

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 52nd SESSION

Item 3¹: General debate

(17 March 2023)

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This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 3 that took place 17 March 2023 at the 52nd 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.

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

Opening remarks

H.E. Mr. Emilio Rafael Izquierdo Miño Chair-Rapporteur from the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, detailed the process of the revisions of the instrument in the last years and expressed that during the eighth session, there was an active participation of civil society and other stakeholders whose text proposals were duly registered for consideration by the States. He commended the efforts of all stakeholders that have contributed to the progress of the legally binding instrument, specially the Friends of the Chair group that benefit from the active participation of **Azerbaijan, Cameroon, France, Indonesia, Portugal and Uruguay**. The Rapporteur considered possible to improve the access of victims to effective justice and reparations through binding norms, which complement and reinforce voluntarily adopted precepts, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. He called upon all States to have active participation in the Group's work since it is the only way for them to convey their positions through concrete textual proposals that contribute to building consensus. He highlighted the main objectives of the legally binding instrument and reiterated his appreciation to all the States and other relevant stakeholders who participated actively and constructively in the eighth session of the Working Group.

H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov, Chair of the Fifth intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presented the report of the fifth intersessional meeting on the topic of “Overcoming multiple crises: realizing the SDGs through a human right enhancing economy”. The Chair emphasized Mr. Volker Türk opening remarks which highlighted the value of putting pre-existing human rights obligations back into economic policy discussions to build a human rights-enhancing economy that benefits everyone. The Chair also referred to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, Ms. Antonia Urrejola, who underscored the urgency to counter inequalities. The Chair referred to the main outcomes of the meeting which looked into how multiple and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger. The Chair referred to the participants’ conclusions stating that the world is facing the reversal of years of progress, in eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, and providing basic services. The meeting also underlined that human rights are the lever to rescue the 2030 Agenda. Participants noted that tackling the climate crisis and fulfilling the right to a healthy, clean, and sustainable environment should be a top priority. Participants further underlined that greater action is needed to empower people as active agents of sustainable development as well putting pre-existing human rights obligations into economic policy planning.

Six thematic reports by the **Secretary General and the High Commissioner** were presented under Item 3. These include:

1. Study on the situation of the violations and abuses of human rights rooted in harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks as well as stigmatization
2. Annual report on the rights of persons of national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities
3. Report of the Secretary General on the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (describes activities of the Fund in 2022)
4. Report of the Secretary General on the special fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)

5. Report of the Secretary General on missing persons
6. Report of the HC on combatting intolerance, negative stereotyping, and stigmatization of and discrimination, incitement of violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
1. Qatar (on behalf of the Arab Group)	The Arab Group recognizes the right to everyone to equality and dignity . Reaffirms that the right to development should have equal value than political and civil rights and calls upon the Council for the non-politicization of issues. Affirms that all forms of racism on the ground of color, religion, or ethnicity must be discarded. Reaffirms the Arab Group’s commitment with the pillars of constructive dialogue and cooperation .
2. Argentina (on behalf of a group of countries)	Is concerned about the lack of framework coverage of the human rights of older persons . The gap was most evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and the pressing climate crisis . Urged the Council to address the existing gaps in the human rights system for the protection of the rights of older persons.
3. Pakistan (on behalf of the OIC)	Reiterates the imperative of advancing and safeguarding all human rights in a fair and equal manner . Reminds the Council that pursuit of selective approaches erodes the credibility of the HRC. Underscores the special significance of the right to self-determination of people . Is concerned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights misuse and abuse. Reiterates that family remains the natural and fundamental group unit of society entitled to protection by society and the State. The COVID-19 , the conflict in Ukraine and climate catastrophe have exacerbated existing inequalities. Calls attention to the fulfilment of commitments related to financing for development , climate adaptation and revisiting the present international economic, financial and taxation regime.
4. Morocco (on behalf of the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI)) ²	Urges for universal ratification and full implementation of UNCAT to ensure safe and peaceful societies. Since CTI was launched 19 new States have ratified UNCAT. CTI is committed to advancing its goal of universal ratification by 2024 and will continue offering support through technical workshops, capacity-building activities, tools, and publications.
5. Costa Rica (on behalf of a group of countries) ³	As new members of the Council, the group of countries expressed a number of pledges and commitments aiming to strengthen the council’s human rights work, cooperate in good faith, and respond in a timely manner to special procedures and human rights mechanisms. The group committed to active engagement with civil society members , supporting civil society participation and engaging robustly to avoid reprisals against them.
6. China (on behalf of a group of countries)	Highlights the four key conditions for the implementation of the declaration of human rights : the equal value of all rights; upholding the right to development with a people-centered approach; mutual respect; and fostering cooperation and solidarity while refraining from politicization .

