraine on numerous human rights, health, food, and energy prices. Continues to support the right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment . Continues to advocate against discrimination and hate speech .

29. Burkina Faso	Increasing attacks by armed terrorist groups in the country, which has caused a deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation. Reaffirmed that allegations of human rights violations committed in the context of the fight against terrorism are conducted in compliance with the rules of engagement. These allegations are also investigated in order to punish perpetrators.
30. South Sudan	Rejected resolution A/HRC/RES/49/2 . Commended the cooperation and between the Chinese government and the OHCHR , noting China's efforts and achievements in different fields including the introduction of universal health care, and the strengthening of rule of law and respect for human rights.
31. Belarus	With the attention of OHCHR to the country, stressing the lack of monitoring of situations in Venezuela, Iran, China, Russia, and Syria . Affirmed that the human rights assessment in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China contains unacceptable manipulated information. The report is an instrument of political pressure on Beijing. Only an equal dialogue based on mutual respect, respect for the national priorities of the State and non-interference in internal affairs will ensure the sustainable improvement of human rights in all countries without exception.
32. Italy	Focused on the unprecedented food crisis linked to human rights and humanitarian situation in many countries around the globe. Reiterated the call on Russia to immediately cease its military actions, withdraw its armed forces and fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.
33. Yemen	Informed the Council on the humanitarian truce in the Country. The armistice aimed to alleviate the suffering to the population. The Houthi militias have not adhered to the clauses and continue to engage in military aggression. Called for pressure on the Houthi militia and an end to its hostile policy towards the Yemeni people.
34. Lao People`s Democratic Republic	Reiterated its commitment to engage with HR mechanisms. Considering the situations in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet China's internal affairs, stating that the international community should apply the UN Charter's principle of non-interference. The Office should work based on principles of non-selectivity, objectivity and impartiality and non-politicization.
35. Niger	Remained concern about the number of situations in the world which constitute obstacles to the full enjoyment of fundamental human rights in various areas, particularly in the OPT ; and about conflicts and terrorist attacks in Africa that undermine the full enjoyment of human rights by affected populations.
36. Denmark	Concerned about the human rights situations in Mali, Egypt, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Sudan, China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Venezuela and Vietnam . Concerned about conflict in Libya and Yemen . Disturbed by the human rights situation in Ukraine resulting from Russia's unprovoked war.
37. Republic of Moldova	Remained concern about the situation of human rights violation across the world, as well as, about the multiple humanitarian crisis in conflict affected areas, including Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Syria . These crises challenge the international community to reassess and reconfigure the international security framework and put more effort into the straightening efficacy, efficiently and credibility of the HRC.
38. Slovakia	Concerned about the repression of independent media, human rights defenders, lawyers, political opposition of Russian Federation , as well as by the Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine . Welcomed the release of the OHCHR Assessment of human rights in Xinjiang, China .
39. Oman	Reiterated the international community's call for action to resolve conflicts peacefully, promote dialogue and try to reach solutions through negotiation and diplomatic instruments in order to achieve international peace and security.

40. Sweden	Situation of freedom of expression, opinion and assembly in Thailand, Viet Nam and Cuba . Reiterated serious concern about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, Mali, Sudan and Guatemala . Called on the Lebanese government to ensure an independent and credible investigation of the explosion in Beirut.
41. Cabo Verde	Emphasized the importance of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund with a view to their participation in the work of the Council. Affirmed that all parties should abide by the purposes and principles of universality and impartiality of the UN Charter. Called upon all states to uphold multilateralism, solidarity and collaboration, and to promote and protect human rights through constructive dialogue and cooperation.
42. Azerbaijan	Highlighted the national importance of ensuring the respect of IDPs' right to return. Reporting the last military attacks committed by Armenia and resulted in casualties, affirmed the lack of interests in the peace process. Called the international community to urge Armenia to focus on implementing international obligations instead of engaging in the act of political military adventurism.
43. El Salvador	Reaffirmed its commitment in maintaining constructive dialogue with the Office. Remained deeply concern about the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in different parts of the world.
44. Iceland	Remained alarmed by the human rights situation in Afghanistan and China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region . Raised concerns about the deteriorating human rights situation in the Russian Federation after its war of aggression against Ukraine . Also, strongly condemned Russia's expansion and harsh enforcement of its foreign agents' law, used to silence dissenting and opposition voices.
45. Uruguay	Welcomed the appointment of the new UN High Commissioner, encouraging him to continue cooperation efforts between States and the Office, including the strengthening of national technical capacities. Hoped that the Council will continue to prioritize the prevention of human rights violations , including through the detection of early warnings.
46. Iraq	Reaffirmed the respect for the role of civil society, democratic mechanisms and political pluralism , as a sustainable approach and as an optimal way of realizing its people's aspirations and guaranteeing their rights. Confirmed that political forces are aware of their national responsibility to avoid any acts of violence.
47. Ireland	Gravely concerned by ongoing repression of civic space in the Russian Federation and Belarus . While remaining concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Mali , urged Sudan to address impunity for human rights violations against peaceful protesters.
48. Botswana	Noting positive developments in some African countries (free and fair elections), remained concern about the extensive violence, harmful, structural inequalities and discriminatory practices including exploitation of women and children. Emphasized that human rights impediments resulting from environmental catastrophes and climate change .
49. Portugal	Underlined that inflation, energy shortages and food insecurity, along with conflicts, the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have a negative impact in the world. Urged the Council to pay renewed attention to the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights of all persons, including young and older persons.
50. Uganda	Reaffirmed national policies, activities and initiative in mitigating effects of the crisis in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued economic unbalance . Reiterated its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.
51. Togo	Concerned by challenges posed to the effective enjoyment of human rights by the underinvestment in economic, social and cultural rights , the dramatic consequences of armed conflict and other political violence, climate change in terms of

