

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 52nd SESSION

WEEK 4: 20 - 24 March 2023

On the **fourth week** of the 52nd session, the Council will continue consideration of Agenda Item 3 with the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur **on minority issues**. The Council will also hold Interactive Dialogues under **Agenda Item 4, country situations**. In particular, will consider the human rights situation in Myanmar, Republic Islamic of Iran, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and Ukraine, among others.



The Council will hold **General Debates under Agenda Items 4 and 5**, Human rights situations that require the Council’s attention and Human rights bodies and mechanisms respectively.

Finally, During the second part of the week, under Agenda Item 6, the Council will consider and adopt the outcomes of the **Universal Periodic Reviews** of Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Finland, UK, India, Algeria, Philippines, Brazil, Poland, Netherlands, and South Africa.

Item 3¹: Thematic reports



23 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on **minority issues**, **Fernand de Varennes**

[A/HRC/52/27](#): The report provides an overview of the Special Rapporteur’s activities and the activities marking the **thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities**. It also contains a thematic report on moving forward in recognizing and protecting the rights of minorities at the United Nations, in which the Special Rapporteur critically reviews and assesses the implementation of the Declaration since its adoption. Among the **recommendations** made by the Special Rapporteur, States should begin work on a legally binding instrument, the consolidation of regional forums on minorities at the United Nations and, among others, the creation of a permanent forum and voluntary fund for minorities at the United Nations. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur recommended that, in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the protection of minorities be integrated therein to ensure that minority groups are not left behind.

[A/HRC/52/71](#): The report contains **recommendations** drawn from the discussions and contributions made by participants at the **fifteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues**, held on 1 and 2 December 2022, and from those made at the **four regional forums** held in 2022. The theme was “*Review, rethink, reform: thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities*”. In particular, participants discussed on review: normative frameworks and the mainstreaming of the Declaration at the United Nations; rethink: minority rights defenders and their role in promoting the principles of the Declaration; reform: filling the gaps in the implementation of the human rights of minorities; and open dialogue: urgent situations faced by minorities. The recommendations are based on international law and standards. **The general recommendations aimed to guide the further implementation of the Declaration.**

¹ Agenda Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Item 4²: Thematic reports



20 March: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar, Thomas H. Andrews.**

A/HRC/52/66³: The report provides an overview of the **humanitarian and human rights crisis in Myanmar**, since the coup in 2021. The State Administration Council continues its campaign of mass arson, as well as suppresses all forms of dissent as it attempts to impose a military-dominated future on the people of Myanmar. The Special Rapporteur called on Member States to fulfill their obligations toward people from Myanmar by offering shelter and support, refraining from acts that endanger their human rights, and working towards durable solutions for refugees and other Myanmar nationals outside their country. Also, among the calls for a **Security Council's resolution**, the Special Rapporteur **recommended that Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka** refrain from blocking Myanmar nationals fleeing violence from crossing land borders, avoid collective expulsions, and ensure that any returns of such individuals are safe, voluntary, and dignified.

20 March: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran, Javaid Rehman.**

A/HRC/52/67: The report encloses information on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran since September 2022. In particular, the report contains an overview of the **Special Rapporteur's activities**; a description of **events leading up to and since the death of Jina Mahsa Amini on 16 September 2022**; the most pressing **human rights concerns over the reporting period**; and **recommendations** made by the Special Rapporteur. The death of Ms. Amini sparked nationwide outrage and waves of protests across the country with women and young persons, leading the charge under the banner "*Women, Life, Freedom*". The Special Rapporteur deplored the brutal response of the Iranian authorities to these protests and the continuing violence against women and girls, including cases of killings, physical and sexual abuse, and fierce repression of ethnic and religious minorities. Since October 2022, various States have introduced **human rights sanctions against Iranian individuals and entities**. These measures include travel bans, asset freezing and other restrictions. In response, the Iranian authorities have also introduced sanctions against individuals and entities. Among others, the Special Rapporteur **recommended** that the Iranian Government accept full responsibility for the death in custody of Ms. Amini; immediately release all those arrested, detained and sentenced; and end all forms of violence, torture and ill-treatment of protesters.