² Core States of the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI): Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco.

³ Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Maldives, Rumania

<p>7. Sudan (on behalf of a group of countries)⁴</p>	<p>Is concerned about the severe impact of climate change in the IGAD region affected by extreme droughts, high temperature variability, water scarcity and food insecurity. These issues have aggravated vulnerabilities already affected by the conflicts. Is deeply concerned about the forcibly displaced people, in particular women and children, who already face acute food insecurity which might be exacerbated by the drought. This situation is depriving people in the region of their fundamental rights. Calls upon the Council to act to save people’s lives in the region and to advance in its support of the IGAD climate strategy.</p>
<p>8. Bolivia (on behalf of a group of countries)⁵</p>	<p>Emphasizes the importance of respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular their right to health, with special attention to Indigenous women and children. Urges the Council to exchange experiences and good practices on the topic while fostering International. Considers that indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, as well as to be actively involved in developing and determining health programmes affecting them. Supports the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>
<p>9. Ukraine (on behalf of a group of countries)⁶</p>	<p>Supports the resolution on the impact of disinformation. Reaffirms that disinformation has harmful consequences, undermines social trust, and has far-reaching ramifications for state security. Considers disinformation can also lead to the weaponization of information and set states for military action. Condemned Russia’s use of disinformation to support its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, using it as propaganda to justify censorship and limit civic space. Urges Council members to ensure access to diverse and reliable sources of information and guarantee society’s digital media literacy.</p>
<p>10. Bangladesh (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p>Emphasizes the need for climate action and to protect the right of people to a healthy and clean environment. Calls upon states to address the roots of climate change. Considers developed countries must boost efforts to fulfill their pledges and financial commitments, as well as increase cooperation to provide capacity building and technical support to developing countries. Calls upon COP28 to follow up on efforts on migration and climate change adaptation. Urges states to include meaningful participation of vulnerable peoples in the design of environmental policies. Calls upon all human rights mechanisms to mainstream the issues of climate change in their work with special attention to vulnerable populations.</p>
<p>11. India (on behalf of a group of countries)⁷</p>	<p>Highlights the strong resonance in the universal values contained in the UDHR with the ideas and values espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. Emphasizes Gandhi’s advocacy of political, social, and economic inclusion leaving no one behind. Gives special attention to the rights of women and girls, promoting dialogue among cultures, religions and faiths and combating rising racism, hate speech and Xenophobia. Calls upon the Council to promote inclusive development that aims to share the benefits of economic growth with all segments of society. Finally, highlights the five core concepts that Mahatma Gandhi espoused for a peaceful and just world: Ahimsa</p>

⁴ Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda

⁵ Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay

⁶ Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, United Kingdom, USA.

⁷ India (Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Eswatini, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen).

