

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51st SESSION

### **Item 3<sup>1</sup>: General debate**

(21 September 2022)

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**This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 3** that took place between 20-21 September 2022 at the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report includes the statements made by the Member States of the Human Rights Councils, Observer States and other Observers. The statements are presented in the order of speaking and are not exhaustive.

**Please also refer to the Geneva Centre’s summary report considered under Item 3** which is [available here](#). It includes the summary notes of the Briefing by ECOSOC President; presentation of Secretary General and High Commissioner’s thematic reports on a range of topics; as well as reports of the Working Group on the right to development and Working Group on private military security companies.

<sup>1</sup> Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
<b>Angola</b> (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries – CPLP <sup>2</sup> )	CPLP reaffirms the importance of realizing civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development. Welcomes reports on the rights to <b>clean water and sanitation</b> , the rights of <b>older people</b> , and the <b>right to development</b> . States should intensify efforts to respond to the existing challenges in these areas, through the expansion of the decision-making process, giving greater attention to people who are in a vulnerable situation and, with a view to a more sustainable development of societies. CPLP emphasizes that the Council must continue to give equal treatment to all the aforementioned rights in a holistic, objective, constructive, and impartial manner based on dialogue and cooperation, <b>“leaving no one behind”</b> .
<b>Lithuania</b> (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic group of countries – NB8 <sup>3</sup> )	Welcomes the report of the High Commissioner on the implications for civil society in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers and other civil society actors stayed on the frontlines during COVID-19. Human rights defenders, journalists and other media workers promoted vaccination campaigns, disseminated reliable information, and played a monitoring role. A significant number of civil society initiatives started around the world. Despite this, <b>civil society was frequently excluded</b> from decision-making processes, often due to the lack of digital infrastructure and digital literacy. Women, youth and other groups were <b>significantly under-represented or disregarded</b> in COVID-19 management and decision-making, undermining global efforts for sustainable recovery. Journalists and other media workers faced increased surveillance, smear campaigns, restrictions on reporting and other repression. Governments must engage with civil society and ensure ways for its meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, especially in times of crisis.
<b>Luxembourg</b> (on behalf of the Core Group for the resolution on human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda <sup>4</sup> )	The Core Group welcomes OHCHR’s report on integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development at the national level, and its conclusion that much can be achieved by <b>sharing experiences and ensuring close collaboration</b> . The Group looks forward to the <b>intersessional meeting</b> in January 2023 and the <b>high-level political forum</b> , which will take place in July 2023 in New York, with the theme “Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The Group plans to present a <b>renewed resolution</b> during the 52 <sup>nd</sup> session of the HRC.
<b>Czechia</b> (on behalf of the European Union – EU <sup>5</sup> )	EU regrets that the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission was again prevented from briefing the HRC. EU strongly opposes the <b>capital punishment</b> and is encouraged by positive trends towards its abolition in the <b>Central African Republic, Chad, Kazakhstan, Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea, Liberia, Zambia and Malaysia</b> . All states that have not yet abolished the death penalty should establish a moratorium. It is deeply concerned about the increased and often disproportionate <b>restrictions imposed on civil society’s</b> work, calling for ensuring a safe and enabling environment. EU pledges its firm support to the OHCHR’s efforts to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights. EU remains firmly committed to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and has further <b>increased their ODA</b> to €70.2 billion in 2021. It strongly supports a <b>human rights based and gender responsive approach</b> to development

<sup>2</sup> Brazil, Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste.

<sup>3</sup> Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden.

<sup>4</sup> Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay.

<sup>5</sup> North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Liechtenstein align themselves with this statement.

	cooperation encompassing all human rights. EU thanks the Chair-Rapporteur for leadership and efforts in advancing the <b>IGWG</b> process on <b>PMSCs</b> , recalling the applicability of existing international law to PMSCs activity, as reflected by the <b>Montreux document</b> .
<b>Pakistan</b> (on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation – OIC)	Selective approaches and double standards erode the credibility of global human rights agenda and undermine the legitimacy of the Council. OIC reiterates the call for pursuing a path of dialogue and engagement. OIC thanks Ambassador Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, for presenting the report, and is pleased that after two decades of stalemate the WG has commenced <b>textual negotiations of the draft Convention</b> . It is deeply concerned over the devastation caused by <b>climate induced catastrophes</b> , with disproportionable impacts for developing and least developing states. OIC echoes Secretary General’s call for massive increase in financing for adaptation. OIC <b>rejects racism and condemns Islamophobia</b> , deploring recent Islamophobic trends including <b>state-sponsored marginalization of Muslim communities</b> in certain countries. OIC reiterates support to further strengthen international human rights framework to combat xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization, stereotyping and violence targeted against persons based on their <b>religion or belief</b> . OIC deplores attempts aimed at demonizing the legitimate struggles of <b>people under foreign occupation</b> to realize their right to <b>self-determination</b> , often under the “bogey of terrorism”.
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b> (on behalf of the African Group)	African Group reaffirms its commitment to the realization of the right to development and the SDGs. It reiterates in accordance with the DDPA its call for a <b>renewed commitment to combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerance and violence</b> against people because of their origins, religions or beliefs. <b>Climate change</b> is a threat to the enjoyment of human rights, and the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges of vulnerable individuals and communities, exposing the fragility of social, economic and environmental systems. African Group notes that due to the persistence of the pandemic, developing countries are facing a <b>growing budget deficit</b> and the <b>debt burden continues to hamper efforts</b> to counter the adverse effects of <b>health and climate emergencies</b> as well as the <b>fight against terrorism</b> . The Group believes that the economic crisis requires <b>urgent materialization of the partial reallocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR)</b> and the <b>suspension or rescheduling of debt service</b> to support recovery of the weakest countries, with particular emphasis on the <b>production of medicines and vaccines</b> as well as <b>food security</b> .
<b>Azerbaijan</b> (on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement – NAM)	NAM welcomes the presentation of reports submitted to the session by the SR on the right to development and reiterates unrestricted support to the fulfilment of his mandate. NAM stresses that the Council should provide <b>equal treatment</b> to civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development. There is an urgent need to make right to development a reality for everyone. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Expert Mechanism and requests to continue to pay particular <b>attention to the international dimension of the right to development</b> and practical implementation at the regional, national and international levels. NAM welcomes the initiative of the Expert Mechanism on the preparation of commentaries for the articles of the Declaration on Right to Development. NAM welcomes the presentation of the thematic report by the SR on the negative impact of <b>UCMs</b> and reiterates support to her mandate. Human rights issues must be dealt in the global context through a constructive and <b>non-confrontational, non-politicized and non-selective dialogue</b> with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs of States.
<b>State of Palestine</b> (on behalf of a group of Arab States)	Arab Group is committed to the indivisibility of all rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. Arab Group commends the report submitted on the <b>right to development</b> which serves to strengthen fundamental human rights. In the light of the pandemic the right to development is even more important and we must make sure we <b>leave no one behind</b> . Arab Group wishes to see <b>further international efforts</b> to ensure the goals of the <b>2030 Agenda</b> are reached. This requires the <b>full commitment</b> of the international community. The right to development must be a <b>priority throughout UN plans</b> and ensure effective streamlining.



