

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 52nd SESSION

Overview of Week 5 (27 – 31 March 2023)

During the **fifth week** of the 52nd session, the Council will continue the adoption of the Universal Periodic Review outcomes, including Indonesia, Algeria, the UK, Finland, India, Philippines, Brazil, Poland, Netherlands, and South Africa. The Council will hold **General Debates** under Agenda Item 7, Agenda Item 8, Item 9, and Agenda Item 10. On 29 March, the Council will hold a **debate in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**.



General Debates



29 March: **General debate on Agenda Item 7:** Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

29 March: **General debate on Agenda Item 8:** Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

30 March: **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.

30 March: **General debate on Agenda Item 10:** Technical assistance and capacity-building.

Presentation of Thematic Reports followed by Interactive Dialogues



Agenda Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

28 March: Report of the Secretary-General on human rights in the occupied **Syrian Golan**.

A/HRC/52/77¹: The report outlines the human rights situation in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Secretary-General requested that the permanent missions provide information on any steps taken or envisaged concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. **The Permanent Missions of Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic** responded to this request: the Syrian Arab Republic, DPRK and Iran described an increase in the frequency of **human rights violations against the Syrian population** perpetrated by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan; stressed that the Israeli occupation continued to **implement several practices aimed at maintaining the occupation** of the Syrian Golan, including through building and expanding settlements and confiscating agricultural lands, in addition to expanding the scope of settlement-related commercial activities; and emphasized that Israel had employed numerous methods to confiscate natural resources.

28 March: Report of the High Commissioner on **Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan**.

A/HRC/52/76: Report of the High Commissioner on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

¹ Advanced Edited Version published on the OHCHR webpage on 27 March 2023 in English only.

Agenda Item 8: Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

29 March: Debate in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Agenda Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building

30 March: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the oral updates of the of the High Commissioner and the team of international experts and technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.

31 March: Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on the findings of OHCHR report on the situation of human rights in **Ukraine**.

30 March: Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Mali, Alioune Tine**.

A/HRC/52/81²: The report provides an overview of the **multidimensional crisis facing Mali**, in a particularly complex context of widespread and sensitive vulnerability to a political, security, economic, social, and geopolitical crisis. The **human rights situation** remains worrying, despite a drop in the number of documented violations and abuses. The situation of women and girls in Mali is considerably impacted by the continuous deterioration of security continues to have on their fundamental rights, with the worrying recurrence of cases of gender-based violence. The Malian crisis and persistent insecurity continued to have a devastating impact on children and resulted in serious violations of their fundamental rights. The Independent Expert reiterated his serious concerns at the rapid and continuous **deterioration of the security situation** in Mali, particularly in the North and Center of Mali, which seems to be beyond the control of the Malian authorities. On the other hand, these areas are increasingly becoming spaces of confrontation for violent extremist armed groups for their control, to the great displeasure of the civilian populations who are the main victims who find themselves between a rock and a hard place. **The IE recommended to the Malian authorities** to put in place appropriate measures to prevent attacks against civilian populations and strengthen their protection; to immediately disarm and disband community militias and vigilante groups and reintegrate their members into the community; and to redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and children, among others.

31 March: Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the **Central African Republic**: High-level interactive dialogue to assess developments in the situation of human rights on the ground.

31 March: Technical assistance and capacity-building for **South Sudan**, Report of the **High Commissioner**.

A/HRC/52/82: The report covering the period from January to December 2022, presents an overview of the human rights situation in South Sudan and the main human rights challenges in the country. The human rights situation in South Sudan remained **of grave concern**, despite an observed decrease in the number of civilians affected by violence, largely attributed to a decline in major incidents of localized violence. **Women and girls continue to be the main victims** of conflict-related sexual violence by both parties to the conflict and other armed groups. **Undue restrictions to civic and political space**, including harassment of journalists and activists by security forces, continuous censorship and restrictions of civic space and the exclusion of civil society and ordinary citizens from

² Advanced Edited Version published on the OHCHR webpage on 27 March 2023 in English only.

governance processes continue to be of concern, especially as the country begins preparations for a general election. **Rule of law mechanisms, as well as accountability mechanisms** for human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed across the country, continue to be **weak or non-existent**. **The High Commissioner listed recommendations to the Government, the African Union and the international community. In particular, to the Government, the HC recommended** taking effective measures to guarantee human rights protection and protect civilians from attacks, including from inter-communal violence; and to take steps to stem the pervasive impunity by conducting independent, impartial, prompt, effective, thorough, credible and transparent investigations into all allegations of human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

31 March: Interactive dialogue with the fact-finding mission on [Libya](#).

A/HRC/52/83: Report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya

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