	(non-violence); Satyagraha (truth force that guides non-violent resistance); Sarvodaya (welfare of all); Swaraj (self-rule) and Trusteeship (custodianship of the earth and sustainable use of natural resources).
12. Bangladesh (on behalf of a group of countries)	Is concerned about the increase of xenophobia, exploitation and discrimination against migrants exacerbated by the COVID-19. Urges all states to protect the rights of migrants. Calls upon the private sector to allow digital and financial inclusion to migrants. Is deeply concerned about the current and future rise of displacement because of climate change .
13. Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group)	Considers all rights should be dealt with equally . Emphasized the protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples and people of African Descent . Urges all states to combat racism and xenophobia . Is deeply concerned about climate change and the right to a healthy environment. Developing countries continue to face budgetary deficit and a high debt burden . Calls upon international community for more cooperation , technology transfer and financial assistance.
14. United States of America (on behalf of a group of countries)	The Coalition is committed to continue promoting internet freedom and digital technologies . Considers there is numerous benefits provided by these technologies and expresses that a lack of digital inclusion creates digital divides . Condemns countries that are developing tools to censor and violate the rights of people online and offline, imposing internet shutdowns , conducting misinformation campaigns, and deploying malicious cyber activity . The Coalition's priorities include: countering network disruptions and building resistance, advancing norms for AI based on human rights and strengthening digital inclusion , in particular for the most vulnerable populations.
Statements made by Member States	
1. Finland	Is deeply concerned about the triple planetary crisis: pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity . These issues increase the risks of conflicts and are a driver of gender inequality . Welcomes the report of the Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment and its focus on the gender dimension of the triple crisis. Women and girls are disproportionately affected and must carry the burden of displacement, violence, lack access to justice and effective remedies. Urges all countries to include women in environmental decision-making processes , adopt a gender transformative approach and address intersecting forms of discrimination .
2. United States of America	Considers ESC rights are increasingly at risk because of COVID-19, inflation, climate changes , and conflict , especially those of marginalized populations . Urges countries to ensure that marginalized populations' ESC rights are protected. Is committed to protecting workers, tackling hunger, and addressing environmental concerns . It is also committed to helping other countries realize their ESC rights by providing humanitarian assistance, capacity building, vaccine donations, and enabling access to healthcare and education. Underscores the responsibility of all states to respect the ESC rights of their people.
3. Luxembourg	Urges the Council members to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner and the special procedures have the resources they need. Deplores the situation of Ms. Aneta Alfred Cunningham, expert of the Mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples , who was forced into exile by the Government of Nicaragua and reiterates its call upon the Nicaraguan authorities to allow her to return home.
4. France	Is committed to the fight for gender equality and urges the Council to take more responsibility for this. Highlights the importance of zero tolerance of online harassment against women, promoting women's freedom of expression on the Internet, women's participation in all [public and private] decision-making processes, including in peace processes . Urges states to protect the right to education, academic and press freedom . Also urges to protect the rights of LGBT+ people and calls upon states for an immediate

	and complete decriminalization of homosexuality. Emphasizes rising challenges such as the pandemic, food insecurity and growing economic inequalities and urges for the realization of the human right to social security .
5. Nepal	Is committed to protecting the rights and interests of Women, Madhesi, Dalit, Muslim, Tharu, and Indigenous nationalities. Nepal is committed to ensuring its independence and providing adequate resources to fulfil its mandate while retaining its 'A' category accreditation as per the Paris principles . Calls upon the international community to fulfil their ODA and climate-related financial commitments which would assist the developing countries, specifically graduating and recently graduated LDCs to tackle their challenges in sustaining graduation and achieving SDGs in a timely manner.
6. Malaysia	Highlights the issues of climate change, food security, racism and religious intolerance . Is concerned about the rise of Islamophobia and its protection under the pretext of freedom of speech and expression . Is committed to building a just and inclusive Malaysian society by undertaking institutional reforms, including of the criminal justice system to abolish the mandatory death penalty. Wishes to raise greater awareness on the importance and contribution of a transparent public service delivery towards the promotion of human rights and SDGs during this Council session, with a resolution on this topic.
7. South Africa	Calls upon the international community to respond urgently to the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe in Malawi and Mozambique . Is concerned about the rise in poverty levels, wars and conflicts, racism, impunity and lack of accountability and the violation of human rights in Palestine and Western Sahara by the occupying powers. Urges the Council to place human rights at the centre of all dimensions of sustainable development; restructure the global financial architecture ; narrow the gap between the rich and poor; Pursue multilateral solutions; treat all human rights on an equal footing; and use peaceful means to resolve conflicts.
8. Maldives	Highlights the link between the equal protection of rights and the establishment of peace, security and sustainable development . Is committed to the 2030 Agenda . Notes the crucial role of the Council in advancing the rights of all.
9. Kazakhstan	Informs about the abolishment of the death penalty. Remains committed to aligning domestic policies with international standards by ratifying the convention on the rights of the child . Is developing laws aimed at the prevention of torture , the elimination of discrimination against women and the protection of persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, and stateless persons .
10. Georgia	Is worried about challenges to protect children in the digital environment. Is concerned about climate change and is committed to continue combatting it by engaging in the COP28. The country considers as a priority ensuring equitable participation of all countries on the UNFCCC's processes . Is deeply committed to the protection of people with disabilities and older persons . Is concerned about the protection of the right to privacy of the people in the other side of the occupation line because of Russia's invasion .
11. Gambia	Is committed to reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth and gender equality . Recognizes the collective responsibility to protect ESC rights of future generations. Urges all countries to strengthen international solidarity , technical assistance and sharing of best practices.
12. Algeria	Calls upon the Council to respect the principle of non-selectivity . Is committed to strengthening a participatory democracy and the protection of all groups from violence . Is committed to continue efforts in the strengthening of the right to freedom of association and freedom of expression . The country established a youth observatory and other bodies to consolidate the rule of law with the active participation of civil society and young people. The country is undertaking economic reforms to develop several sectors by following trade policies that goes beyond gas products.