<p><b>Türkiye</b> (on behalf of the Organization of Turkic states<sup>6</sup>)</p>	<p>Education has a positive impact in promoting economic, cultural and social rights, as well as civil and political rights. Education accelerates economic development and welfare, and the Organization is determined to strengthen partnership in this field. <b>Turkic University Union</b>, established in 2013, and the <b>ORHUN Exchange Program</b>, are concrete examples of this objective. They promote a consciousness on <b>common language, history, and cultural values</b> among the youth of Turkic world, and <b>strengthen solidarity</b> among through sports events and foster inclusiveness via various social and cultural activities. The Organization will continue working on ways to benefit from <b>emerging technologies and digital solutions</b> to further <b>accessibility of education</b>.</p>
<p><b>Syrian Arab Republic</b> (on behalf of Group of Countries<sup>7</sup>)</p>	<p>Expansion in imposing UCMs, without the authorization of the UN Security Council and running counter to international law and the UN Charter, against around 20 percent of the UN member states continue to undermine the basis of multilateralism. UCMs endanger the well-being of people in targeted countries, constitute a systematic violation of their human rights and should be lifted immediately and unconditionally. The Group <b>categorically rejects false justifications</b> through claims of exemptions, the catastrophic impacts of which may amount to the <b>crime against humanity</b>. As stipulated by the SR, the <b>expansion of secondary sanctions and overcompliance</b> extends UCMs to additional targets from individuals and entities to entire populations. Nationals of targeted countries are arbitrarily discriminated against, and targeted states are impeded from meeting their financial obligations towards UN and carrying out diplomatic and consular functions in violation of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and on Consular Relations (1963) as well as UN and in host country agreements. UN agencies and humanitarian organizations are prevented from transferring funds to sanctioned countries, obstructing the flow of humanitarian response. So called “humanitarian exemptions” remain non-existent and are only used to <b>whitewash the immorality of UCMs</b>.</p>
<p><b>India</b> (on behalf of Group of a Like-Minded Group of countries – LMG<sup>8</sup>)</p>	<p>The COVID-19 crisis has led to unprecedented setback to the enjoyment of human rights globally. The impact continues to be disproportionately felt in the developing countries, bringing to focus the significance of the realization of economic, social, cultural rights. Calls for constructive international dialogue and cooperation to enhance the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development in a <b>fair and equal manner</b> on the same footing and emphasis. The <b>Council must ensure balance</b> in its work by giving due attention to all economic, social and cultural rights. Commemorating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the <b>UN Declaration on the Right to Development</b>, its mainstreaming in the UN system with an emphasis on SDGs and ensuring no one is left behind must be supported. Council should further promote <b>education and learning</b> and provide greater <b>advisory services</b>, technical assistance and capacity building <b>in consultation with and with the consent of states concerned</b>. Council’s work should be transparent, fair and impartial, enable genuine dialogue and be results oriented. <b>Proliferation of country specific</b> mandates that do not enjoy the support of the state does not lead to improvements in human rights situation on the ground. Efforts must be made to build consensus on vital issues of universal significance.</p>
<p><b>Pakistan</b> (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p>Fostering <b>equality and non-discrimination</b> are foundations of protection and promotion of human rights. Despite normative stipulations enshrined in the UDHR a wide range of challenges in advancing these aspirations persist. There is a <b>surge in pre-existing inequalities</b> as a result from the unprecedented socio-economic impact triggered by climate change, the COVID-19 and triple crisis</p>

<sup>6</sup> Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Türkiye and observer Turkmenistan.

<sup>7</sup> Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

<sup>8</sup> Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Nicaragua, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

	<p>of food-fuel and finance. <b>Decades of progress</b> in advancing <b>human rights and SDGs</b> is being eroded especially in <b>developing countries, LDCs and SIDSs</b>. Individuals in <b>marginalized and vulnerable situations</b> bore the brunt. A holistic multistakeholder and multidisciplinary approach is needed, informed by the universal nature of all human rights and their mutual reinforcing linkages with Sustainable Development. To help <b>galvanize discussion, international cooperation and concrete actions</b> to address these challenges, <b>Bolivia, Pakistan and South Africa</b> have formed a <b>Group of Friends</b> on fostering equality and non-discrimination for the enjoyment of all human rights. The Group commits to support the work by the UN human rights machinery in these cross-cutting areas. Envisage the group as a broad and diverse coalition of states, UN bodies, agencies, programs, funds and civil society representatives. The Group <b>invites all states and relevant stakeholders to join</b> the Group.</p>
<p><b>Ireland</b> (on behalf of the Core Group on Civil Society Space<sup>9</sup>)</p>	<p>Since 2013 the cross-regional Core Group has emphasized that a strong, independent and inclusive civil society space empowers communities, contributes to good governance and plays an essential role in promoting and protecting human rights. The COVID-19 has emphasized the <b>importance of trust, dialogue and exercise of rights when responding to health emergencies</b>, as outlined in the OHCHR report. The Group <b>commends the proactive role of civil society in responding to the pandemic</b> by providing lifesaving services, advocacy for people-centered policies, promoting vaccination campaigns, raising awareness and disseminating information about the pandemic and response measures, including to remote communities. It is <b>concerned by reports of repression</b> of critical voices and <b>exploitation of laws and regulations</b> aimed at combatting disinformation to <b>intimidate, criminalize and restrict civil society actors’ work</b>. Increased use of <b>digital space</b> during the pandemic provided significant <b>opportunities</b> for engagement, but also <b>exacerbated risks</b> and restrictions to civil space. The Group urges states to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of the OHCHR report, namely, to <b>invest in inclusive and diverse participation</b>, provide space and means for an empowered civil society and vibrant debate, and ensure meaningful, effective and safe engagement of civil society.</p>
<p><b>China</b> (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p>The impact of the <b>COVID-19 pandemic reverses global development gains</b> hinders the implementation of the <b>2030 Agenda</b> for Sustainable Development and <b>exacerbates inequality</b> within and between countries. China calls on all parties to pursue people-centered development to ensure development gains are enjoyed on a larger scale in a more equitable way, especially for those in vulnerable and marginalized situations. Highlights <b>equal access to basic rights</b> such as education, health care, and housing leaving no one behind and achieving higher-quality development. China calls on all parties to <b>enhance global solidarity</b>, take inclusive measures to combat the pandemic, and advance post-pandemic recovery and to ensure <b>equitable access to vaccines and medicines</b>. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda should consider <b>different national realities, capacities and levels of development</b> and <b>respect national policies and priorities</b>. <b>Developed countries</b> should take more practical measures and the <b>international financial institutions</b> should avoid policies which impede the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights. China calls on the human rights mechanisms to put more emphasis on the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, and the elimination of inequality and provide effective assistance based on the <b>consent of the countries</b> concerned.</p>
<p><b>Bolivia</b> (on behalf of the Core Group on the rights of peasants)</p>	<p>September 28 marks four years since the adoption of the <b>UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas</b>, which was the result of peasants around the world calling for measures to protect their rights. This vulnerable group is worst affected by <b>poverty, hunger, and the socio-economic impacts of the climate, health and food crisis</b>. They <b>play a fundamental role</b> in ensuring food security globally, upholding biodiversity, combatting climate change, promoting cultural heritage, providing</p>

<sup>9</sup> Chile, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Ireland.

