

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

Overview of Week 3 (03 – 07 July 2023)

During the **third week** of the 53rd session, the UN Human Rights Council will continue with the consideration of reports under **Agenda Item 3**¹. The Council will discuss several thematic reports, including the impact of casualty recording on the promotion and protection of human rights, the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food, and the human rights of internally displaced persons, among others. Under **Agenda Item 4**² the Council will hold interactive dialogues on the human rights situations in Belarus, Venezuela, Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Burundi. Additionally, the Council will hold an annual panel discussion on the **adverse impacts of climate change on human rights**, focusing on the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food; and a panel discussion on the role of media literacy in achieving **freedom of expression**. Consideration of UPR adoptions will commence under **Agenda Item 6**.



Panel discussions



03 July: 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**.

03 July: Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of **climate change** on human rights. The theme of this discussion is the “*adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food*”.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues



03 July: Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR report on the impact of **casualty recording** on the promotion and protection of human rights, including relevant practices, in particular the role of casualty recording in upholding and fulfilling the rights of victims of armed conflict, post-conflict situations and gross violations of international human rights law.

[A/HRC/53/48](#): The report described casualty recording’s used by Governments, the UN, civil society, humanitarian organizations, and others, for insight and analysis into critical aspects of armed conflicts and situations of violence. Casualty recording has an impact on protection, early warning, prevention, accountability, access to services, and reparations, among others. Casualty recording is **an important and effective means of delivering a range of fundamental human rights**; including, accessing food, protection of vulnerable populations, prevention, accountability, and freedom of movement. The effectiveness and impact of casualty recording work ultimately depend on cooperation with the armed and other actors causing harm and on the willingness of political leadership to engage with such analysis. The report also listed a **set of recommendations** to States; national human rights institutions; international, regional, and state security forces, and non-State armed groups. States should ensure that casualty recording systems and policies **are in place and report publicly** on all casualties believed to have resulted from hostilities or violence and their circumstances, including for reparations and accountability; and make maximum use of the disaggregated data and analysis.

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

² Human rights situations that require the Council’s attention.

03 July: Interactive Dialogue with the Secretary-General on the adverse impact of **climate change** on the full realization of the right to food.

A/HRC/53/47³: The report examined the adverse impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food, as well as greenhouse gas emissions relating to food systems. The Secretary-General highlighted **examples of human rights-based adaptation and mitigation strategies and good practices** and provided concrete recommendations, building on literature reviews, consultations with experts, and submissions from Member States, national human rights institutions, international organizations, and civil society organizations. Climate change negatively affects the realization of the right to food, disproportionately affecting rural populations, peasants, small-scale farmers and fishers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, low-income households, women, children, and persons with disabilities in developing countries. Climate change adaptation and mitigation policies must be accompanied by measures addressing the root causes of all forms of hunger and malnutrition and protecting the rights of those most at risk. **Protecting their rights and recognizing their role in safeguarding the right to food is the key to effective climate action.** The report also contained recommendations to States and other stakeholders to address the impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food and the climate change impacts on food systems, including taking immediate, rights-based action to ensure that access to sufficient, safe, adequate and nutritious food is ensured for all people, everywhere; and protecting land and environmental human rights defenders.

05 July: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **internally displaced persons**, Paula Gaviria Betancur and Cecilia Jimenez-Damary.

[A/HRC/53/35](#): The report highlighted that the Special Rapporteur recognizes the catalytic role played in raising the level of awareness of the plight of **internally displaced persons**, and the relentless efforts to address their needs for protection, assistance, and durable solutions, including through the mainstreaming of human rights of internally displaced persons into the United Nations system. She acknowledged her predecessor's contribution to efforts to shed light on the critical importance of enabling the participation of internally displaced persons as citizens and rights holders in decision-making affecting them.