13. Chile	Development of international trade, globalization and technological progress have all lifted people out of poverty. Highlights the predominant role of enterprises in this progress and the risks posed by them including during the COVID-19 pandemic and their role in climate change. Any solution to global challenges must involve multilateralism where companies play a key role. Chile commends the work of the working group on transnational corporations and considers the legally binding instrument to be very relevant. The country is currently developing a due diligence document of companies in Chile.
14. Malawi	Appreciates the solidarity received after the cyclone that affected the country. Is concerned by the wars that still affect women and children. Considers the world order to be unequal and calls upon all states to promote a world order of equal opportunities for all. Women should be the center subject for development.
15. Romania	Highlights the existing links between climate change, conflict and displacement. Expresses that the loss of resources increases the risk for conflict between states. Rising sea and ocean levels implies the loss of territory and poses an existential threat to many states. Encourages all states to support the Vanuatu's resolution intended to clarify the obligations of states regarding combatting climate change. Romania remains committed to combating the causes of climate change.
16. Bolivia	Commends the working group that has been developing a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations. Considers it is necessary to strengthen multilateralism. Is concerned about the right to development and considers countries are far from achieving their SDGs. Is deeply concerned about extreme poverty within indigenous communities, especially women in rural communities. Expresses it is essential to protect people who work in rural areas. Urges the strengthening of international solidarity and cooperation to face the impacts of global challenges. Condemns the violations of human rights by transnational corporations which are ongoing since there is still not a legally binding instrument. Urges all stakeholders involved to progress on this instrument.
17. Pakistan	Highlights the right to self-determination. Condemns India for violations the basic human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Deplores India's torture, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, internet shutdowns, and curfews against the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Calls upon the Council to implement the OHCHR recommendations and act to uphold Kashmir's cause of freedom, justice, and peace. Urges the Council to pressure India into ceasing and reversing its illegal actions in occupied Kashmir.
18. Cuba	Considers that the current multidimensional crisis, the maintenance of an undemocratic international economic order and the continuation of unsustainable patterns of capitalist production and consumption perpetuate inequalities within and between countries. Is deeply concerned about the proliferation of hate speech, racism, religious intolerance, xenophobia, discriminatory policies against migrants and the application of unilateral coercive measures. Condemns the unilateral coercive measures applied against the country by the USA. Reiterates the urgency of preventing the human rights system to fall into an irreversible crisis of legitimacy and credibility.
19. Ukraine	Condemns Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine which has caused mass violations of human rights that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Deplores Russia's intention to deprive Ukrainians of their basic human rights: the right to life; to choose freely the place of residence; freedom of opinion; freedom of religion or belief; adequate housing, healthcare, and education. Calls upon the UN special procedures to ensure accountability and justice.
20. India	Is concerned about the food and fuel crisis, the impact of the COVID-19, and the ongoing conflicts which have led to an unsustainable debt burden by developing countries. Reiterates the importance of the principle of universality, non-selectivity and non-politicization in the work of the Council. Urges the Council to promote constructive dialogue to enhance the development of all