	droughts and floods that impact the daily lives of people on all continents. Stressed multilateral approach and sustained cooperation between the various actors.
52. Kenya	Successful national and constitutional elections in August 2022, with mechanisms, measures and modalities to ensure peaceful, transparent, credible, and fair elections in place.
53. Iran	The UN human rights mechanisms must act in accordance with the principles of non-selectivity, objectivity and impartiality , refraining from politicization or double standards . Remained concerned about the human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPT .
54. Egypt	Importance of taking into account national and regional particularities and different historical, cultural and religious backgrounds while promoting and protecting human rights, as well as the importance of all States' continuing efforts to promote dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions.
55. Mali	Renewed solidarity with China and encouraged it to continue to provide lasting solutions to the problems affecting Xinjiang, in accordance with the imperatives of peace. Reaffirmed attachment to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, including equality of States and respect for independence, territorial integrity and choice as to how to manage their internal affairs.
56. Georgia	Focused on the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine, violating international law provisions. Reported forced displacement of millions, deportation, illegal detention, killing, rape and torture actions, and other serious violations and war crimes committed by Russia Federation. Stressed the lack of cooperation between the human rights monitoring mechanisms and Russia.
57. Hungary	Focused on the importance to safeguarding the independence, financial sustainability and transparency of the OHCHR and the Council's mechanisms, in order to ensure impartial monitoring of the implementation of human rights norms. The rights of the child and persons with disabilities , the right to education , elimination of violence against women and girls and the protection and promotion of the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities were of importance.
58. Türkiye	Mentioned the Istanbul agreement on Ukrainian grain, that mitigated the risk of a global food crisis. Attached importance to protect of rights and freedoms of the Uyghur Turks and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China , safeguarding the cultural identities and religious freedoms and respecting China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Confirmed concerns regarding the human rights situation in the regions, in particular the rise of racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic attacks in Germany .
59. Lesotho	In relation to the China's issue, stressed the importance of the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of another state interlinked and intertwined with the right to equality and respect for sovereignty of states without exceptions. The principle of sovereign equality of States, should be at the center of the Council's mandate.
60. New Zealand	Condemned any intimidations or reprisals against minorities and indigenous people . Affirmed the importance to include the participation of indigenous people in UN bodies and processes that impacted them. Deeply concerned about the serious violations committed against ethnic and religious minorities in Xinjiang . Called China to uphold international obligations and to response recommendations and concerns. Informed the Council on national priorities, including advancement of the rights of women and girls violated in Afghanistan . Affirmed that climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts exacerbate inequalities. Concerned about conflict in Ethiopia, Yemen and Syria , causing humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses. Continued to condemn Russia illegal invasion to Ukraine.