<p>and other people working in rural areas<sup>10</sup>)</p>	<p>jobs and promoting sustainable development. The Declaration is a <b>precedent</b> for <b>overcoming various forms of discrimination</b>, systematic violations and historical injustices effecting this population including <b>rural women and children</b>. The Group calls for continued constructive dialogue and cooperation to ensure respect for the rights in the declaration. The Council can guarantee best ways to ensure effective implementation.</p>
<p><b>Saudi Arabia</b> (on behalf of 72 states to renew the international call for dialogue, cooperation, and tolerance)</p>	<p>Reaffirms commitment to <b>uphold IHRL</b> and promote respect for <b>cultural diversity</b>. The IHRL including UDHR, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and relevant human rights covenants, recognizes inherent dignity, equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as foundations of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation remain the guiding principles to achieve the shared objective of promoting respect for universal human rights values. <b>Respect</b> for the <b>diversity of values</b>, cultures and tolerance in a spirit of brotherhood, mutual trust and understanding as a means to promote international peace and security. The <b>strength of cultural diversity</b> must be utilized for achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global peaceful coexistence. Human rights must be strengthened by adhering to the principle of <b>universality, transparency, impartiality, objectivity</b> and with respect to the principle of <b>national sovereignty</b>.</p>
<p><b>Costa Rica</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>11</sup>)</p>	<p>A <b>prevention strategy</b> that places <b>peace</b> at its core may bring sustainable peace and contribute to sustainable development. The group calls for all States to acknowledge that peace is a positive dynamic and a participatory process by which conflicts and human rights violations can be best prevented. Through dialogue and cooperation and without politicizing issues all stakeholders should act in solidarity and promote tolerance, cooperation and intercultural dialogue, with the aim of ensuring sustainable peace for all. In line with <b>SDG16</b> by placing peace at the core of State's structures and societies will help address threats in a unified, efficient and resourceful manner without depleting resources with violence. Given the <b>rapidly deteriorating international peace and security environment</b> this is a time for <b>increased collaboration, cooperation and communication</b>.</p>
<p><b>Czechia</b> (on behalf of a group of countries<sup>12</sup>)</p>	<p>Increasing attention has been paid to <b>equal participation in political and public affairs</b> by the Council in recent years, with six resolutions, all adopted by consensus. The OHCHR continues to provide useful guidance and assistance and States and NGOs frequently highlight the critical importance of equal and effective participation. However, the equal opportunity to have a meaningful say in public affairs <b>continues to be a distant ideal for many</b>. OHCHR's report on the topic with good practices and challenges faced by States is welcomed. While many countries recognize and protect the right to participate in their national legal frameworks, several others must take further measures. Numerous <b>obstacles persist</b>, including those triggered by COVID-19 pandemic measures with limitations on freedoms of movement and assembly; and long-term challenges resulting from humanitarian crises and conflicts, lack of access to information, digital divide, persistent discrimination and exclusion, restrictions of civil society, and lack of capacity and resources. <b>Political will</b> remains the most important factor in <b>creating a supportive environment</b> that fosters participation.</p>
<p><b>Luxembourg</b> (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p><b>Atrocity crimes</b> are the result of long-standing violations of civil, political, and economic, social and cultural rights. Country situations often are experiencing or at imminent risk of such crimes. In addition to early warning and prevention, the <b>Council's role</b> in</p>

<sup>10</sup> Cuba, South Africa, Bolivia

<sup>11</sup> Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica

<sup>12</sup> Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, United States



	responding in ongoing crisis is critical. <b>Special Procedures</b> play a vital role in highlighting situations at risk and providing recommendations. Special sessions and urgent debates to address human rights emergencies and place measures to prevent further escalations are important to react in a timely and decisive manner and help mobilize further actions by other mechanisms. A variety of investigative mechanisms have been established by the Council. The group calls on all parties to uphold their responsibilities to protect, to investigate all human rights violations to ensure accountability and to limit the risk of further atrocities.
<b>United Arab Emirates</b> (on behalf of a group of countries <sup>13</sup> )	Technology has established connectivity between people from different backgrounds, promoting coexistence and religious tolerance. Digital technology can help achieve peace and the group calls on stakeholders to make human rights and peacebuilding an integral part of improving transparency and accountability of technology. During the COVID-19 pandemic digital platforms ensured dialogue and friendships, which can contribute to a positive change and a <b>culture of peace</b> and mutual respect. The pandemic also highlighted the <b>digital divide</b> , a gap that must be bridged by <b>enhancing access to technology and the internet</b> . The rapid rise of digital technology has also brought <b>human rights concerns</b> , with the need to protect the same rights people have offline also online. According to articles 19 on the UDHR and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, everyone must work together to counter the spread of <b>disinformation, discrimination and online bullying</b> . Technology can and must be <b>used as a tool for good</b> .
<b>Statements made by Member States</b>	
<b>1. Namibia, H.E. Yvonne Dausab, Minister of Justice</b>	Human rights are under threat from various fronts internationally and within sovereign borders, and international cooperation and multilateralism must be strengthened. Escalating racism, racial discrimination, and violence against women and girls around the world remain concerning. Women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons remain vulnerable due to persisting and compounding inequalities. Deliberate <b>inaction towards climate change mitigation</b> especially by major contributors is concerning, including through the renunciation of the <b>principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities</b> . With OHCHR's technical assistance, Namibia has reached the final stages of setting up its <b>National Tracking Database</b> to enhance the implementation and monitoring of recommendations from treaty bodies and the UPR process. Assistance has further helped to submit 6 out of 7 <b>periodical reports</b> . Namibia will be leaving the Council in December 2022, and H.E. Dausab thanked fellow states, civil society organizations and the OHCHR for the support and cooperation during their tenure.
<b>2. Finland</b>	<b>Transitional justice processes</b> lay the foundation for peace and coming to terms with the past after violent conflict or oppressive rule, need to be gender-responsive, victim centered, and investigate the financing of the conflict. <b>Non-state actors</b> : it is essential that <b>non-state armed groups</b> can be held accountable for serious human rights abuses, that they can be expected to observe human rights standards in territories under their control, are obliged to prevent abuses of women's rights and support the participation of women in peace processes. <b>Corporations</b> can play a significant role in violent conflicts or oppressive rule, and they need to be incentivized better to engage in transitional justice processes and providing reparations. Non-State actors should contribute to reparations programmes and truth-seeking efforts. <b>Accountability for state's own violations</b> is crucial in securing successful transitional justice processes.
<b>3. Cuba</b>	Promotion and protection of all human rights must be a priority for all States in the context of the current international situation, in which <b>social inequalities</b> have worsened. Cuba has been a victim for more than 60 years of the <b>economic, commercial and financial</b>

<sup>13</sup> Bahrain, Israel, Morocco, United States, United Arab Emirates

	<p><b>blockade</b> of the United States, aggravated even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The calls by most of the international community for the lifting of this blockade has been ignored. The Cuban people will vote in September a referendum on the new <b>Family Code</b>, after a democratic consultation process. The legislation is being <b>adapted to the Cuban social and demographic context</b> and to the precepts established in the Constitution of the Republic, to reflect and respond to the <b>diversity of Cuban families</b>. It is consistent with theoretical Family Law and legal practice in Cuba and considers progress in the legislation of other countries on this matter. Cuba reiterates the urgency of preventing the human rights system from continuing to fall into an <b>insolvable crisis of legitimacy</b> and credibility. The new High Commissioner and the Office must play an important role in this regard.</p>
<p><b>4. France</b></p>	<p>The Council must ensure that <b>human rights remain at the heart of international community's response</b> to global issues. Regarding the <b>2030 Agenda for sustainable development</b>, no development policy can be sustainable if its implementation undermines individual freedoms and does not improve the situation of people. France has supported the <b>recognition policy on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable development</b> and the creation of a Special Rapporteur's mandate on human rights in the context of <b>climate change</b>. The issue of <b>fake news</b> must be on the multilateral agenda. France will organize the second <b>Summit for Information and Democracy</b> on September 22, 2022, in New York, now supported by 46 States. The fight for the exercise of <b>freedom of opinion and expression</b> and access to <b>free, plural and reliable information</b> requires the implementation of democratic guarantees, among which the safety of journalists, on which France will carry a <b>resolution</b> during this session. Concerned about the multiplication of threats and attacks on the rights and freedoms of civil society and will propose a <b>resolution</b>.</p>
<p><b>5. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)</b></p>	<p><i>Venezuela aligns itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM, by India on behalf of the LMG, and the delegations of Syria and China on behalf of groups of countries.</i></p> <p>Venezuela reiterates its support for the mandate of the <b>Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearance</b>. The mandates of the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism on the right to development are of great importance in the realization of this human right of the peoples of the South, without this it is impossible to enjoy further basic rights. Agrees with the concerns about the existing inequalities and challenges in the realization of the right to development, and global reconstruction in the post-COVID-19 pandemic stage. The imposition of <b>illegal unilateral coercive measures</b> by some States violates international law, are a serious obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights and represent <b>crimes against humanity</b>. Echoes the calls by the former High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on UCMs, and the Independent Expert on a democratic and equitable international order, for immediately lifting these cruel measures used as an instrument seeking to undermine the sovereignty of States, in violation of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the norms that govern peaceful and friendly relations between States.</p>
<p><b>6. Republic of Korea</b></p>	<p>The world is facing new, unforeseen and emerging threats challenging the upholding of human rights. In addressing them, <b>multilateralism needs to utilize the potential of stakeholders</b>, including civil society, the private sector and sub-national authorities as addressed by the UN Secretary-General in his report "<b>Our Common Agenda</b>," through an inclusive approach in discussions. <b>Technological innovations</b>: the rapidly evolving issues surrounding new digital technologies and their impacts on human rights merit further attention of the Council. Ensuring coherence in implementing human rights frameworks on new technologies is of critical importance, as stressed in the OHCHR report on "the practical application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR) to the activities of technology companies." Looks forward to <b>further strengthening OHCHR's leading role</b>, including through the next OHCHR expert consultation focusing on the relationship between human rights and technical standard-setting processes for new and emerging digital technologies.</p>