	<p>human rights equally. Supports the mainstreaming of the right to development. Emphasizes the need to achieve the SDGs as they ensure no one is left behind. Calls upon the Council to ensure more technical assistance is provided to countries with their previous consent.</p>
<p>Statements made by the Observers</p>	
<p>1. Peru (on behalf of a group of countries)⁸</p>	<p>Highlights an event the Fund will host which will raise awareness on the intersection between the impacts of torture and the rights of persons with disabilities. Stresses that the needs of torture survivors continue to outweigh the response. Considers the Fund to play an indispensable role in supporting specialized assistance to victims of torture. Encourages all States to consider contributing to the Fund and supporting the global efforts to assist victims of torture.</p>
<p>2. Russian Federation (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p>Is concerned about religious intolerance and the increase of misinformation incentivizing religious hatred. Is deeply concerned the increase of xenophobia and acts of religious intolerance in European countries. Considers there is a lack of political in some countries to address the violations against the freedom of religious or belief by justifying these with protection of the freedom of speech. Deplores the desecration of churches, religious symbols, and books.</p>
<p>3. Saudi Arabia (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p>Is concerned about food insecurity globally and generalized famine. There is an urgent need of coordinated international efforts to recover the global economy, ensure food security and address the major challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 and climate change. Draws attention to the women and girls that are disproportionately impacted by hunger and poverty due to unequal access to resources and discrimination. Calls upon all states to empower women and girls so that they can meet their food needs and urges the Council to take effective measures in this regard.</p>
<p>4. Peru (on behalf of a group of countries)</p>	<p>Is deeply concerned about plastic pollution and its impact on human rights. If left unchecked plastic pollution will increase drastically in the upcoming years affecting ecosystems and therefore the rights to sanitation, adequate housing, and physical and mental health. Plastic pollution impacts vulnerable populations the most, indigenous peoples and women and girls, aggravating pre-existing inequalities. Is committed to developing a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution that reduces inequalities and enables a just transition.</p>
<p>5. Azerbaijan (on behalf of the NAM)</p>	<p>Reaffirms that all rights are equal, and they deserve equal treatment by the Council. Expresses its gratitude to the Rapporteur on the right to development which effectively contributed to the promotion of the right. Emphasizes the urgent need to make the right to development of all a reality and calls upon all states to ensure that human rights are not used for political purposes and to interfere on states' internal affairs.</p>
<p>6. Samoa (on behalf of a group of countries)⁹</p>	<p>Is concerned about climate change and urges all countries to respect their climate pledges and commitments. Emphasizes the need to reduce GHG emissions and urges for more collective action. Considers SIDS to be constrained by limited resources and therefore expresses the need to upscale financial assistance towards SIDS to enhance their capabilities in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Climate change is an obstacle for SIDS to meet development aspirations and human rights obligations.</p>

⁸ Group of Friends of UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture: Argentina, Austria, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, United States of America

⁹ Groups of small islands developing states (SIDS)

