

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51st SESSION

Overview of Week 3 (26 – 30 September 2022)

During the **third week** of the 51st session, the Council will hold **four panel discussions**, including on topics such as the integration of a gender perspective, right to work in connection to climate change actions, and rights of indigenous peoples. The Council will also hold interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on the **rights of indigenous peoples** and the Expert Mechanism (EMRIP). The Council will also hold interactive dialogues with the Fact-finding mission on **Venezuela**, with the Advisory Committee, and the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. Finally, **General Debates** will be held under Agenda Item 4, Agenda Item 5, Agenda Item 6, Agenda Item 7 and Agenda Item 8.



Panel Discussions



(26 September, 16-18) **Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**; Theme “Overcoming gender-based barriers to freedom of opinion and expression”. [Concept note](#).

(27 September, 10-12) **Panel discussion on the future of the right to work in connection with climate change actions, responses and impacts in the context of sustainable and inclusive economies**. [Concept note](#).

(28 September, 10-12) **Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples [accessible panel]**; Theme: Impact of social and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context on indigenous peoples, with a special focus on food security. [Concept note](#).

(28 September, 10-12) **Panel discussion on the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights [accessible panel]**. [Concept note](#); [Biographies of speakers and panellists](#).

Agenda Item 4:

Interactive Dialogues following the reports on Country situations



26 September 2022¹: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**. [Agenda item 4]

[A/HRC/51/43](#)²: The report outlined findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Among other allegations of gross violations of human rights, the report focused on two Mission's priorities:

1. **crimes against humanity** committed through structures and individuals in the State's intelligence services as part of a plan to repress opposition to the Government, and
2. the human rights situation in the **Arco Minero del Orinoco region** and other areas in Bolívar state.

The **human rights crisis** in the country is fueled by hollowed-out State institutions. The report puts the spotlight on often ignored situations and groups, including indigenous peoples, concluding that the situation in Venezuela remains grave. The country has endured a decade of spiraling humanitarian, social, economic and human rights crises, coupled with a breakdown of State institutions, and exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report urges the Council to continue to pay close attention to developments in advancing justice, accountability and respect for human rights.

26 September 2022: Oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar** (followed by a General Debate). [Agenda item 4]

¹ Dates may be subject to change. Please, consult <https://hrc51.sched.com/> for the latest updates on the schedule.

² Advanced Unedited Version in English and Unofficial Spanish Translation available on [OHCHR website](#), 22 September 2022

Presentation of Thematic Reports followed by Interactive Dialogues

28 September 2022: Interactive dialogue with the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**, Chair-Rapporteur **Binota Moy Dhamai**. [Agenda items 3 and 5]

[A/HRC/51/49](#): In its Annual report, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), outlined proposals to the Council in order to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples. In particular, EMRIP **listed 9 proposals**, including to continue facilitating consultation and participation of indigenous peoples in the work of the Council; and to hold a panel discussion on the impact of militarization on the rights of indigenous women and children. Considering the critical situation that **indigenous human rights defenders** continue to face, EMRIP urged the Council to call upon States to guarantee a safe living and working environment, security and protection to indigenous leaders. Other suggestions were related to an increased engagement of Member States, as well as the developments of projects and national plans on indigenous women. The report also summarized the **fifteenth session of the Expert Mechanism, held in Geneva from 4 to 8 July 2022**.

[A/HRC/51/50](#): The study looks at how treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, as referred to in article 37 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as in peace accords and reconciliation initiatives and in constitutional recognition, **are being recognized, observed, enforced, honoured and respected**. In its annex, it includes advice No. 15 on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition.