<p><b>7. Libya</b></p>	<p>Libya thanks the team of experts for their valuable annual report and affirms its recommendations, including the <b>need to expand the scope of participation, and the right to development</b> to promote, respect and protect all civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. It is necessary to <b>adopt a legally binding international instrument</b> to promote this right and welcomes proposals to deepen dialogue with civil society in this context. The government has recently taken several measures, including the project of the Life Return Program, and encouraged the private sector to set up <b>micro projects</b>, and established <b>a national platform for entrepreneurs</b>. The right to development is <b>a national priority</b>, and despite the current challenges, the government recognizes that development fosters individual initiative and entrepreneurial spirit and provides alternatives for people beyond the conflict. The international community should take practical steps to help adopt an <b>international instrument regulating the right to development</b> and to provide the necessary support, especially for <b>countries in transition</b>.</p>
<p><b>8. Mauritania</b></p>	<p>Developing countries, especially the LDCs, are bearing the brunt of the <b>adverse socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic</b> and multiple crises related to the current global tensions, due to the <b>fragility of their health and social protection systems</b>, limited financial resources and vulnerability to external shocks. This exacerbates the existing structural inequalities and continues to have <b>profound repercussions</b> on the enjoyment of all human rights. The application of the <b>right to development</b> and the principles that underpin it would contribute to preventing or mitigating the various effects of COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 crises and to guide global response. Effective international solidarity and cooperation are essential, including <b>equitably distributing the fruits of development</b>, ensuring <b>equal access to resources</b> and basic services, <b>sharing technological and scientific innovation</b>, and <b>strengthening financing of development</b>. The conclusion of the Secretary-General's report considers that financing for development, including the programs of international financial institutions, must provide countries with sufficient flexibility to enable them to meet their obligations, in matters of human rights. Calls for <b>the strengthening of OHCHR's capacities</b> in countries, regional offices and the expansion of the work of the Surge Initiative.</p>
<p><b>9. China</b></p>	<p>The global recovery of the world economy has suffered setbacks, the development <b>gap between the North and the South</b> has widened, and the momentum of development cooperation has weakened. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is facing <b>unprecedented challenges</b>, and there is a long way to go to realize human rights for all. A happy life for the people is the greatest human right, and all countries should adhere to <b>a people-centered approach, in accordance with their own national conditions and people's demands</b>. <b>Inequality</b> is a major challenge facing the international community, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated. Especially developing countries have been severely impacted with people in deep poverty and vulnerability the most affected. In recovery efforts, countries should adequately accommodate people's needs, take effective measures to ensure rights such as education, medical care, housing, and decent work, strengthen social security systems, and leave no one behind. The <b>global development initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping</b> is another public good that China has contributed to the promotion of international human rights, to which the international community responded positively, and more than 100 countries expressed their support. China is willing to work with other countries to take development as a priority task, promote this initiative, and revitalize the global cooperation in implementing the <b>2030 Agenda</b>.</p>
<p><b>10. Kazakhstan</b></p>	<p>There is a need for greater inter-religious harmony and understanding, which Kazakhstan has successfully achieved, with the presence of 18 major world's confessions and a polyethnic community. New approaches to strengthening multilateral dialogue and trust at the global level is more crucial in the increasingly turbulent geopolitical post-pandemic world. We must turn to the <b>humanistic ideals</b> that all faiths are based on, recognition of the supreme value of human life, and the aspiration for peace and creation. The</p>

	<p><b>Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions</b> was held in Astana in September, to overcome differences, and strengthen mutual respect and interreligious and intercultural dialogue around the world. The Congress was graced by the presence of His Holiness Pope Francis, Grand Imam of al-Azhar Ahmed el-Tayeb, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel David Lau, and Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel Yitzhak Yosef, and many other religious and spiritual leaders. The participants of the Congress <b>collectively condemned both “power politics” and “hate speech”</b>. To counter today's challenges history provides only one answer – goodwill, dialogue and cooperation. Disputes should be solved at the negotiating table in the spirit of the UN Charter. Threats, sanctions, and the use of force do not solve problems. Calls on the international community to promote pluralism and interethnic and interfaith harmony.</p>
<p><b>11. Armenia</b></p>	<p>Armenia’s commitment to independence, sovereignty and democracy is unwavering. The <b>unprovoked and unjustified aggression of Azerbaijan</b> against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia is <b>a blatant breach of the UN Charter</b>. Armenian towns and villages were under attack with numerous casualties, among them three civilians, and several thousand people internally displaced. At least two servicemen were tortured and killed in captivity, and shocking and gruesome videos depict brutal humiliation, torture and mutilation of the Armenian servicewomen. These <b>violations of IHRL and IHL</b> are a stark reminder of the atrocities committed by Azerbaijan two years ago in <b>Nagorno-Karabakh</b>, related to which the <b>UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</b> has recently expressed its <b>deep concern</b> on allegations of severe and grave human rights violations. Azerbaijan blatantly violates the order of the International Court of Justice for not aggravating the dispute. <b>Impunity leads to new crimes</b> and Armenia hopes that the atrocities committed by Azerbaijan won’t remain unnoticed.</p>
<p><b>12. Malaysia</b></p>	<p><i>Malaysia associates itself with the statements of the groups that it belongs to.</i></p> <p>The various thematic reports have been instrumental in building understanding on the progress and challenges in the realization of human rights, and international cooperation grounded on mutual respect, solidarity, non-discrimination, and genuine dialogue is needed now more than ever. The Council should give <b>equal treatment to both civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development</b>. Malaysia is fully committed to the process of developing <b>a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development</b>. Council members, the UN and its mechanisms should continue to pay attention to the concerns of developing countries with equal importance to technical assistance, capacity building and the accountability perspective. Malaysia reiterates its strong support to the right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Malaysia aspires to achieve a net zero green-house gas emission target by 2050 and to this end, we have established the <b>Climate Change Action Council</b> to discuss and set the government’s policy direction. Malaysia has decided to <b>abolish the mandatory death penalty</b> and is planning to review the <b>corporal punishment</b> and set up a technical committee to study the matter comprehensively and consult relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>13. United States of America</b></p>	<p><b>UDHR</b> declares all human beings free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to rights without distinctions of any kind, and the <b>HRC has a responsibility</b> to aid in the protection of these rights. <b>Respect for human rights is lacking</b> in many countries of the world. In some, individuals are arbitrarily detained for exercising their faith, seeking to preserve their culture, or speak in their mother tongue. Some are forced to work against their will away from their families, or for little or no compensation. Citizens are threatened, injured or murdered by paramilitaries or other armed groups controlled by foreign powers, operating outside the law. In too many places, people lack access to adequate standard of living, others struggle or pay bribes to find safe drinking water and sanitation, to educate their children and support their families. The wide range of global challenges demonstrate the <b>need to redouble our efforts</b> to defend and respect all human rights.</p>

