

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51<sup>st</sup> SESSION

### Organizational Meeting

30 August 2022

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

The last regular session of the year is scheduled to last for four weeks from **12 September to 7 October 2022**. The length is due to continuing restrictions on lunch time meetings and the creation of new mandates, such as Interactive dialogues and Panel discussions which require additional meeting hours.

The Council agreed the 3 IDs on Myanmar will move ahead as scheduled, without the participation of the country concerned.

During its 51<sup>st</sup> session, the Council will hold 5 panel debates (all times CET, UCT + 2):

- **Biennial panel discussion on the right to development. Theme: 31 years on, policy pathways to operationalizing the right to development. 15 September 2022, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Room XX.** The panel will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, and opening statements will be delivered by Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, among others. Accessible panel. Introduced by Azerbaijan.
- **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. 26 September, 4 to 6 p.m., Room XX.** The panel will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas. Introduced by Chile.
- **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. 27 September, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Room XX.** The panel will be chaired by H.E. Ms. Katharina Stasch, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council. Introduced by Egypt.
- **Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous people. Theme: Impact of social and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context on indigenous peoples, with a special focus on food security. 28 September, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Room XX.** The panel will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyanyan, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council. Accessible panel. Introduced by Mexico.
- **Panel discussion on the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights. 28 September, 4 to 6 p.m., Room XX.** The panel will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas. Accessible panel. Introduced by China.

### Overview of the Programme of Work

The session will **begin** with the presentation of the Oral update of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. During the session, the Council will hold 28 Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures mandate holders and mechanisms, 3 Interactive Dialogues with the Deputy High Commissioner, 4 Enhanced Interactive Dialogues, one Interactive Dialogue with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, and one Interactive Dialogue with the Advisory Committee. There will be no UPR adoptions during the 51<sup>st</sup> session.

**Four Special Procedures mandate holders and**

#### Deadlines:

- **States:** the online system for inscription in the list of speakers for all General Debates, Interactive Dialogues and Panel Discussions will open on **Tuesday, 6 September at 4 pm** and will close **24 hours before the meeting**. Inscription and withdrawal after the deadline are possible by email: [ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org](mailto:ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org)
- The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate.
- The deadline for the submission of draft

**Expert Mechanisms**, as well as **seven members of the Advisory Committee** are expected to be appointed by the Council.

The 3-year program of work for 2022 to 2024 is being updated and will be posted on the Extranet. Voluntary yearly calendar for thematic resolutions is being updated and will be circulated prior to the start of the session.

proposals is **Wednesday, 28 September**.

- **NGOs**: the list of speakers for all debates will open online on **Tuesday, 6 September at 2 pm**.
- List of speakers for **Panel Discussions**: states will be asked to rank panels in the order of priority when inscribing on the list of speakers. Slots will be allocated by the system taking these priorities into account.

### Information Sharing on Initiatives

- **Switzerland** (on behalf of Argentina, Morocco, Switzerland): new draft resolution on human rights and **transitional justice**.
- **Slovenia** (on behalf of the core group on World Programme on Human Rights Education<sup>1</sup>): resolution on the **World Program on Human Rights Education**.
- **Burkina Faso** (on behalf of the African Group): annual draft resolution on **technical assistance and capacity building for DRC**; annual resolution “From rhetoric to reality: a global call for **concrete action against racism**, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”.
- **El Salvador** (on behalf of Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Philippines, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, El Salvador): draft resolution on **youth** and human rights.
- **Jordan** (on behalf of the Arab Group): will sponsor a draft resolution on **technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen** in the field of human rights.
- **Azerbaijan** (on behalf of NAM): annual resolution on the **right to development**.
- **Republic of Korea**:
  - (on behalf of Chile, Egypt, Romania, Republic of Korea): resolution on **local government** and human rights.
  - (on behalf of Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Republic of Korea): a side event on **promoting and protecting human rights in a digital era**.
- **Mexico**:
  - (on behalf of Guatemala, Mexico): draft resolution human rights and **indigenous peoples**.
  - (on behalf of Egypt, Mexico): draft resolution on **terrorism** and human rights.
- **United Kingdom**:
  - (on behalf of the Syria core group comprising of France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Türkiye, U.S., United Kingdom): further resolution on the situation of human rights in the **Syrian Arab Republic**.
  - (on behalf of the core group on Sri Lanka comprising of Germany, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, U.S., United Kingdom): further resolution on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in **Sri Lanka**.
  - (on behalf of Australia, United Kingdom): resolution on renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on **contemporary forms of slavery**.
- **Spain** (on behalf of Germany, Spain):
  - resolution on the human right to **water and sanitation**, renewal of the mandate of the

<sup>1</sup> Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, Slovenia

Special Rapporteur.

