

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51st SESSION

Overview of Week 4 (3 – 7 October 2022)

During the **fourth week** of the 51st session, the Council will continue General Debate under Agenda Item 8 and will consider thematic and country reports under Agenda Items 9 and 10. Under item 9, **Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance**, the Council will consider reports by the Working Group, High Commissioner and the Independent Expert Mechanism. Under item 10, **technical assistance and capacity building**, the Council will consider reports on Cambodia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. The Council will also hold **General Debates** under Agenda Item 9, and Agenda Item 10. Finally, the Council will take action on **42 draft proposals**, will elect the Advisory Committee members and appoint the Special Procedure mandate holders for vacant roles.



General Debates



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

(3-4 Oct 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 9:** Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

(6 Oct 2022) **General debate on Agenda Item 10:** Technical assistance and capacity-building.

Presentation of Thematic Reports followed by Interactive Dialogues

Agenda Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.



3 October 2022: [Report](#) of the **Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent** focuses on **Children of African descent**.

[A/HRC/51/54](#): The report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent focuses on racial discrimination and inequality faced by **children of African descent** in all areas of life, including administration of justice, law enforcement, education, health, family- regulation systems, and development, as well as redress for legacies of enslavement, colonialism and racial segregation. Presenting outcomes and deliberations of the 30th session of the Working Group, it concludes that children continue to face racist and violent acts. The Working Group recommends Member States and international organisations to protect children of African descent from direct or indirect racial discrimination, stigmatization, psychological and physical violence, and bullying, encouraging investment in collecting and reporting racially disaggregated data, and ensuring promotion and full respect of the UN Declaration and of human rights of people of African descent. States should prioritize a comprehensive, integrated and holistic economic development. The Working group will also present reports of two country visits:

- Visit to Switzerland (from 17-26 January 2022, [A/HRC/51/54/Add.1](#))
- Visit to Portugal (from 29 November to 06 December 2021, [A/HRC/51/54/Add.2](#))

3 October 2022: Reports of the **Ad Hoc Committee on Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**, on its eleventh and twelfth sessions ([A/HRC/51/56](#), [A/HRC/51/57](#)).

3 October 2022: [Report](#) of the **High Commissioner** and the [Report](#) of the **Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement**, focuses on **excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers**.

[A/HRC/51/53](#): In the report, the High Commissioner describes developments and actions taken by States and others since the launch in July 2021 of **the agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality**, with reference to its **four points**. While racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent requires specific attention by Governments and others worldwide, submissions and findings of UN and regional human rights mechanisms highlighted information from the most relevant States and regions. Forty-six contributions informed the analysis, alongside eight virtual consultations with 140 individuals, mostly people of African descent, in different regions. The report also contains an **illustrative overview of the types of responses** that States and others have undertaken, often in response to demands of people of African descent and their organizations. These responses reflect a **willingness to take concrete steps** to address racial discrimination endured by Africans and people of African descent, **despite complex national contexts, setbacks arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and other major global challenges**. The need for **comprehensive evidence-based approaches** to address historic injustices and their contemporary manifestations is clearer than ever. The report describes progress towards **accountability and redress** in some of the seven illustrative cases described in depth in the 2021 report. Unfortunately, **not a single case has yet been brought to a full conclusion**, with families still seeking truth, justice and guarantees of non-repetition, and the prosecution and sanction of all those responsible. The report concludes that we can only succeed in building back better towards a more resilient future of equality and non-discrimination, with **human dignity and racial justice at its core**, if **States and all actors stand united and accelerate action** in the fight against systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent and respond to demands for the realization of their rights.

[A/HRC/51/55](#): The report focuses on the **collection, publication and analysis of data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin**. Data collection is an essential first step to address structural and systemic racism and racial discrimination. The Expert Mechanism notes that there are still challenges in some States in the collection, publication, analysis and use of such data. Challenges exist to the collection, publication and **use of data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin in law enforcement and the criminal justice system**, specifically. To overcome the above lacks and gaps, the Expert Mechanism considers **pragmatic solutions and safeguards** grounded in international human rights law. The IE recommends States to adopt a human rights-based approach to data collection, use and analysis. Strengthening data collection systems should be a **priority of criminal justice operations** and should include self-identification data on direct interactions with law enforcement authorities and the criminal justice system at all levels.

Agenda Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building

(4 Oct 2022) Oral presentation by the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** on the findings of the periodic reports of OHCHR on **the situation of human rights in Ukraine**: cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights.

