

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

### Organizational Meeting

05 June 2023

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Václav Bálek, President of the Human Rights Council.

The last regular session of the year is scheduled to last for four weeks from **19 June to 14 July 2023**. In this session no lunch time meetings will be held.

During its 53rd session, the Council will hold 5 panel debates (all times CET, UCT + 2):

- **Panel discussion on the measures necessary to find durable solutions to the Rohingya crisis and to end all forms of human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.** 21 June 2023, 11:00 am. Introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.
- **Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women. Panel 1: Gender-based violence against women and girls in public and political life. Panel 2: Social protection: women’s participation and leadership.** 30 June 2023, 9:00 am. Introduced by Canada and Chile.
- **Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights.** Under the theme: *“Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food”*. 3 July 2023, 10:00 am. Introduced by Bangladesh on behalf of the main sponsors.
- **Panel discussion on the role of digital, media and information literacy in the promotion and enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.** 3 July 2023, 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Introduced by The Netherlands on behalf of the main sponsors.

### Overview of the Programme of Work

The session will **begin** with the presentation of the Annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. During the session, the Council will hold 32 Interactive Dialogues with Special Rapporteur and other mechanisms, 1 Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner’s Annual Report, 3 Enhanced Interactive Dialogues, and one Interactive Dialogue with the Special Adviser on prevention of genocide. There will be no General Debates during the 53rd session.

**Four Special Procedures mandate holders and Expert Mechanisms** are expected to be appointed by the Council.

The 3-year program of work for 2023 to 2025 is being updated and will be posted on the Extranet. Voluntary yearly calendar for thematic resolutions is being updated and will be circulated prior to the start of the session.

### **Deadlines:**

- **States:** the online system for inscription in the list of speakers for all Interactive Dialogues and Panel Discussions will open on **Monday 12 June, 2 p.m.** **Video messages will be accepted until 24 hours before the start of the meeting.**
- The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate.
- The deadline for the submission of draft proposals is **Wednesday, 5 July 2023, at 1 p.m. (Geneva time).**
- **NGOs:** the list of speakers for all debates will open online on **Tuesday, 13 June at 2 pm.**
- List of speakers for **Panel Discussions:** states will be asked to rank panels in the order of priority when inscribing on the list of speakers. Slots will be allocated by the system taking these priorities into account.
- **UN Holyday on 29 June 2023.**

## Information Sharing on Initiatives

- **Japan** (*on behalf of the cross-regional core group: Brazil, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Portugal, and Japan*) draft resolution on elimination of discrimination against persons affected by **Leprosy and their families**, focusing on the extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate.
- **Costa Rica** side event on menstrual justice, aiming to offer a forum for discussion on actions and solutions for menstrual poverty and the positive impact of synergies from grass-root movement of women across the world. This to drive change and promote a global appeal to include it as a key part in achieving the SDG Agenda.
- **United Kingdom** (*on behalf of core group of countries: Germany, France, Italy, Jordan, the Netherlands, Qatar, Türkiye, the United States, the United Kingdom*): draft resolution on the human rights situation in **Syria**, reflecting the economic, social and political rights with the particular focus on women.
- **Ukraine:**
  - side event dedicating to national implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.
  - side event to consider urgent reparations for survivor of conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine.
  - draft resolution on cooperation with and assistance to **Ukraine** in the field of human rights.
- **Republic of Korea** (*on behalf of cross-regional group of countries: Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, and Republic of Korea*) draft resolution titled, the new and the emerging **digital technologies and human rights**.
- **Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**, *along with the OIC and the African Union* side event/panel discussion on the critical role of the family in promoting social cohesion as well as the realization of the right to the development.
- **Morocco** (*on behalf of cross-regional core group: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Poland, the UK, and Morocco*) draft resolution on the negative impact of **corruption** and the enjoyment of human rights.
- **Ireland** (*on behalf the cross-regional group: Chile, Japan, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, and Ireland*) draft resolution focusing on the **civil society space**.
- **Hungary** (*on behalf of the core group: Australia, Botswana, Maldives, Mexico, Thailand, and Hungary*) draft resolution extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the **independence of judges and lawyers**.
- **Arab United Emirates** (*and UK*) draft resolution on the realization of the equal enjoyment of the **right to education** of every girl.
- **Cuba** draft resolutions: 1) on technical innovation of the IE of human rights and **international solidarity**; and 2) on **social forum** for constructive dialogue and interesting parties on issues of relevance.
- **Philippines:**
  - (*on behalf of core group on human rights and Climate Change: Philippines, Bangladesh, and Viet Nam*) draft resolution on human rights and **climate change**, focusing on adverse effects of climate change on livelihood and their impact on people's enjoyment of human rights, especially those in vulnerable situation.
  - *with Argentina, Germany, and Jordan*: draft resolution to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on **trafficking in persons**, especially women and girls.