28 September 2022: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay**. [Agenda item 3]

[A/HRC/251/28](#): In the report, the Special Rapporteur provides a thematic analysis of **indigenous women** and the development, application, preservation and transmission of **scientific and technical knowledge**. The report focused on the role of indigenous women as scientific and technical knowledge keepers in the context of IHRL and identifies current threats and challenges that they face due to their **gender and identity**. The report also highlights best practices of efforts led by indigenous peoples and States. The report concludes with recommendations for ensuring and protecting the ability of indigenous women to develop, apply, maintain and transmit knowledge. In particular, he advises international organizations and States to ensure effective legal protection of indigenous women's rights to lands, territory and resources, and to promote their participation in the decision-making process, management and regulation of their lands and resources.

The Special Rapporteur will also present to the Council a report on a **country visit to Costa Rica** (6 to 17 December 2021). Acknowledging the openness and cooperativeness of the Government and State institutions, the SR highlights the **structural violation** of indigenous peoples' rights due to the **lack of an appropriate land restitution policy** and a **legal framework** recognizing indigenous peoples' authorities. The **structural racism** permeating State institutions, in particular at the local level is of concern, as is the failure to realize indigenous peoples' economic, social and cultural rights and the lack of effective measures to protect indigenous human rights defenders. The State should revise the current legal framework, incorporating the recognition of indigenous peoples and their collective rights; and to guarantee the legal personality of each indigenous territory's own governance institutions in accordance with the principle of self-identification.

29 September 2022: Interactive dialogue with the Human Rights Council **Advisory Committee**. [Agenda item 5]

- [A/HRC/51/48](#): Reports of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions – Note by the Secretariat.
- The report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-seventh session is contained in document [A/HRC/AC/27/2](#). The report of the Advisory Committee on its twenty-eighth session, which will be contained in document [A/HRC/AC/28/2](#), will be made available to the Human Rights Council once it has been finalized.

29 September 2022: Interactive dialogue on the Secretary General's report on **alleged reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms**. [Agenda items 2 and 5]

[A/HRC/51/47](#)³: The report informs about alleged reprisals and acts of intimidation **against those seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with the UN**, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. The number of reported acts of intimidation and reprisal **by State and non-State actors** against NGOs, civil society, and individuals or groups **remained high**. While this is partly the result of improved documentation and reporting, cases assessed are non-exhaustive. Recurring allegations reinforce the assertion that repeated similar incidents can signal **patterns**. The report includes recommendations on how to address and to prevent the issue. The Secretary-General describes good practices adopted by the Member States to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals including legislative frameworks ensuring the right to access; promotion and support of a safe and enabling environment for civil society for cooperation with the UN; and accountability and access to remedy for alleged incidents, among others. While **digital technologies** create opportunities, an increase in online interactions due to COVID-19-related restrictions continue to raise concerns related to **access, cybersecurity, privacy and confidentiality**.

Other reports

- [A/HRC/51/21](#): **The Working Group on Situations** presented to the Council a report on its twenty-eighth (11- 13 Oct 2021) and twenty-ninth (25- 27 April 2022) sessions, in particular on consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights. [Agenda item 5]
- [A/HRC/51/3](#): **Communications report of Special Procedures**, communications sent 1 March to 31 May 2022; Replies received, 1 May to 31 July 2022. [Agenda items 3, 4, 7, 9, and 10]
- [A/HRC/51/51](#): **The report of the Secretary-General on National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights** covers the period from August 2021 to July 2022, and contains information on the activities undertaken by the OHCHR to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions; support provided by the UNDP and other UN agencies, funds and programmes to NHRIs; cooperation between such institutions and the international human rights system; and support provided by OHCHR to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and relevant regional networks. [Agenda items 2 and 8]
- [A/HRC/51/52](#): **Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions** in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). [Agenda items 2 and 8]

General Debates



(26-27 Sep 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 4**: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention.

(29-30 Sep 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 5**: Human rights bodies and mechanisms.

(30 Sep 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 6**: Universal Periodic Review.

(30 Sep 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 7**: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

(30 Sep 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 8**: Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Geneva Centre's summaries of selected meetings are [available here](#).

³ Advanced Unedited Version in English, 22 September 2022.