<p><b>14. Nepal</b></p>	<p>Nepal reaffirms their commitment for the protection and promotion of all human rights with equal emphasis and underscores the importance of <b>integrating the right to development in national plans and policies</b> for its effective realization. Nepal has implemented measures to enhance the participation of <b>women, indigenous nationalities, Madhesi, Muslim, dalit, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged communities</b> in the state mechanism. Legal frameworks to combat <b>sexual and gender-based violence</b> have been strengthened by amending the existing laws. The government has formulated a directive regarding the establishment of the <b>rehabilitation center for persons with disabilities</b>. Continued efforts are being made to ensure the safety, security and wellbeing of <b>migrant workers</b> through bilateral engagements with the host countries. Despite challenges such as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, armed conflicts and natural disasters, Nepal is committed to attain SDGs in a timely manner and graduate from the <b>LDC status in 2026</b>. Nepal underscores that the <b>international community should fulfil their ODA and climate-related financial commitments</b> that would <b>complement developing countries</b>, in particular the LDCs’ efforts in achieving the SDGs.</p>
<p><b>15. Indonesia</b></p>	<p>Reaffirms commitment to the respect for promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The WHO has announced that the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is close, however, its impact will endure. Coupled with a multitude of <b>global food and energy crisis</b>, the need to promote human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights in the context of the recovery is more urgent than ever. The current situation greatly effects the States’ capacity to meet their human rights obligations and <b>has deteriorated development trajectories</b>. Divisive approaches to human rights should be avoided for the Council to constructively contribute to national efforts, simultaneously strengthening collaboration and inclusivity. Effort to recover stronger requires robust partnership to generate greater impact. Any HRC agenda must be pursued through dialogue and constructive engagement. Reiterate call for concerted multilateral effort grounded on solidarity, non-discrimination, equality and the spirit of partnership, not only to assist but to empower all countries to be able to respond and recover stronger. The Council must be a platform for unified voice and action toward this end.</p>
<p><b>16. Pakistan</b></p>	<p>The Council’s core responsibility is to promote universal respect for human rights of everyone, everywhere. It should pay special attention to <b>internationally recognized situations of foreign occupation</b> which provide global flashpoints of people deprived of their rights. The Indian illegally occupied <b>Jammu-Kashmir</b> is one such flashpoint. Over seven decades the <b>disenfranchise of Kashmiris inalienable right to self-determination</b> has continued. Unilateral action of 5<sup>th</sup> August and since then are yet another demonstration of India’s violation of the rule of law, and universally agreed human rights norms and principles. The pace and scale of unlawful colonialization of the disputed territory <b>has accelerated</b>. Kashmiri men, women, children and youth continue to experience unlawful killings, torture, illegal arrests, and sexual violence on a daily basis. To conceal its actions, India has drawn <b>a physical and digital wall</b> across the occupied territory. Local media and civil society have been silenced, social media activism outlawed, and independent actors denied access. The Council must credibly address the situation. At a minimum, Kashmir monitoring and reporting process by the OHCHR must continue. Gaps between words and deeds must be bridged.</p>
<p><b>17. Benin</b></p>	<p>In accordance with the declaration of the African Group, Benin <b>reaffirms its commitment to the right to development</b> and looks forward to the Intergovernmental Working Group to continue its work. Following the <b>World Summit on the Transformation of Education</b> in New York in September 2022, Benin highlights the <b>right to education</b> and the need to promote <b>technical and vocational training</b> to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Benin is committed to this path through an ambitious <b>reform of its education system</b> and wishes to contribute to strengthening the action of the Council in this area. The <b>promotion of cultural rights</b> should continue to receive increasing attention in the work of the Council, and Benin co-sponsored and supported a new resolution</p>



	on cultural rights and the promotion of cultural heritage and supported all draft resolutions on this subject during this session. Benin reaffirms its commitment to the <b>fight against all forms of racial discrimination</b> and presented its first periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in August. Benin is ready to support draft resolutions on this issue.
<b>18. Ukraine</b>	Remains strongly committed to the 2030 Agenda, however, the ongoing full-scale, unprovoked and unjustified war waged by Russia against Ukraine has seriously undermined progress on almost all SDGs. <b>Russia's war has global implications</b> and social-economic effects, including global food security crisis, and it puts more people at risk of poverty. President Zelensky underlined at the <b>Global Food Security Summit</b> that "Russia wants to make protection from hunger not a right, but a privilege, and wants to make food – not an inalienable right, but something to beg for. We categorically do not accept that." Reiterates Ukraine's commitment as <b>global food security guarantor</b> , a role it has played for years before the Russian naval blockade of the country's ports. The government is dedicated to the operation of the <b>Black Sea grain corridor</b> , working relentlessly to ensure that Ukraine's exports reach the most vulnerable. Under the <b>Black Sea Grain Initiative</b> Ukraine has exported over 4,1 tons of agricultural products, 2/3 of which to Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Standing in solidarity with Ukraine against the Russian invasion means guaranteeing the right to food and protection from hunger of every country and individual. After 7 months, Russia's war continues to bring <b>unspeakable suffering</b> for every Ukrainian, depriving them of their basic human rights. The Russian authorities are <b>attempting to organize sham referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine</b> , Kremlin once again imposing its malicious intent to deny the citizens of Ukraine the right to live in an independent country, to vote for democracy and not for dictatorship.
<b>19. Malawi</b>	<i>Malawi aligns itself to the statement of the African Group.</i> Malawi views the <b>respect and promotion of social economic rights</b> as a path towards the full realization of the right to development and regrets the over-emphasis on civil and political rights at the expense of tangible social economic progress of most of the world. Most <b>LDCs obtained political freedom many years ago</b> and are now eagerly <b>yearning for social economic independence</b> and development. Malawi has adopted a long-term development plan called <b>Malawi 2063</b> , a clear road map towards uplifting the country towards developmental independence. To attain this, access to <b>quality, affordable and meaningful education</b> at every level of the society as indicated in SDG 4 is needed. Only an educated nation can take their place amongst equals and demand their rightful claim to development. Malawi reiterates its commitment to protect the right to education by adopting measures necessary to ensure a balanced and visible allocation of resources and systematically identifying and undertaking tangible projects dedicated to that right.
<b>Statements made by the Observers</b>	
<b>1. Greece</b> (on behalf of the core group of the draft resolution on "Neurotechnology and Human Rights" <sup>14</sup> )	<b>Neurotechnology</b> offers huge potential in the medical field for the treatment of neurological and mental disorders, and it is also increasingly applied in other fields such as teaching, gaming and entertainment. In these frameworks, the aim would be to influence the brain in various ways, for instance through "memory enhancement" or "cognitive engineering". This process requires the collection of neural data and the decoding of thoughts. These applications <b>will raise several ethical, legal and societal questions</b> ; who should have access to the accumulated neurological data? What if the brain-computer interface goes as far as to affect the individual's mental privacy, cognitive liberty or sense of personal identity? How can we anticipate and monitor potential misuse and