[A/HRC/53/35/Add.1](#): Visit to **Japan from 26 September to 7 October 2022**. In the report, while commending the Government for its swift response to the disaster and for enacting concrete measures to ensure emergency protection and assistance and compensation and remedy to displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur raised concerns over the **disparate treatment afforded to evacuees** who received an official evacuation order as opposed to those who chose to evacuate on their own accord. She highlighted the **challenges faced by displaced persons in realizing their human rights and made recommendations to address them**. In particular, she urged the Government to categorically adopt a human rights-based approach to protection, humanitarian assistance, and durable solutions for all persons internally displaced by the Fukushima disaster, with a particular focus on those who are still displaced. She further recommended that the discriminatory distinction between "mandatory" and "voluntary" internally displaced persons be completely eliminated in all administrative and legal policies and their actual implementation.

[A/HRC/53/35/Add.2](#)⁴: Visit to **Mexico from 29 August to 9 September 2022**.

04 July: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of **Genocide**, Alice Wairimu Nderitu [A/HRC/53/45].

04 July: Presentation of reports under Agenda Item 3.

- Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women.
- Panel discussion on the **rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

³ As of 01 July, only English Advance Unedited Version is available.

⁴ As of 01 July, only Spanish Advance Unedited Version is available.

[A/HRC/53/43](#): The report contained outcomes of the **annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples** held in September 2022. The discussion focused on the impact of social and economic recovery plans in the context of the coronavirus disease pandemic on Indigenous Peoples, with a special focus on food security. The panel discussion aimed to identify good practices, lessons learned, and current challenges for Indigenous Peoples in the development and implementation of the COVID-19 recovery plans; and to assess and promote Indigenous Peoples' right to food, which is intrinsically linked to Indigenous Peoples' rights to land and resources, and to their rights to pursue their self-determined development, including in the design and implementation of pandemic-related recovery plans. In **conclusion**, the COVID-19 recovery requires that Indigenous Peoples were recognized as subjects of collective and individual rights. They must be partners with other actors working in their territories. Stakeholders must promote and work with Indigenous organizations to achieve economic and integral empowerment. There should be exchanges and a robust dialogue.

- Expert workshop on possible ways to enhance the **participation** of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council.

[A/HRC/53/44](#): The report contained a summary of the proceedings on possible ways to enhance the **participation of Indigenous Peoples** in the work of the HRC. All measures taken to enhance such participation must be rooted in the UN principles, in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in relevant provisions of international law, related to the right of self-identification, the right of self-determination, and the right to free, prior and informed consent. Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions should be granted arrangements and modalities that allow for their effective and meaningful participation in the work of the Council, as well as they should be able to participate in all venues of the Council.

- The relationship between human rights and technical standard-setting processes for new and emerging **digital technologies** and the practical application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to the activities of technology companies.

[A/HRC/53/42⁵](#): The report analyzed the relationship between technical standard-setting processes and human rights. It discussed the relevance of technical standards for the enjoyment of human rights and examined challenges to integrating human rights considerations in technical standard-setting processes. It has highlighted the range of impacts that technical standards have on the exercise of human rights. The OHCHR provided a **set of recommendations** to address the challenges identified, integrating human rights considerations in technical standard-setting processes.

- Implementation and enhancement of **international cooperation** in the field of human rights.

[A/HRC/53/46](#): The report set out the work of the Office of the HC on the implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights. In proposing **possible ways to face the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights**, including the right to development, the report highlighted the **need to rekindle the spirit of those instruments to strengthen international cooperation and to create mutually reinforcing and foundational policy pathways to transformative change**. The UN should urgently step up its ambition and operationalization of human rights integration into common country analyses and cooperation frameworks. The report listed **recommendations** for addressing development challenges.

- Impact of the civilian acquisition, possession, and use of **firearms**.

[A/HRC/53/49](#): The report examined the way in which business enterprises, in particular the firearms industry, contribute to driving the availability of firearms and their adherence to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The human rights consequences of the civilian acquisition, possession, and use of firearms are **devastating**. Available information suggests that the firearms industry **has not taken adequate steps to ensure that its operations conform with the Guiding Principles**. The High Commissioner concluded with a series of **practical recommendations** for States to respect and ensure human rights, and for the business sector to mitigate the negative human rights impacts of the civilian firearms industry. States must take further effective measures to address the negative human rights impacts resulting from the contribution of the

⁵ As of 03 July, only English Advance Unedited Version is available.

business sector to the supply and demand for firearms by civilians. States should also increase their efforts to address the supply and demand factors affecting the availability of firearms, in accordance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights.