<p>7. Syrian Arab Republic (on behalf of a group of countries)¹⁰</p>	<p>Urges States to strengthen multilateralism and reinforce international cooperation and solidarity. Reiterates that the illegal practice of unilateral coercive measures has a negative impact on fundamental human rights and therefore should be lifted immediately. UCMs disproportionately affect the poor and the most vulnerable while depriving targeted countries of critical means to adequately respond and recover health and natural disaster emergencies. Urges all countries to take all possible measures to eliminate these practices, including by ensuring that businesses under their jurisdictions comply with their human rights obligations. Calls upon the UN High Commissioner to pay adequate attention to the negative impact of UCMs.</p>
<p>8. Iran (on behalf of a group of countries)¹¹</p>	<p>Highlights the role of religion in the promotion of human rights. Believes that a lack of respecting cultural diversity results to unilateralism, extremism, and violence. Calls upon the international community to prevent any kind of discrimination, hostility, violence and defamation and vilification of religions, by taking necessary legal and administrative measures. Calls upon the Council to stand firmly against the propagation and dissemination of hate speech and any other form and manifestation of religion-based discrimination. Calls upon the Council to value and take advantage of the role of religious leaders in human rights promotion and protection. Welcomes the meaningful dialogue between and among different religions including in the format of the human rights mechanisms.</p>
<p>9. Oman (on behalf of the GCC)</p>	<p>Stresses the need to strengthen tolerance and international cooperation between countries regardless of background or beliefs. Urges to combat all forms of radicalism. Is worried about global challenges such as climate change, modern technologies, and transnational corporations. Reaffirms that issues must be addressed in a consensual manner and take into consideration the national and regional specificities of the different states.</p>
<p>10. Sweden (on behalf of the EU)</p>	<p>Highlights the importance of the promotion of the rights of minorities and urges all states to intensify measures to address all forms of discrimination against them including youth, women, older persons, and persons with disabilities. Condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine which has caused rising energy and food prices. Urges the Council to fight against disinformation which should not be used as a pretext to justify censorship laws against the media. Pays tribute to human rights defenders working in multiple fields around the world.</p>
<p>11. Republic of Korea (on behalf of a group of countries)¹²</p>	<p>Considers new and emerging digital technologies have unlocked new opportunities for advancing human rights. Given the far-reaching impacts of new technologies as well as the fast pace of technological advances, it is crucial that the international community stays agile in addressing its human rights risks. Urges the Council to assess the human rights implications of Artificial intelligence with a view to harnessing its potential and addressing the risks. Calls upon the Council to consider ways for a more coherent and coordinated approach to build upon ongoing discussions.</p>
<p>12. Tunisia</p>	<p>Tunisia is committed to strengthening its Constitution to support democracy, rights, and freedoms. Tunisia is reforming its judicial system and combating corruption, terrorism and promoting accountability. Highlights that all human rights are of equal value. Underscores that states that have in their possession assets from other countries should return these.</p>

¹⁰ Republic of Belarus, Plurinational State of Bolivia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua- Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Republic of Zimbabwe

¹¹ OIC member states and Venezuela, Nicaragua, Belarus, Zimbabwe, DPRK, Russia

¹² Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore.