20 March: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Elizabeth Salmón.**

A/HRC/52/65⁴: The report provides an overview of the current human rights situation and the legal framework and a detailed analysis of the human rights of women and girls in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea closed its border in early 2020, a lack of reliable and verifiable information coming out of the country has constrained the international community's ability to assess the human rights situation in the country. **Women and girls are the priority of the Special Rapporteur's work. They face discrimination and gender-based violence.** Ending violence against women must be a social and institutional priority, including from the highest level of the State. The government needs to develop, adopt, and implement a **comprehensive plan of action** to promote women's and girls' rights and gender equality. Additionally, the Government should adopt an integrated approach to address the situation of trafficking; recognize the fundamental **right to leave and enter** the country both in law and in practice; and ensure that those who are repatriated are not subjected to punishment upon repatriation.

² Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

³ Advanced Edited Version published on the [OHCHR webpage](#) on 14 March 2023 in English only.

⁴ Advanced Edited Version published on the [OHCHR webpage](#) on 14 March 2023 in English only.

20 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on [Ukraine](#).

[A/HRC/52/62](#): The report presents the main findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine since the beginning of its mandate. The evidence collected shows that Russian authorities have committed a wide range of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in many regions of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. Many of these amount to **war crimes and include wilful killings, attacks on civilians, unlawful confinement, torture, rape, and forced transfers and deportations of children**. The report documents indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, and a failure to take precautions, in violation of international humanitarian law. Finally, the Commission provided **recommendations** to the parties of the conflict, as well as to the **Russian Federation, to Ukraine and to States and regional and international organizations**. In particular, it recommended the Russian Federation to cease aggression and all acts of violence committed against civilians in violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and end the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including sexual and gender-based violence; and to ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable.

21 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on [the Syrian Arab Republic](#).

[A/HRC/52/69](#): The report documents violations of **human rights and humanitarian law** across the country. The conflict intensified across several front lines, with devastating consequences for civilians. Insecurity persisted across government-controlled areas, notably in the south, with unabating clashes and targeted killings. Arbitrary arrests, disappearances and deaths in detention continued, while harassment, extortion, and other violations prevailed. Sexual and gender-based violence continued countrywide. The Commission's investigations remain curtailed by the denial of access to the country and by protection concerns concerning interviewees. Among the **recommendations** made, the Commission called on all parties to the conflict to immediately cease all indiscriminate and direct attacks on civilians and civilian objects; conduct independent, impartial and credible investigations into incidents; and cease torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including sexual and gender-based violence. The Commission called on the UN's Member States to take action to create an independent mechanism to coordinate and consolidate claims regarding missing persons, including persons subjected to enforced disappearance.

Oral updates

21 March: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in [Venezuela](#).

21 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Human Rights Experts on [Ethiopia](#) (oral briefings).

22 March: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in [Belarus](#).

21 March: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in [DPRK](#).

22 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on [Venezuela](#).

22 - 23 March: **General Debate on Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

23 - 24 March: **General Debate on Agenda Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms**

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Bahrain: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 245 recommendations received by Bahrain, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Gabon, India and the Russian Federation.

Ecuador: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 174 recommendations received by Bahrain, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Honduras, Germany and Kazakhstan.

Tunisia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 283 recommendations received by Tunisia, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: China, Mauritania and United States.

Morocco: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 306 recommendations received by Morocco, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Argentina, Cameroon and Malaysia.

Indonesia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 269 recommendations received by Indonesia, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Malawi and Uzbekistan.

Finland: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 229 recommendations received by Bahrain, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Luxembourg, Mexico and Somalia.

UK: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 302 recommendations received by the UK, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Côte d'Ivoire, Lithuania and the Republic of Korea.

India: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 339 recommendations received by India, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Nepal, the Netherlands and the Sudan.

Algeria: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 290 recommendations received by Algeria, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Brazil, Eritrea and Pakistan.

Philippines: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 289 recommendations received by Philippines, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Marshall Islands, Namibia and Poland.

Brazil: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 306 recommendations received by Brazil, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Japan, Montenegro and Paraguay.

Poland: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 233 recommendations received by Poland, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Finland, Indonesia and Senegal.

Netherlands: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 255 recommendations received by Netherlands, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: the Gambia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

South Africa: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 293 recommendations received by South Africa, which will provide responses during the 52nd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Armenia, Libya and Qatar.