Agenda Item 4: Interactive Dialogues following the reports on Country situations



04 July: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Belarus**, **Anäis Marin**.

05 July: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the **independent international fact-finding mission** established to investigate alleged human rights violations in the **Islamic Republic of Iran** related to the protests that began on 16 September 2022, especially with respect to women and children.

05 July: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the **Independent International Commission of Inquiry** on the **Syrian Arab Republic**.

05 July: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**.

05 July: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on the written update on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar**, with a particular focus on accountability regarding alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law.

A/HRC/53/52⁶: The report identified trends and patterns of **human rights violations in Myanmar between 1 February 2021 and 30 April 2023**, focusing on the human rights impact of the denial of humanitarian access. Duty bearers have failed to meet their obligation to protect civilians. Among the actors analyzed, the **military is most responsible** for the negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and on the delivery of humanitarian action. It has established an all-encompassing system of control based on the instrumentalization of the legal and administrative spheres in Myanmar. **Urgent and concrete steps** are needed to ensure essential needs of all people are met, including food and healthcare, and to respect, protect and fulfill peoples' fundamental rights. The report concluded with **recommendations** to all parties, including the military authorities, the National Unity Government, and the international community. They should **cease immediately all violence and attacks** directed against the people of Myanmar and civilian infrastructures across the country; ensure full compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law to protect civilians.

06 July: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, **Thomas Andrews**, on the oral updates on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar**.

06 July: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Burundi**, **Fortuné Gaetan Zongo**.

⁶ As of 01 July, only English Advance Unedited Version is available.

Agenda Item 5: Complaint Procedure

06 July: Presentation of the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and **transnational corporations and other business enterprises**.

[A/HRC/53/55](#): The report provided an overview of **key observations and messages** emerging from the eleventh Forum on Business and Human Rights. The theme of the session of the Forum was “*Rights holders at the centre: strengthening accountability to advance Business respect for people and planet in the next decade.*” The meaningful engagement of rights holders and human rights defenders was the most effective way to find solutions to the challenges facing the business and human rights agenda, as their participation would lead to more sustainable outcomes based on their practices and knowledge. The report noted an **accountability gap**. The perspectives of rights holders at the centre of the discussion provided the best results for addressing that gap. The report highlighted the role of academic institutions and the transfer of knowledge in achieving justice.

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Czechia: [Report](#) of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (henceforth “Working Group”) lists 242 recommendations received by Czechia, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bangladesh, Romania, and South Africa.

Argentina: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 287 recommendations received by Argentina, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bolivia, China and Gabon.

Gabon: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 259 recommendations received by Gabon, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Costa Rica, Morocco and Viet Nam. [[Addendum](#): Noted: 29, Accepted: 230].

Ghana: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 298 recommendations received by Ghana, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Eritrea, Georgia, and Malaysia.

Peru: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 202 recommendations received by Peru, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Luxembourg, Mexico, and Senegal.

Guatemala: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 207 recommendations received by Guatemala, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Cameroon, Chile, and Uzbekistan. [[Addendum](#)]

Benin: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 258 recommendations received by Benin, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Kazakhstan, Lithuania, and Somalia. [[Addendum](#): Supported: 224, Noted: 32]

Republic of Korea: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 165 recommendations received by the Republic of Korea, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Côte d’Ivoire, France and United Arab Emirates.

Switzerland: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 317 recommendations received by Switzerland, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Belgium, Kyrgyzstan, and Malawi.

Pakistan: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 340 recommendations received by Pakistan, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Argentina, Gambia, and Nepal.

Zambia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 183 recommendations received by Zambia, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Montenegro, Sudan, and the United States of America.

Japan: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 300 recommendations received by Japan, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Pakistan, Paraguay, and Ukraine.

Sri Lanka: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 294 recommendations received by Sri Lanka, which will provide responses during the 53rd session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Algeria, Qatar, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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