61. Philippines	Many urgent situations presented have a complex political, social and historical context. Urged the OHCHR to observe high standards of due diligence and objectivity and contribute to fair and deliberative human rights discourse as the basis for action.
62. Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council)	Reaffirmed efforts to promote and protect human rights. National initiatives regarding women, climate change and health. Supported Yemen , its people and the legitimate Government, reaffirming the intention to respect the UN invoked truce.
63. Latvia	Shared concerns about the challenges that civil society face today. It is unacceptable that Russia and Belarus restrict activities of civil society actors, limiting freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and of association. Recognised the duty of the international community to ensure that they are able to perform their work free from attacks, reprisals, intimidations and harassment.
64. Nigeria	Prevalence of politicization of human rights issues and double-standards in the international human rights system and advocacy, which manifests in country-specific mandates. South Sudan's and China's human rights issues should be referred to via the UPR mechanism, which is a concrete platform for sharing best human rights practices and peer review models.
65. Serbia	Advocating for non-politicization and objective and non-selective approach to human rights, as well as for assistance to the UN Member States in advancing their capacities in the field of human rights, called for effective multilateralism and constructive dialogue, as the best available tool in overcoming major challenges that affect us all equally.
66. Holy See	Reiterated grave concern for the suffering caused by conflicts in many parts of the world, including in Ukraine . Stressed that crises of climate change and biodiversity loss often stem from a lack of respect for our neighbor and for our shared responsibility, as well as by a “colonizing mentality”. Working together to fight this mentality the international community can ensure the right to development of the indigenous and native peoples.
67. Chad	Informed the Council of national developments at the political institutional level . The transitional Government and the military transitional Council are working to implement the roadmap aimed to organize free and democratic elections. Remained concerned about terrorist attacks in Sahel region and Lake Chad . Called on China to cooperate with the Council.
68. Nicaragua	Considered the duty of the member states to promote funding relations based on principles of equality of rights and international obligations. Opposed to the report of the human rights situation in Xinjiang . The assessment did not enjoy the support of the international community or the country in question. Protection and promotion of human rights should not be the subject on bias. Urged the Council to avoid double standards to guarantee the full respect of non-selectivity, non-bias and non-politicization .
69. Mozambique	Commended Kenia and Angola for peaceful and democratic elections. Took note of the human rights situation across the world reported by the Acting HC, including the concerns about the conflict in North Mozambique , where terrorists armed groups attack villages and commit serious violations of human rights.
70. Timor-Leste	Among other human rights situations, deeply concerned about the crisis in Myanmar , calling the parties to effectively and fully implement the ASEAN 5 points consensus. Also concerned about the deteriorating situation of Afghan women and girls, calling for an immediate end of human rights violations and abuses. Concerned about the conflict in Western Sahara . Affirmed that the country is affected by the consequences of climate change in the enjoyment of human rights.
71. Viet Nam	Sharing concerns of the OHCHR over the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution, and nature loss, calling for urgent collective action. Regretted that some remarks related to the situation of human rights in the country are based on

	inaccurate and biased sources, and not helpful for sustainable development, climate change adaptation and the promotion of human rights.
72. Cambodia	Reporting country-specific situations without authorization of the Council and of the country concerned is problematic. Renewed the call for the OHCHR to work in advancing, transforming structures and cooperating with States. Rejected the misinformation reported on Cambodia.
73. Thailand	Informed the Council on significant national progresses , including the draft Act on the Prevention of Torture and Enforced Disappearance and parliamentary debates on four draft laws related to right to marriage and family life, including on same-sex marriage and on civil partnership to promote LGBTI+ rights.
74. Ghana	Noted with concern that the report by the former HC on China could have been carry out in a more orthodox manner. The process of addressing human rights should just be impartial. Perception of politicization of human rights issues undermine progress in promoting it and must be guided against.
75. Algeria	Affirmed that the international community should resolve politically different conflicts and adopt policies to allow equal developments to achieve the SGDs without leaving no one behind. Highlighted the important of technical assistance and capacity building in accordance with the country's needs. Informed the Council over the significant national progresses in the field of human rights. Advised the OHCHR to focus on violations of human rights and self-determination of people in Western Sahara .
76. United Republic of Tanzania	Noted the current situation affected by the COVID-19 pandemic consequences and other global challenges, affirmed that measures for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity should be taken to accelerate and ensure the achievement the 2030 agenda for SDG . Affirmed also that guide and support are vital to the realization of economic and social rights.

Statements Made on Behalf of the National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations

The majority of NGOs welcomed the appointment of **Mr. Volker Türk, as the next High Commissioner for Human Rights** and commend the former High Commissioner's work as well as efforts made by the OHCHR during these years.