<sup>14</sup> Chile, Singapore, Greece

	abuse by state and non-state actors? The group believes it is time for the <b>Council to request the Advisory Committee to prepare a study to assess the human rights impact of neurotechnology.</b>
<b>2. Ecuador</b> (on behalf of a group of countries <sup>15</sup> )	Grateful for the presentation of the report of the OHCHR on good practices, lessons learned and challenges with which States are confronted in terms to preventing, mitigating and addressing the <b>unregulated and illicit transfer of weapons</b> . Deplores the fact that the <b>document was not received with sufficient time</b> to allow for adequate analysis. Appreciate the emphasis on the adverse impact the diversion and illicit transfer of weapons has on human rights of <b>children and young people</b> , among the main victims of armed violence. Welcomes the recommendation that States establish <b>compulsory standards for due diligence</b> in the field of human rights including the arms and weapons sector and that States commit to <b>setting up effective mechanisms for reporting, accountability and effective remedy</b> . Underscores the need for adopting a human rights-based approach in this sphere and strengthening or establishing <b>national oversight systems</b> . International cooperation must be strengthened to prevent and combat the practice of the diversion of weapons. The setting up in 2020 of the <b>Binational Committee for Consolidation of Security Statistics</b> between Ecuador and Peru is an example of a successful experience.
<b>3. Tunisia</b>	Tunisia stresses the close <b>interdependence between human rights and their fundamental role in achieving peace and security</b> and sustainable development. Various crises that the world, including the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and the global food crisis, requires the constant efforts for peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter and to achieve cooperation and solidarity among countries for achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030. <b>Developing and least developed countries, especially in Africa</b> , must be supported. Through its national legal framework and development policies, Tunisia has sought to deepen the <b>connection between various human rights and its Constitution of 2022</b> , stipulating that the State is a guarantor of rights and freedoms for its citizens and provides them with decent living conditions. Based on a holistic comprehensive approach, the new constitution also secures the rights to health care, education, work, a safe environment, culture and creativity, and renews the commitment to <b>protecting and promoting women’s rights</b> .
<b>4. Ecuador</b>	Appreciates the reports presented under item 3, particularly the report and the oral update regarding <b>resolutions 43/19 and 49/25</b> . The <b>increasing inequalities</b> threaten <b>COVID-19 recovery, the achievement of the SDGs and progress in human rights</b> . It is essential to adopt <b>urgent and innovative measures</b> to tackle the <b>multiple and intersectional challenges</b> with a human rights lens. Integrated approaches to accelerating action to achieve the SDGs are crucial and the international community must strengthen <b>cooperation and solidarity</b> to address the needs of <b>most vulnerable and marginalized</b> in societies. <b>Universal access to and equitable distribution of vaccines</b> against COVID-19 continue to be pressing. Ecuador is coordinating a national unified response through its vaccination campaign, including strategies to reach the most vulnerable, including people with disabilities, migrants, and indigenous peoples.
<b>5. Colombia</b>	Colombia has set itself the goal of overcoming violence to achieve <b>total peace and wellbeing</b> of the people, with the conviction that peace today has become a <b>new social contract</b> to guarantee the fundamental rights of all Colombian men and women. Total Peace is only possible with social, economic and environmental justice. The Government will promote affirmative measures that respond to the disproportionate impact suffered by the victims of the conflict, guaranteeing a differentiated and gender-based approach, both in the implementation of the <b>Peace Agreement</b> , as well as in the processes of political and judicial dialogue for the <b>peaceful dismantling of multi-criminal networks</b> . These transformations will be <b>guided by women</b> . Colombia will have, for the first time, a

<sup>15</sup> Peru, Ecuador

	<p><b>Ministry of Equality and Women</b>, which will coordinate all policies to ensure they include comprehensive empowerment of women, and take into account gender diversity and sexual orientation, as well as generational, ethnic and regional differences in Colombia. The commitment of the Government is to the victims of violence and the <b>construction of a genuine culture of peace</b>.</p>
6. Bahrain	<p>Highlights the importance of <b>protection of economic, social and cultural and other rights including the right to development</b>. Bahrain continues its efforts to protect and promote basic human rights and is committed to work with the Council and its bodies and mechanisms. Bahrain has submitted its <b>first report on social and economic rights</b> and adopted of a plan to reinforce progress in particular in human rights. Bahrain looks forward to achieving new progress in coming years and <b>reaffirms commitment to positive cooperation with all UN mechanisms</b> which hopefully will continue on the basis of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.</p>
7. Russian Federation	<p><b>Freedom of speech</b> in the West is diminishing against the backdrop of an <b>anti-Russian program</b>. Several countries have interfered with the activities of Russian mass media with targeted efforts to crush disliked sources of information under <b>digital dictatorship</b>. Western IT corporations have been deployed to drive out dissident thinking from the media. Since the beginning of the special war operation in Russia, hundreds of incidents have been identified in the activities of Google and YouTube, restrictions on public organizations and on individuals in Russia, which are backed up with invented excuses. West uses propaganda and the media manipulates public opinion, limiting access to <b>objective information</b>.</p>
8. Afghanistan	<p>Since the unlawful takeover by the Taliban, the <b>situation of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural has become dire</b>. Afghanistan has been a year <b>without the rule of law</b>, from the suspension of the constitution to the absence of credible judicial proceedings. One year of systematic discrimination or “<b>gender apartheid</b>” from depriving girls from the right to education to denying recourse to victims of GBV; of <b>reprisal killings</b> from former members of the government to national security forces; of <b>cracking down on civil society</b> from torture and disappearance of human rights defenders to detention and ill treatment of journalists; of <b>erasing culture</b> from music to language; of crimes in different regions from <b>summary executions to forced displacement</b>. How long will this Council delay the first step on the route to justice, with full, transparent investigations are carried out, perpetrators held responsible, impunity is countered, further violations prevented, and victims heard and have access to remedies? Afghanistan reiterates its <b>call for an accredited accountability mechanism</b>.</p>
9. South Africa	<p><i>South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the African Group.</i></p> <p>All human rights, including the right to development are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated, and equal and must be pursued inseparably and in a non-hierarchical manner. The enjoyment of one set of human rights at the expense of other rights, including the right to development, diminishes the importance of all human rights. These are rendered ineffective if not supported by the <b>right to development</b>. A <b>holistic and comprehensive approach</b> to human rights is needed to protect the inherent dignity of all human beings and to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights. South Africa has adopted policies, strategies, and programmes, including the <b>National Development Plan</b> to promoting equality, inclusion, and participation in development efforts with the aim of eliminating the scourge of <b>poverty, inequality and unemployment</b>.</p>
10. Viet Nam	<p><i>Viet Nam associates itself with the joint statements of the NAM and the LMG.</i></p> <p>As a <b>candidate to the HRC for 2023– 2025</b>, Viet Nam reaffirms its strong commitment to work with other partners in fostering dialogue, cooperation, inclusivity, understanding and mutual respect in the field of human rights. Viet Nam will continue to advocate a balanced approach in which all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and treated in an equal manner. Emphasizes the importance of <b>promoting the rights of vulnerable</b></p>