- side event on trafficking in persons.
- **Zimbabwe** (on behalf of the cross-regional group: Algeria, Angola, Cuba, Bolivia, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Uganda, Timor-Leste, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe) side event on the EU global human rights sanctions regime what about Western Sahara (21 June, 2- 3 pm).
- **Sweden** (and Finland) draft resolution on the mandate of the SR on **extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions**.
- **Pakistan** (on behalf of OIC): draft resolution on human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in **Myanmar**.
- **Switzerland** (with Argentina, Ghana, Russia, and Thailand) draft resolution aimed to prolongate the mandate of the Working Group on **transnational cooperation and other enterprises**, including the forum on cooperation of human rights. *With the international code of conduct association, the UK, the US and Australia, and Sweden:* side event on working conditions of security agencies in the mine industries (22 June).
- **Canada** draft resolution on accelerate efforts to eliminate all form of **violence against women and girls**.
- **Portugal** draft resolution on the right of **education** based on the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the role and impact of digital technologies in the education. It also asks the renewal of the SR's mandate, that marks the 25 years of existence.
- **Brazil** (on behalf of the core group: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) draft resolution titled, the **incompatibility between democracy and racism**.
- **Peru** (and Ecuador) draft resolution on **repercussion of arms** to human rights, focusing on the impact of arms transfers on human rights.
- **Netherlands** (on behalf of cross-regional core group: Argentina, Canada, Honduras, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK, Uruguay, and the Netherlands) draft resolution on **child early and forced marriage**.
- **Qatar** side event on sustainable development.
- **France** (on behalf of Albania, Belgium, Chile, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Romania and France) draft resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on **extreme poverty**.
- **United States:**
  - side event during the UN international day in supporting the victims of torture focuses on the voluntary fund for victims of torture (26 June);
  - draft resolution to address the pervasion challenges of **stateless inequalities and nationality rights**;
  - side event on using the UN Guideline Principles to dense fundamental freedoms and prevent the use of technologies.
- **European Union:**
  - draft resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the situation of the human rights in **Belarus**.
  - draft resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in **Eritrea**.
- **Algeria** side event on **rights of the child**.
- **Azerbaijan:**
  - (in its capacity of the chair of the NAM): draft resolution on the negative impact of unilateral **coercive measures** on the enjoyment of human rights;



- side event on promoting human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable, and efficient public service delivery (22 June).
- **Mexico:**
  - draft resolution on human rights of **migrants**, focusing on protection of the human rights of migrant in transit (prevention and accountability);
  - draft resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of **persons with disabilities**.
  - side event on
  - side event on acquisition and transfer of **arms and implication of human rights**.
- **Thailand:**
  - *(on behalf of a cross-regional core group of Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Türkiye, Thailand):* draft resolution on **enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity building** in the field of human rights.
  - side event on promotion of the right to education for all (6 July 2023).

#### Other matters:

**Draft resolutions:** at least one informal open-ended consultation should be held on each draft resolution and/or decision before the Council can take action on it. These consultations should be scheduled in a timely, transparent, and inclusive manner.

#### **Modalities:**

- The 53rd session will be held in Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and on online platform (Zoom). State delegations can participate in person, via pre-recorded video statements, or via Zoom. The capacity of Room XX is no longer restricted. Point of order can be raised via Zoom by using the raise hand function. The delegations can exercise their right of reply remotely in the same manner as during the 52nd regular session, by sending an email to: [OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org](mailto:OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org)
- Special Procedures mandate holders, Investigative Mechanisms and Panelists unable to travel to Geneva are able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
- **NGOs with ECOSOC status and NHRIs with “A” status** have the possibility of delivering their statements in person from Room XX or via pre-recorded video statements. The list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates will be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous three September sessions.
- All oral statements should be electronically submitted to the interpreters at least 1h00 prior the estimated time of delivery, to ensure the quality of the interpretation. Submission of transcript is mandatory for all online statements.

**Accessibility:** A Task Force on enhancing accessibility has been established, and the focal point for accessibility in the Secretariat can be contacted. Oral statements are to be uploaded in Word format on the online system for lists of speakers, and delegations encouraged to ensure live captioning and sign interpretation during their panels.

**Reprisals:** a climate of trust and safety within the Council is essential, where states prevent and ensure adequate protection from any act of intimidation or reprisals. A constructive, safe, and respectful atmosphere is essential. Intimidation and reprisals can take many forms, and our common duty is to ensure intimidation or reprisals will not happen in any circumstances.

**Documentation:** out of 87 reports for the 53rd session, 49 reports are already available in all UN languages.

Watch the full recording here: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1z/k1zwp1xmkk>