Thematic Issues raised:

- **Children:** NGOs expressed concern about the recruitment of child soldiers, prohibited under international law, and considered as a war crime. Parties that recruit children for armed conflict have been added to the List of Shame held by the UN Secretary-General. The HRC should give attention of this matter, as it is a gross violation of children's human rights.
- **Migration, food insecurity and climate** were considered global challenges that require global answers by the international community: climate change impacted the availability of food resources and the whole food chain and could cause millions of people to have to migrate from their places of origin and their homes.

Country-specific situations:

- **Russia's unlawful aggression against Ukraine:** thousands of people are prosecuted, human rights organizations are shuttered, journalists are sentenced to years in prison. The gravity of the human rights crisis in **Russia** merits the establishment by the HRC of a Special Rapporteur on Russia to hold the government to account.
- **Situation in Xinjiang, China:** while some NOGs condemned the human rights violations restrictions and other grave crimes, others rejected such false allegations based on misinformation. NGOs called on all States to support the establishment of an independent international mechanism to monitor and report on human rights in China and to promote accountability for violations.

- Other country-specific situations mentioned: **Algeria, Sudan, Brazil, Ethiopia, Philippines, Vietnam, Jammu & Kashmir, Yemen, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Palestine-Israel, Belarus and Mexico.**

Rights of Reply

- **Egypt** (in reply to the statement made by **Denmark** and **EU**)
- **Morocco** (in reply to the statement made by **Algeria**)
- **Russian Federation** (in reply to the statement made by **EU, U.S.** and other countries)
- **Venezuela** (in reply to the statement made by **EU**)
- **Saudi Arabia** (in reply to the statement made by **Luxembourg** and **Netherlands**)
- **India** (in reply to the statement made by **Pakistan**)
- **Cuba** (in reply to the statement made by **Sweden**)
- **Qatar** (in reply to the statement made by **Denmark**)
- **China** (in reply to the statement made by **U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, EU, France, Australia** and a few **NGOs**)
- **Cambodia** (in reply to the statement made by **U.S.**)
- **Armenia** (in reply to the statement made by **Azerbaijan** and **Pakistan**)
- **Azerbaijan** (in reply to the statement made by **Armenia**)
- **Brazil** (in reply to the statement made by a group of countries)
- **Israel** (in reply to the statement made by **Pakistan** and other countries)
- **Indonesia** (in reply to the statement made by **NGOs**)
- **Algeria** (in reply to the statement made by **Morocco**)
- **Iran** (in reply to the statement made by **NGOs**)
- **Pakistan** (in reply to the statement made by **India**)
- **Armenia** (second reply, to the statement made by **Azerbaijan**)
- **Azerbaijan** (second reply, to the statement made by **Armenia**)
- **Morocco** (second reply, to the statement made by **Algeria**)
- **Algeria** (second reply, to the statement made by **Morocco**)

List of NGOs that took the floor (55):

Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Alsalam Foundation, American Association of Jurists, Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul, ASSOCIATION CULTURELLE DES TAMOULS EN FRANCE, Association D'Entraide Médicale Guinée, Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des revendications démocratiques/culturelles du peuple Azerbaïdjanais-Iran - « ARC », Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, Center for Global Nonkilling, China Association for NGO Cooperation, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), Chinese Association for International Understanding, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, Community Human Rights and Advocacy Centre (CHRAC), Conectas Direitos Humanos, Conselho Indigenista Missionário CIMI, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, FIAN International e.V., Franciscans International, Fundación Luz María, Global Action on Aging, Global Appreciation and Skills Training Network, Global Life savers Inc, Human Rights Watch, IL CENACOLO, International Action for Peace & Sustainable Development, International Human Right, Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), International Muslim women's Union, International Service for Human Rights, International Union of Socialist Youth, Iraqi Development

Organization, iuventum e.V. Justiça Global, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Maloca Internationale, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Mouvement National des Jeunes Patriotes du Mali, Pars Non Trading, Development Activists Co., Partners For Transparency, Promotion du Développement Economique et Social – PDES, Réseau unité pour le développement de Mauritanie, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, Synergie Feminine Pour La Paix Et Le Développement Durable, United Nations Association of China, Women's Human Rights International Association, World Muslim Congress, World Organisation Against Torture, Zero Pauvre Afrique.

Full recording of the General Debate meetings on Item 2 is available on the UN WebTV:
[Part 1](#) (13 September 2022, 00:47:54), [Part 2](#) (13 September 2022, 03:14:01), [Part 3](#) (14 September 2022, 02:28:36)