

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 52nd SESSION

Overview of Week 1: 27 February – 03 March 2023



During its first week of work, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) will host its annual **High-Level Segment (HLS)**, during which more than **145 Dignitaries¹**, including the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Montenegro and Colombia will address the Council. In the remaining days, **human rights situation in four countries and regions** will be addressed under **Agenda Item 2²**, namely the situations in Nicaragua, Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Eritrea. Additionally, the Council will hold an full-day high-level meeting commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and three high-level panel discussions, respectively on human rights mainstreaming, on the question of the death penalty, and on UPR Voluntary Funds.

Opening of the session: 27 February 2023, 9 am (CET): The session will be opened by the President of the Human Rights Council, President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland as host country.

High-level segment (HLS)



List of dignitaries (Presidents, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs...) by Regional Group:

African Group: Democratic Republic of Congo, *H.E. M. Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo*; Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Gabon, Angola, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Namibia, Libya, Lesotho, Benin, Kenya, Burkina Faso, United Republic of Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Gambia, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ghana, South Africa, Sudan, Botswana, Mauritania, Cameroon, Burundi, Benin, Kenya.

Asia and the Pacific Group: Fiji, Jordan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Iraq, Maldives, State of Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Cabo Verde, Mauritius, India, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Honduras, Bahrain, Philippines, Bangladesh, Australia, Qatar, Vanuatu, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, New Zealand, Marshall Islands, Japan, Pakistan.

Eastern European Group: Montenegro, *H.E. Mr. Milo Đukanović, President of Montenegro*; Czechia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Greece, Slovenia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Slovakia, Türkiye, Romania, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Bulgaria, Hungary, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Estonia, Croatia, Poland, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Albania, Tajikistan, Russian Federation, Republic of Moldova, Poland.

Latin American and Caribbean States Group: Colombia, *H.E. Mr. Gustavo Petro Urrego, President of Colombia*; Paraguay, Chile, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Guatemala, Bolivia, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Panama.

Western European and Others Group: Netherlands, Ireland, Austria, France, Luxemburg, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Norway, Belgium, Andorra, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Malta, San Marino, Finland, Canada, Cyprus, Monaco, United States of America.

¹ As inscribed in the List of dignitaries of 24 February 2023.

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

Also taking the floor during the HLS: Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie; Community of Portuguese Language Countries; European Union; ICRC; Commonwealth; OIC; UNDP; Sovereign Order of Malta; IDLO; Council of Europe; UN Women; UNFPA; UNHCR.

The High-level segment will be followed by the General segment.

Panel discussions

27 February (4 to 6 pm): Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming. Theme “A reflection on five years of the United Nations Youth Strategy (Youth 2030): mapping a blueprint for the next steps”. The high-level panel will be opened by **Mr. Volker Türk**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth.

28 February (9 to 11 a.m.): Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty. Theme “Human rights violations relating to the use of the death penalty, in particular with respect to limiting the death penalty to the most serious crimes”. The high-level panel will be opened by **Mr. Volker Türk**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and **Mr. Idrissa Sow**, Chairperson of the Working Group on Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced Disappearances in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Accessible panel.

28 February (4 to 6 pm) and 1 March, (10 am – noon): High-level meeting commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The high-level meeting will gather high-level representatives of United Nations agencies, high-level representatives of Member States and other stakeholders, including **Mr. Volker Türk**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director-General of the WHO, **H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, and **Ms. Fatima Rabab**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (TBC), among others. Report (A/HRC/52/51a) of the biennial panel discussion on the right to development, held on 15 September 2022, during the 51st session of the Council. The discussion focused on the theme “35 years on: policy pathways to operationalizing the right to development”.

1 March (4 to 6 pm): High-level panel discussion on UPR Voluntary Funds: achievements, good practices and lessons learned over the past 15 years and optimized support to States in the implementation of recommendations emanating from the fourth cycle. The high-level panel will be opened by **Ms. Amina Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and **Ms. Nada Al-Nashif**, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, and have the participation of **H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office at Geneva, **Ms. Susanna Moorehead**, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Director-General of the WTO (TBC), and **Ms. Mona M’Bikay**, Executive Director of UPR Info.

Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General³



Oral updates

3 March: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner’s oral update on the situation of human rights in Nicaragua.

A/HRC/52/63⁴: Report of the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua

³ Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

⁴ On 27 February 2023, the report A/HRC/52/63 had not yet been made available on the OHCHR webpage.

3 March: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the **Sudan**.

3 March: Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on **Occupied Palestinian Territory**, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice.

[A/HRC/52/75](#): The report provides an overview of the implementation of the resolution and developments relevant to the **human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice**. The High Commissioner provides several recommendations to **Israel**, including to fully comply with its legal obligations; to ensure that the rules of engagement of its security forces and their application are fully consistent with international human rights law; to conduct prompt, thorough, independent, impartial and effective investigations into all incidents of use of force by Israeli forces that have led to the death or injury of Palestinians, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and that victims are provided with redress; as well as to end practices of administrative detention and other forms of arbitrary detention and ensure that all detainees are released unless promptly charged and fairly tried. Further, the High Commissioner calls **Palestinian authorities** to protect the rights of all Palestinians without discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

3 March: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the situation of human rights in **Eritrea**.