	<p><b>groups, gender equality, the right to health, and the right to decent work</b> in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to deliver on the common climate ambitions must be enhanced and Viet Nam underlines the critical cooperation and <b>support of developed countries to developing countries on technology transfer, capacity building and financing for climate actions.</b></p>
11. Costa Rica	<p>It is urgent to proceed with the rapid and crosscutting implementation of the resolutions adopted in Geneva and New York in relation to the historic decision to recognize the <b>human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.</b> The legal and ethical value of both documents is immeasurable for the global strengthening of all human rights and catalysts for the international community to strongly focus on human rights in its solutions to the <b>triple planetary crisis.</b> Investing in nature is the only way to guarantee full respect and exercise of all human rights, thus achieving high levels of sustainability for nature and people. This is a key tool to continue promoting ambitious actions in the global fight against climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and the protection of our common earth. Costa Rica calls on all the actors of the international community, including the private sector and civil society, the UN system, including the Special Procedures mandate holders, to work in coordination for the implementation of this human right and to <b>accelerate the transition towards a full decarbonization of the global economy, including international trade.</b></p>
12. Mauritius	<p><i>Mauritius associates itself with the statement of the African Group.</i></p> <p>In achieving 2030 Agenda, Mauritius focuses on the protection of the environment, combating climate change, protection of women and children, amongst others. <b>SIDS are among the most vulnerable to the threat of climate change,</b> with enormous impacts on the social, cultural, economic, health and human rights. Mauritius has enacted the <b>Climate Change Act</b> and launched “Lespwar” a gender-based violence mobile application to help women and girls who due to displacement, lack of physical security, resource scarcity and food insecurity have fallen prey to abuse and domestic violence. The <b>Children’s Rights Act</b> had been enacted to harmonise laws relating to development, well-being and protection of children and the <b>Special Education Needs sector</b> has been established to provide a framework for <b>children with disabilities</b> to enjoy access to relevant and high-quality education. Mauritius has adopted <b>regulations to ban single use plastics</b> and encourage the use of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags.</p>
13. Peru	<p>Welcomes the report on the <b>impact of arms transfers on human rights</b> focusing on <b>children and young people</b> and effective oversight mechanisms. Peru has a historic and long-standing commitment to <b>multilateralism,</b> and building on this, Peru is coordinating the work of GRULAC in the HRC in 2022, which seeks to find points of convergence, and share information on vital initiatives to be submitted during this session on important topics such as the <b>rights of indigenous peoples, elderly persons and young people.</b></p>
14. Burkina Faso	<p><b>Terrorism and violent extremism</b> are rising throughout the world, particularly in the <b>Sahel</b> region. Burkina Faso’s security situation since 2015 compromises the enjoyment of many human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development. Burkina Faso has strengthened its normative and institutional framework in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 73/305. Several laws governing the martyrs and the heroes of the nation have been adopted, and the <b>Central Agency of Social Action of the Armed Forces</b> was created with a view to empower the widows of fallen soldiers. Burkina Faso commemorated the <b>International Day of Remembrance</b> in tribute to the victims of terrorism. A roadmap to implement its recommendations is being adopted. Calls on the international community to support efforts in <b>the fight against terrorism</b> and the <b>care of victims and survivors.</b></p>
15. Belarus	<p>Challenges and threats, such as <b>COVID-19,</b> growing <b>international tensions</b> and the widespread use of <b>UCMs,</b> have a negative impact on the enjoyment of all human rights. The worst consequences of sanctions is felt by the <b>most vulnerable:</b> children, people with disabilities, and the elderly, while reduced state revenues reduces the ability to support these populations. Belarus takes every effort</p>

	to ensure the socio-economic, civil and political rights of the population are maintained. The UNDP Human Development Report 2021-2022 indicates that Belarus has retained its position in the list of countries with the highest level of development. Belarus calls for an end to the practice of UCMs.
16. Angola	Angola aligns itself with the statement of the African Group. Reaffirms its commitment to the achievement of civil, cultural, economic and political rights, including the right to development. The <b>National Development Plan</b> to be adopted for the next quinquennial period includes a significant investment to be made in the <b>social sector</b> , in particular in health care, housing, access to drinking water, sanitation as well as electricity. Angola will continue promoting the protection of <b>persons in vulnerable situations</b> and reiterates its engagement to continue to pay attention to the negative impacts of <b>climate change</b> , the <b>fight against the effects of drought</b> in the southern region, and the <b>protection of oceans</b> in general.
17. Azerbaijan	Reiterates commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, and their universality in accordance with the UN Charter and norms and principles of international law. All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Azerbaijan has submitted its <b>third voluntary national review in 2021</b> , informing of national priorities aligning with the 2030 Agenda. Main goal of the overall strategy has been the <b>rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration of its conflict affected territories</b> . As a member of the group of friends on human rights and the 2030 Agenda, Azerbaijan thanks the OHCHR for the submission of a report on this matter. The <b>negative impacts of COVID-19</b> have adversely affected the achievement of SDGs. <b>International cooperation should be enhanced</b> in addressing the pandemic's effects and implementing <b>recovery measures</b> .
18. Algeria	Supports all human rights and reiterates its call for HRC to deal with the suffering of <b>people under occupation</b> , namely the violation of the <b>right to self-determination</b> . Algeria <b>has amended its constitution</b> as per the aspiration of its people, working on the balance of power and protecting vulnerable groups from violence, and securing basic rights such as freedom of expression. Algeria is <b>harmonizing their national legislation on human rights</b> aligning with international commitments, such as the law on health, procedure on non-constitutionality and code of civil procedures, and law on trade union activities. Algeria is engaged in wide <b>consultations with all stakeholders</b> to draft the <b>law on information</b> , and has established the constitutional code, Higher Council for Youth and other entities aiming to promote rule of law, role of civil society and engaging youth in public policy.
19. Iraq	Stresses the importance of promoting and protecting all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, including the right to development, in a just and equitable manner, in accordance with the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. Stresses the need to <b>respect the right of each State</b> to independently <b>choose the path of promoting human rights</b> in accordance with national specificities. Global challenges, including COVID-19, poverty and climate change, require solidarity, cooperation and an <b>international and effective response</b> . Stresses the importance of urgent measures to address <b>climate change</b> , enhance international cooperation and provide <b>financial and technological support to developing countries</b> .
20. Uganda	<i>Uganda aligns itself with the statement of the African Group and NAM.</i> No country, state or person aspires to be poor and underdeveloped. Uganda has prioritized the right to development enacting projects and strategies to ensure the empowerment of individuals. The recent crisis caused by COVID-19 and unfortunate events in Ukraine has not spared Uganda from inflation, with direct effects on economic and social rights. If all attention was given to <b>economic and social rights</b> , the world would be a better place. To achieve the <b>SDGs</b> and the Agenda 2030, <b>States and regional blocks must not interfere in the internal affairs of States</b> , including meddling with development efforts. Continued bullying, pressure and

	interference by group of states to the development efforts are condemned. Uganda refuses any destruction by outsiders on their national and regional efforts towards development.
<b>21. United Nations Population Fund (UNFP)</b>	Welcomes the HC’s report on <b>child, early and forced marriage, FGM, and girls’ right to education</b> , to which it contributed. The high-level panel on FGM highlighted the significant progress made in the adoption of laws prohibiting the practice. However, a comprehensive <b>human rights based, gender-responsive and adequately funded multisectoral response</b> is needed to change negative social norms and gender discrimination that contribute to perpetrating this practice. COVID-19 has shown how vulnerable women and girls can become in contexts of pre-existing and deeply rooted patterns of discrimination and inequality. Access to education and girls’ attention in secondary school is fundamental to prevent harmful practices. The report on child marriage highlights the need to implement <b>national comprehensive action plans and accountability frameworks</b> . The <b>UNFPA-UNICEF global programme to end child marriage</b> helps strengthen national accountability systems. UNFPA has developed specific guidance for NHRIs to investigate human rights violations related to FGM and child marriage and to monitor policy progress.
<b>22. Sweden</b>	The devastating impacts of wars and armed conflicts, the weakened respect for human rights and democratic principles worldwide, and the climate crisis, are <b>multiple threats against our security, freedom and our future</b> . Great pressure is put on societies and the world needs <b>joint and coordinated action</b> more than ever. As a strong political and financial supporter to the multilateral system, Sweden reiterates its full support for the <b>rules-based international order</b> . Scientific evidence shows that <b>democracy is the best foundation for a sustainable society</b> and that democracies do not go to war against each other. Democracy can never be taken for granted, it must be protected and nurtured every day. <b>A vibrant civil society</b> is vital for democracy.
<b>23. Georgia</b>	<b>Condemns Russia’s unjustified and unprovoked full-scale military aggression against Ukraine</b> in grave violation of international principles, resulting in disastrous consequences and human suffering. Due to <b>occupation of regions in Georgia</b> by the Russian Federation, its local population continues to face human rights violations. <b>The 2030 Agenda</b> is needed for achieving equality and implementation of the pledge “leave no one behind”. <b>World Programme for Human Rights Education</b> remains a common framework for action and a platform for cooperation to ensure learners around the world acquire knowledge and skills necessary for promoting sustainable development. A government decree adopted in 2019 recommends public agencies to hold <b>public consultations</b> with CSOs, local non-governmental or international organizations at each stage of the policy cycle.
<b>24. Dominican Republic</b>	Committed to promotion and protection of all human rights. International community has made headway in instruments to oversee such rights, nonetheless, the COVID-19 pandemic has put to the test the <b>international human rights and health systems</b> . Dominican Republic supports resolution to provide <b>affordable, universal and equitable access by all countries to vaccines</b> . There is a need to reaffirm commitment for fair and decent employment opportunities in <b>post-covid recovery and towards achieving SDGs</b> . Committed to multilateralism as the best way of closing gaps and shortcomings globally. Underscores importance to abiding by the principles of the UN Charter as the cornerstone of promoting international cooperation.
<b>25. Nigeria</b>	<i>Nigeria aligns with the statements of the African Group, OIC and NAM.</i> Reiterates commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. Recognizes the responsibility of States to ensure sustainable development, provide enabling environment and formulate policies that promote the <b>economic, social and cultural rights</b> of its people. Remains unapologetic in the belief that fundamental rights have intrinsic values and <b>should not be used to impose erroneous and misguided opinions</b> on people or contradict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. Nigeria remains committed to global peace and security, respect