- a side event together with the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people, focusing on the **role of indigenous women** in defending these rights.
- **France:** triannual draft resolution on **arbitrary detention**, renewal of the mandate of the WG.
- **Argentina:**
  - (*on behalf of Brazil, Slovenia, Argentina*): draft resolution, renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by **older persons**.
  - (*on behalf of Pakistan, South Africa, Argentina*): new draft resolution on submission of **voluntary funds to the contribution of the UPR** on participation of states and technical and financial assistance for the UPR.
- **Latvia:** under Item 5, will deliver a traditional joint statement on the **promotion of universality of standing invitations to all Special Procedures** mandate holders of the HRC and genuine cooperation with the Special Procedures in the performance of their mandates.
- **Israel:** will organize an **art exhibition “She’s gone”**, addressing violence against women with a focus on femicide, together with the Permanent Missions of Cyprus and Greece. (19 to 29 September, opening on 20 September at 13.00 p.m., in the gallery in front of Room XX).
- **Ukraine:**
  - (*on behalf of Australia, Hungary, Maldives, Morocco, Poland, Ukraine*): renewed resolution on the **role of prevention in promotion and protection of human rights**, with the thematic focus on the importance of ensuring rule of law and accountability as parts of prevention efforts.
  - will organize a side event to further examine options for **accountability for Ukraine** in connection to the Oral update by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine followed by an ID, together with other delegations and the Public International Policy Group.
  - highlighted the traditional ID on the findings of the next regular **OHCHR report** on the situation in Ukraine, due for publication in September.
- **Qatar:** side event to commemorate the **International Day to Protect Education from Attack**, together with the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Nigeria, Norway, and Spain, and Education Above All Foundation, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, and Save the Children. (12 September, 12-13 p.m., Room 25). Following the event, a photo exhibition will be inaugurated at building 8E near Room XX (on display from 12 to 16 September in the exhibition gallery); supports the side event on **promoting development and human rights and LDCs**, organized by the OHCHR to commemorate the adoption of the DPoA.
- **Marshall Islands:** resolution on technical assistance and capacity building to address the human rights implications of **nuclear legacy**.
- **Honduras:** side event on **enforced disappearance in transitional justice**, in a hybrid format (27 September, 3 p.m.).
- **Egypt:** side event on **child rights and climate change at COP27 and beyond**, together with relevant NGOs and UN Agencies.
- **India:** increased **politization and polarization** in the Council has been counter-productive, underlined importance of a spirit of engagement, dialogue and consultation.
- **Morocco:** side event addressing the theme of **the involvement of local actors in the UPR process, implementation of recommendations, follow-up and advocacy**, together with different stakeholders (21 September); the Permanent Mission will organize an event addressing issue of the enrollment of **child soldiers** by armed militias.

- **Greece:** resolution on **neurotechnology and human rights**, asking for the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the human rights impacts of neurotechnology, presenting it to the Council at its 56<sup>th</sup> session.
- **Kazakhstan:** side event on the **nexus between climate change and human rights**, together with the Central Asia states; hybrid side event on **violence against women**, together with Kazak NHRIs.
- **Poland** (on behalf of the cross-regional core group *Australia, Chile, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Poland*): resolution on the **role of good governance** in promotion and protection of human rights.
- **Croatia** (on behalf of *Costa Rica, Poland, Croatia*): quadrennial resolution on **conscientious objection to military service**. First informal consultation will take place 15 September at 9 a.m.
- **Guatemala:** draft resolution on renewal and strengthening of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of **indigenous peoples**.
- **Belgium:** side event on **transitional justice in Bosnia-Herzegovina**, together with Austria, Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina (19 September); side event in the form of a photo expo in the Serpentine bar, a project implemented by Belgian children illustrating the **concept of children's rights** in a child friendly way (first two weeks of the 51<sup>st</sup> session).
- **Austria** (on behalf of the Cross-regional core group of *Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, Austria*): biannual resolution on the **safety of journalists**. First round of informal consultations will take place on 15 September at 3 p.m. in Room 22.
- **Australia:** biannual resolution on **NHRIs**.
- **Thailand** (on behalf of a cross-regional core group of *Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Türkiye, Thailand*): draft resolution on **enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity building** in the field of human rights.
- **Paraguay** (on behalf of *Brazil, Paraguay*): draft on **promoting international cooperation to support national mechanisms** for implementation, reporting and follow-up.
- **European Union:**
  - resolution on the situation of human rights in **Afghanistan**, renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.
  - resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on the situation of human rights in **Ethiopia**.
  - resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in **Burundi**.

### Other matters:

**Draft resolutions:** at least one informal open-ended consultation should be held on each draft resolution and/or decision before the Council can take action on it. These consultations should be scheduled in a timely, transparent, and inclusive manner.

#### **Modalities:**

- The 51st session will be held in Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and on online platform (Zoom). State delegations can participate in person, via pre-recorded video statements, or via Zoom. The capacity of Room XX is no longer restricted. Point of order can be raised via Zoom by using the raise hand function. The delegations can exercise their right of reply remotely in the same manner as during the 50<sup>th</sup> regular session.
- Special Procedures mandate holders, Investigative Mechanisms and Panelists unable to travel to Geneva are able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.



- **NGOs with ECOSOC status and NHRIs with “A” status** have the possibility of delivering their statements in person from Room XX or via pre-recorded video statements. The list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates will be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous three September sessions.
- Side events, in a limited capacity, can once more be held in person at the Palais des Nations during the 51<sup>st</sup> session.
- All oral statements should be electronically submitted to the interpreters at least 1h00 prior the estimated time of delivery, to ensure the quality of the interpretation. Submission of transcript is mandatory for all online statements.

**Accessibility:** a Task Force on enhancing accessibility has been established, and the focal point for accessibility in the Secretariat can be contacted. Oral statements are to be uploaded in Word format on the online system for lists of speakers, and delegations encouraged to ensure live captioning and sign interpretation during their panels.

**Reprisals:** a climate of trust and safety within the Council is essential, where states prevent and ensure adequate protection from any act of intimidation or reprisals. Constructive, safe, and respectful atmosphere is essential. Intimidation and reprisals can take many forms, and our common duty is to ensure intimidation or reprisals will not happen in any circumstances.

**Documentation:** out of 79 reports for the 51<sup>st</sup> session, 40 reports are already available in all UN languages, and 23 in some of the official languages.

Watch the full recording here: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1f/k1fqyzzqr8>