<p>13. Russian Federation</p>	<p>Draws attention to the rising Russophobia in Western countries. Condemns countries that are oppressing Russians and imposing restrictions on the heritage of Russian classics. Deplores governments that are violating Russians’ freedom of expression. Considers that the HC and the Council refuses to respond to large-scale violations of human rights committed by Ukraine and the West. Calls upon the High Commissioner and Special Procedures to demonstrate an impartial approach to assessing gross violations of human rights.</p>
<p>14. Ecuador</p>	<p>Considers that integrated approaches and human rights-based public policies are essential to eliminate inequalities and resume progress on the 2030 Agenda. Ecuador is working to achieve its SDGs by promoting progress in the areas of education, health, housing, sanitation, and social protection systems, among others.</p>
<p>15. UN Women</p>	<p>The pandemic disproportionately affected women and girls. Is worried about the rise of gender-based violence and displaced women. Gender parity and political participation is far from being achieved. The right to education of women and girls is not being guaranteed. Urges all countries to step up efforts to further promote gender equality.</p>
<p>16. Burkina Faso</p>	<p>The country is committed to combatting terrorism and protecting its victims and survivors. The country is adopting laws benefiting the education sector and is developing a roadmap to address the needs of victims of terrorism. Urges all countries to adopt more commitments on the protection of victims of terrorism.</p>
<p>17. Colombia</p>	<p>Highlights the countries’ efforts in combating intersectional forms of discrimination. Highlight the equal value of all rights. Expresses that the national government is implementing an energy transition plan to consolidate climate resilience, protect the amazon and salvage global natural heritage. Considers that in tackling the global drug problem it is important to promote solutions where not only producing countries bare the responsibilities.</p>
<p>18. Venezuela</p>	<p>Urges countries to move forward in the implementation of the 17 SDGs, focusing on the eradication of poverty and hunger in all its forms. Reaffirms that the promotion of human rights must be based on the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and transparency, without politicization. The principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States must always be borne in mind.</p>
<p>19. United Republic of Tanzania</p>	<p>Highlights the agriculture sector as a key sector for the achievement of ESC rights. The country is promoting a youth initiative of agribusiness in line with achieving SDG 8. The country will host the Africa Food System Forum.</p>
<p>20. Iraq</p>	<p>Stresses the importance of the equal value of all rights. Highlights the principles of universality, neutrality, and non-selectivity. Emphasizes the importance of strengthening international cooperation and solidarity to face global challenges such as climate change, poverty, migration, and displacement.</p>
<p>21. Armenia</p>	<p>Remains alarmed about by the blockade of the Lachin corridor by Azerbaijan affecting vulnerable populations. Condemns Azerbaijan use of force against the territorial integrity of Armenia and the killings of Armenian farmers. Deplores Azerbaijan’s denial of means of subsistence to Armenian farmers and the creation of unbearable living conditions for Armenians living in Nagorno Karabakh.</p>
<p>22. Greece</p>	<p>Highlights the importance of several global issues such as the intersecting forms of discrimination, gender issues, the importance of engaging youth, tackling climate change, and protecting cultural heritage. Considers that emerging digital technologies present challenges and offer opportunities; promoting privacy online, developing digital tools to tackle climate change, and bridging the digital divide remain as priorities.</p>

<p>23. Mauritius</p>	<p>Is deeply worried about climate change and the rising number of natural disasters affecting developing countries. Urges the Council members to provide the necessary financial assistance to developing countries so that they can address the issue of climate change. It is imperative to develop innovative green financing instruments that can help small island nations.</p>
<p>24. Afghanistan</p>	<p>In Afghanistan, all human rights - civil, political, economic, social, and cultural - have been reversed. Condemns Taliban's arbitrary killings, torture, mass displacement of civilians and systematic violations and abuses of human rights. Women and girls continue to face gender apartheid, denied their education, violently suppressed during peaceful protest and erased from all areas of public life. Urges the council to establish an independent investigative mechanism to ensure those responsible are held accountable and victims have access to justice.</p>
<p>25. Australia</p>	<p>Is committed to advancing the human rights of women, persons with disabilities, the LGBTI community, and indigenous peoples. The country condemns the repression of human rights defenders around the world. Supports social protection programs in several countries and prioritizes climate change. The country remains committed to global action aimed at abolishing modern slavery, especially of children.</p>
<p>26. Namibia</p>	<p>Highlights the working group on transnational corporation and reiterates its concern about the Chair's document proposals which cause confusion among negotiating states. Is concerned about the unanswered calls made to the Chair to withdraw the informal document and considers important to guarantee the integrity of this process.</p>
<p>27. Nigeria</p>	<p>Recognizes the rights of States to develop their legal systems, in line with their national circumstances, while upholding their international obligations. Underscores the importance of multilateral efforts without politicization. Reiterates its firm position that the right to development is an overarching human right that deserves adequate and focused international attention. Nigeria calls upon the international community to combat illicit financial flows and the unconditional repatriation of illicit funds to countries of origin.</p>
<p>28. Azerbaijan</p>	<p>Emphasizes that developing a sustainable development model remains a key priority for the country. Condemns the illegal occupation by Armenia of Azerbaijan's territories and is committed to continue its efforts in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of conflict affected territories and their inclusion to value chains. Developing countries' problems should be considered. Urges all countries to strengthen aid and capacity building measures.</p>
<p>29. UNFPA</p>	<p>Highlights the rights of older persons, older women's rights, discrimination on age and gender, and the inequalities faced by women. Women's overrepresentation in the informal economy including unpaid work affect their economic independence. Calls upon states to respond toward addressing public aging.</p>
<p>30. Mauritania</p>	<p>Reaffirms the equal value of all rights. Is committed to combatting all forms of discrimination against women and the preservation of the rights of persons with disabilities. Reaffirms the need to support persons with disabilities so they can participate actively in society.</p>
<p>31. Iran</p>	<p>Emphasizes that all human rights should be treated in a fair and equal manner. Condemns the unilateral coercive measures that harm international cooperation and violate the human rights of the population, including their right to development. Welcomes the high-level panel discussion on the Right to Development held during the HRC52 and calls upon the Council and the OHCHR to contribute to further mainstreaming the Right to Development. Is deeply concerned about the rise in crimes related to religious defamation and the recent acts of burning of the Quran.</p>