(4 Oct 2022) The [report](#) of the **High Commissioner** on the human rights situation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. *(followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue)*

[A/HRC/51/61](#): The report provides an overview of the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022. The situation remains concerning, although the number of human rights violations and abuses and violations of IHL documented by the UN Joint Human Rights Office has decreased. Further efforts are needed to provide better protection for civilians, especially in conflict-affected provinces, owing to the **increased attacks** carried out by armed groups, especially the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Nyatura and various Mai-Mai factions. Additional efforts need to be deployed to prevent further **shrinking of civic space**, which should be monitored closely in view of the elections in 2023. The election process has been facing delays, including with respect to electoral reforms. It has also been affected by tensions related to the appointment of members of the Independent National Electoral Commission and

the resurgence of hate speech and incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, creating risks of widespread **ethnic and political tensions and violence**. The report concludes that to put an end to the conflicts, it is paramount that efforts to combat impunity, strengthen national mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights and implement the next steps of the transitional justice process continue to be supported. The launching of **transitional justice consultations** in four provinces was a positive step. Actions aimed at improving the situation with respect to economic, social and cultural rights of the Congolese people should also be significantly strengthened, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(4 Oct 2022) The [final report](#) of the **team of international experts on the situation in Kasai**. *(followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue)*

[A/HRC/51/60](#): The team of international experts conducted four field visits to the DRC, from 1 to 12 December 2021, 1 to 15 March 2022, 13 to 27 May 2022 and 13 to 26 July 2022. The team organized a workshop on the **status and prospects of transitional justice** in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights and the UN Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC. The visits and the workshop allowed the team of international experts to develop a clearer understanding of the challenges and opportunities arising from the introduction of a system of transitional justice that will facilitate a **break with past cycles of conflict, reconciliation** among different population groups and **observance of the rule of law**, as a means of protecting the gains to be made under the planned reforms. Challenges include the **cross-border nature of conflicts, insecurity and illegal resource exploitation**. Long-standing intercommunal conflicts have been reignited, often to draw attention away from the unlawful exploitation of the country's agricultural, mining and land resources by armed groups. The country is experiencing conflicts of an exceptionally **violent nature**, involving instances of rape and sexual violence, while the State is struggling to provide all citizens with the protection to which they are entitled. These conflicts are fuelled by hate speech and calls for violence and discrimination. Combined with **widespread poverty, a high level of youth unemployment and a lack of jobs and economic opportunities**, the conflicts have led to an increase in crime and exposed young people to exploitation by armed groups and militias. The team expresses its thanks to the Congolese Government for their full cooperation and goodwill. The report concludes in several recommendations, including on Conceptualization, articulation and communication strategy with regard to the transitional justice policy and the fight against impunity; prevention of impunity; Consideration of victims; and on conflict prevention and guarantees of non-repetition.

(4 Oct 2022) Oral update of **OHCHR** on technical assistance and capacity-building for **South Sudan**.

(5 Oct 2022) [Report](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Cambodia, Vitit Muntarbhorn**.

[A/HRC/51/66](#): The theme of the report is "**landmarks and benchmarks**", covering the period from the middle of 2021 to early June 2022. In the report, the Special Rapporteur has taken stock of various landmarks, including the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, the near 30-year landmark of the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, and the most recent commune/sangkat elections, which took place in June 2022. The SR has formulated **20 key benchmarks to help accelerate the implementation of human rights in the country** derived from its international obligations and the recommendations of international human rights bodies, which provide entry points for technical cooperation. The report includes several recommendations, including for the Government to Rectify discrepancies relating to the 2022 commune elections; Open up the political and civic space in preparation for the national elections in 2023, in particular to ensure a genuine multiparty system, free and fair elections, checks and **balances against power abuse**, and guarantees for **people's participation and shared power**; and to **release detained** human rights defenders, political dissidents, journalists and media personnel, and other advocates of human rights and democracy, drop court cases against them and desist from harassing or attacking them.

(5 Oct 2022) [Report](#) of the **Independent Expert** on the situation of human rights in **Somalia, Isha Dyfan**.

[A/HRC/51/65](#): The report covers the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Independent Expert undertook an official visit to the country from 28 March to 2 April 2022, and two consultative visits to Nairobi from 29 to 30 November 2021 and from 3 to 7 April 2022. The report focuses on assessing the situation of human rights against the **benchmarks for progress** in improving the situation of human rights, based on **political and security developments** and the **humanitarian situation**. It should be read in conjunction with the preceding report of the IE, presented to the Council at its 48th session. The IE takes note of the security transition arrangements from AMISOM to ATMIS and the recent election of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as President on 15 May 2022, signalling the return to a **path of reform**. The report states that Somalia has initiated **some legal, policy and institutional framework** on which a new democratic State with a commitment to human rights could thrive. The triple nexus and the humanitarian durable solutions approaches hold a promise to reach those most left behind, to leverage multiple opportunities simultaneously, and to harness efficiencies and cooperation among all stakeholders. There also exists an opportunity on the part of the Government to put an **end to politically motivated arrests and detentions of journalists**, and to the **targeting of media houses**. The report concludes in several recommendations to the Government in relation to each benchmark.