	for human rights, democracy and good governance. Nigeria <b>will continue to dissociate from and unequivocally object to</b> attempts to <b>impose strange values</b> which offend its culture, traditions, and religious beliefs, under whatever guise.
<b>26. Holy See</b>	The Holy See notes the <b>Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development</b> , and welcomes the progress made towards the preparation of a <b>Draft Convention</b> . The right to development must be firmly rooted in the inherent dignity of the human person. Human rights are not artificial constructs, nor are they the result of majority opinion. Consequently, the mechanisms and instruments designed to ensure the promotion and protection of these rights cannot be reduced to the mere intersection of national or ideological interests but must be clearly developed in relation to their underlying values, namely, protecting the human dignity of each person and promoting the common good. The Holy See has proposed that the draft Convention on the Rights to Development should be strengthened by <b>more explicit references to the relation between the inherent dignity of all members of the human family and the derivative right to development</b> , which would help to mitigate ambiguous interpretations regarding the various rights and duties on individuals, groups, organizations, and States.
<b>27. Suriname</b>	Committed to upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. National legal and policy framework has been strengthened to support the implementation of policy and development plans, international human rights commitments, including the <b>SDGs</b> . Suriname's <b>long-term development strategy</b> contains measures to ensure application of human rights-based approach. Recently acceded to the <b>UN Convention against Torture</b> , ratified the <b>OP to CRC</b> on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and has abolished the <b>death penalty</b> . Cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms and the OHCHR includes capacity building activities, aimed at improved human rights reporting and implementation, and establishment of a <b>National Human Rights Institution based on the Paris Principles</b> . The right to development is integral to achieve sustainable development and considering its economic, social and environment dimensions.
<b>28. Morocco</b>	Reiterates its unfailing attachment to the promotion and protection of human rights, as universally recognized, and underline its full and complete cooperation with the mechanisms of the HRC. Appreciates the openness of States to receive and host <b>human rights mechanisms</b> , which must not lose what distinguishes them and sets them apart, namely their character of independence, inalienability and asymmetry in relation to political questions which have no connection with human rights. Hopes that the Council will be able to stay the course remain faithful to its founding principles and to the imperative of <b>resisting politicization</b> .
<b>29. Papua New Guinea</b>	Shares condolences for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and congratulates Mr. Türk for his appointment as the incoming UN High Commissioner. <b>COVID-19 pandemic's impact</b> on economies and livelihoods across the globe has strained efforts to progress the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Papua New Guinea's existing development challenges have consequently worsened, and resilience tested. Extends a thank you to all <b>development partners, financial institutions and bilateral partners</b> for their contributions and support during this difficult time. With this support the government has taken necessary action to address the impacts of the pandemic on various fronts.
<b>30. Solomon Islands</b>	Solomon Islands thanks and acknowledges the effort of the former High Commissioner Madam Michelle Bachelet and welcomes the appointment of the new High Commissioner Dr. Volker Türk. Expresses continuous support for and commend the <b>work of the OHCHR</b> particularly on the <b>right to development</b> . At the national level, Solomon Islands is addressing the right to development through the lens of its <b>National Development Strategy (2016 – 2035)</b> which complement the <b>SDGs</b> . Solomon Islands continue to work closely with its <b>development partners</b> to engage in transformational infrastructure programmes and projects including airports, roads,

	energy, telecommunications, fisheries, agriculture and mining sector. Achieving the full right to development remains a challenge due to the country's vulnerable status with growing impact of <b>climate change</b> and the COVID-19 pandemic which has negatively impact the economy. This has resulted in the introduction of re-direction policies to manage the COVID-19 community transmission and keep the domestic economy afloat. Reiterates the call for genuine <b>international cooperation and partnership</b> going forward to achieve the full right to development and leave no one behind.
<b>31. Iran (Islamic Republic of)</b>	Human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner. <b>Inequalities continue to grow</b> within and among countries, and the multiple crisis adversely affect the enjoyment and realization of <b>civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights</b> , reversing perspectives for balanced and sustainable development and leaving billions behind. The <b>current international economy order</b> is obstructing the economic and social welfare of developing and least-developed countries and has exacerbated poverty, in turn contributing to violence and political instability. Political will and practical steps of developed countries to fulfil commitments to realization of right to development is of paramount importance. The efforts of developing countries to achieve <b>balanced and sustainable development</b> are often restrained by such as <b>UCMs</b> , which hinder international cooperation, national efforts to reach to sustainable development and affect the well-being of the population.
<b>32. Ghana</b>	<i>Ghana aligns itself with the statement by the African Group and NAM.</i> Ghana reiterates its firm position that the <b>right to development</b> remains a fundamental human right that deserves adequate international attention, and all parties and stakeholders need to work together towards overcoming these obstacles for its realization, as it the primary responsibility of each State to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of its people. Ghana acknowledges the need to redouble efforts in implementing measures for the attainment of the <b>SDGs</b> and encourages Governments, International Organizations and the private sector to realign their goals and priorities towards this agenda.
<b>33. Cambodia</b>	<i>Cambodia aligns itself with the statements of the groups it belongs to.</i> Appreciate OHCHR mentioning Cambodia in its 2030 Agenda report under this agenda item as an example of a country with an integrated national financing framework process toward the <b>SDGs</b> . Cambodia has introduced <b>green financial instruments</b> in its economic recovery plan. <b>Transformative social protection</b> can ensure enjoyment of human rights by the most vulnerable and leaving no one behind. During the pandemic, Cambodia rolled-out several social protection schemes in support of women, job suspended employees and vulnerable groups and recently launched a new pension plan for private sector employees. Reiterate the attention to the SDGs by the OHCHR, whose work must be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, transparency, objectivity and non-selectivity. Approaching the midpoint of the SDG we must revitalize <b>genuine global partnership</b> and <b>development cooperation</b> in line with <b>national priorities</b> .
<b>34. United Republic of Tanzania</b>	Appreciates the observations made on the <b>right to development and especially its gendered implications</b> . Vulnerable groups have been most severely affected by the pandemic, the adverse effects of climate change and other global challenges. Tanzania continues its path to realize the <b>2030 Agenda, and Agenda 2063</b> through the implementation of its 5-year development plan. The <b>Generation Equality Forum</b> champion for women's economic rights and justice, and Tanzania continues to put in place affirmative action measures to support the enjoyment of rights of women and children through policy reforms, harmonization of relative laws, provision of quality social services, creation of jobs and expansion of women's access to productive and financial resources and services.

Recording of the General Debate on Item 3 is available on the UN WebTV: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)