32. Holy See	Condemns the persecution of people because of their religion or belief . Deplores abuses by national authorities of religious minorities and the desecration of religious sights and oppression against religious leaders . Emphasizes that Christians currently face persecutions and that governments should protect the right to freedom of religion and belief .
33. Syrian Arab Republic	Highlights the imperative of multilateralism to advance in the respect of human rights in a balanced manner in line with national priorities. Condemns the mechanisms that do not enjoy the approval of states which results in the politicization of human rights issues.
34. Vanuatu	Emphasizes the importance of the right to a safe and healthy environment . Is deeply concerned about climate change and the survival of future generations. The country is currently developing policies to protect the environment and related human rights. Welcomes the progress made at COP27 and calls upon states to support its initiatives in combating climate change .
35. Belize	Emphasizes cultural heritage as a necessary component to fulfill the population's ESC rights. Belize is committed to guaranteeing the land rights of the Mayan people through the Maya Land Policy. Is committed to guaranteeing the cultural rights of all Belizeans for the wellbeing of present and future generations.
36. Cambodia	All rights should be treated equally . Is committed to protecting the poor mostly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic . The country is hosting the inclusive development congress for socio-economic empowerment . Is committed to combatting discrimination and protecting the rights of people with disabilities .

List of NGOs that took the floor (72):

China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), VIVAT International (Joint Statement), Community Human Rights and Advocacy Centre (CHRAC), Conectas Direitos Humanos, Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, World Organization of the Scout Movement (Joint Statement), Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, Japan Society for History Textbook, Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism, Human Is Right, Interfaith International, World Barua Organization (WBO), Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Association PANAFRICA, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Beijing Crafts Council, Villages Unis (United Villages), Franciscans International, Minority Rights Group, Mouvement National des Jeunes Patriotes du Mali, United Nations Association of China, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Iraqi Development Organization, United Nations Watch, Action Canada for Population and Development, Humanists International, Advocates for Human Rights, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, American Association of Jurists (Joint Statement), Sikh Human Rights Group, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, FIAN International e.V., Institute for Human Rights, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Commission of Jurists, The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development, La Ligue pour la Solidarité Congolaise, Maloca Internationale, Akshar Foundation (Joint Statement), "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature) (Joint Statement), Alliance Defending Freedom, Africa Culture Internationale, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), Organisation Internationale pour les Pays Les Moins Avancés (OIPMA), Tumuku Development and Cultural Union (TACUDU), Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale, World Muslim Congress, International Action for Peace & Sustainable Development, Promotion du Développement Economique et Social - PDES,

Lidskoprávní organizace Práva a svobody občanů Turkmenistánu z.s., Youth in Technology and Arts Network (YOTAN), Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Ms. Nisanthi Peiris, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association), Il Cenacolo, Baha'i International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (Joint Statement), Chunhui Children's Foundation, Human Rights Solidarity Organization, Human Rights & Democratic Participation Center "SHAMS", Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (Joint Statement), Centre Zagros pour les Droits de l'Homme, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled (Joint Statement), Alliance Internationale pour la défense des Droits et des Libertés.

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