(5 Oct 2022) [Report](#) of the **High Commissioner** on technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the **Philippines**. *(followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue)*

[A/HRC/51/58](#): The report presents the implementation of the HRC Resolution 45/33 and the progress and results of technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines. The High Commissioner, while welcoming Government's commitments and recognising the importance of civil society organisations to respond to human rights challenges, reports cases of **harassment, threats, arrests, attacks, red tagging against civil society actors**, as well as the current **drug war**. The HC recommends the Government to adopt all provisions in the area of domestic investigative and accountability measures for all killings, and alleged violations of IHRL and IHL; as well as in the area of **human rights-based approaches to drug control**. It also calls upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council to support civic space and protect human rights of defenders, journalists, and other civil society representatives in their work; Mandate OHCHR to monitor the situation of human rights in the Philippines and regularly report to the Council, including on progress in technical cooperation and implementation of the recommendations of the present report.

(5 Oct 2022) Report of the **Independent Expert** on the situation of human rights in the **Central African Republic, Yao Agbetse**.

[A/HRC/51/59](#): The report includes the analysis of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic. Despite the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire, the security situation in the country **remains volatile and precarious**. Insecurity is an obstacle to the effective exercise of many rights, including education and freedom of movement. The IE notes with concern **several human rights and humanitarian law violations, abuses and acts of violence**, in particular cases of highway robbery, hate speech, incitement to violence and the use of manipulation, misinformation and disinformation in the media and social networks. Among others, the Independent Expert recommends the Government to take necessary steps to implement the **Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation**; to support **general education, technical and agricultural education and vocational training**; and to give effect to the **Child Protection Code** provisions. The IE recommends MINUSCA also to intensify and strengthen capacity-building for civil society organisations and national institutions in order to maximise the benefits for the population.

Other Reports and oral updates to be presented under Agenda Item 10 (followed by General debate):

- Advisory services and technical assistance for **Cambodia** – [report](#) of the Secretary-General.
- Cooperation with **Georgia** – [report](#) of the **High Commissioner**.

- Technical assistance and capacity-building for **Yemen** – [report](#) of the High Commissioner.

Decisions and Conclusions

42 draft proposals have been submitted by 3 October 2022, including on topics such as:

- **Country resolutions:**
 - Human rights situation in the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region, China** (*submitted by United States of America, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*)
 - Situation of human rights in the **Russian Federation** (Luxembourg, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden)
 - Situation of human rights in **Afghanistan** (*Czechia on behalf of the European Union*)
 - Situation of human rights in **the Syrian Arab Republic** (*United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Türkiye, United States*);
 - Situation of human rights in **Ethiopia** (*Czechia on behalf of the European Union*);
 - Situation of human rights in **Burundi** (*Czechia on behalf of the European Union*);
 - Situation of human rights in the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** (*Canada, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay*);
 - Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in **Sri Lanka** (*United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, United States*)
- **Country resolutions: technical assistance and capacity building:**
 - for the **Marshall Islands** (*Fiji, Marshall Island, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu*);
 - for **Somalia**;
 - for **Yemen** (*State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of Arab States*)
 - for **Democratic Republic of Congo** (*Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the Group of African States*)
- **Thematic resolutions:**
 - The human rights implications of new and **emerging technologies in the military domain** (*Panama, Austria*);
 - Human rights and **Indigenous Peoples** (*Mexico, Guatemala*);
 - The human rights to **safe drinking water and sanitation** (*Spain, Germany*);
 - **Terrorism** and human rights (*Mexico, Egypt*);
 - Human rights and **transitional justice** (*Switzerland, Argentina, Morocco*);
 - **Youth** and human rights (*El Salvador, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Uzbekistan*);
 - The role of **prevention** in the promotion and protection of human rights: **rule of law and accountability** (*Ukraine, Australia, Hungary, Maldives, Morocco, Poland, Uruguay*);
 - **Local government** and human rights;
 - Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (*Cuba*);
 - Resolution on countering **cyberbullying** (*Israel, Argentina, Germany, Greece*)
 - **National human rights institutions** (*Australia*);
 - The safety of **journalists** (*Austria, Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia*);
 - **Arbitrary detention** (*France*);
 - Strengthening the **Voluntary Funds for the Universal Periodic Review mechanism** of the Human Rights Council (*Argentina, Armenia, Fiji, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa*);
 - Conscientious **objection to military service** (*Costa Rica, Croatia, Poland*)
 - **Neurotechnology** and human rights (*Greece, Chile, Singapore*);
 - The human rights of **older persons** (*Argentina, Brazil, Slovenia*).

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