

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 54th SESSION

Item 3¹: General debate

(20-21 September 2023)

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This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 3 that took place 20-21 September 2023 at the 54th 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

Mr Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development, introducing the Working Group's report, said the Working Group was established with the mandate to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development, to analyze obstacles to its full enjoyment, and to provide recommendations thereon. In revising the text, he had suggested renaming the final text "draft international covenant on the right to development", from "draft international convention", as the change in terminology solemnly emphasized that there was no priority between human rights and that the right to development must be treated on the same footing and with the same emphasis as the two other sets of human rights, as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Mxolisi Sizo Nkosi, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Private Military and Security Companies, introduced the second draft of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring, and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies. The revised second draft was the basis of the negotiations which took place during the fourth session. An extension of the Working Group's mandate would allow it to continue working toward the elaboration of the content of an international regulatory framework which would result ultimately in strengthening the protection of human rights, access to remedies for victims, and accountability for violations and abuses relating to the activities of private military and security companies. Effective regulation, oversight, and accountability for such companies were more needed than ever in the context of growing reliance on them in both conflict and non-conflict settings.

Ms Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, introduced 10 written reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on a range of thematic issues to be considered under agenda item 3. The High Commissioner's report on Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights (A/HRC/54/34), outlines good practices and challenges in the application of a human rights-based approach to the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity area. To address the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and future health emergencies on women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health, the High Commissioner, among other things, recommended States to integrate a gender-responsive approach with a combination of emergency and long-term measures; to ensure the integration of sexual and reproductive health services into national health policies; and to prioritize high quality sexual and reproductive health services and facilities for women and girls.

The Secretary-General's yearly supplement to the quinquennial report on capital punishment and the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (A/HRC/54/33), provided a global update on the question of the death penalty for the period from 7 June 2022 to 6 June 2023. Considerable progress was made towards the abolition of the death penalty during this period, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite this positive tendency towards abolition, an increased number of people were executed worldwide, including a significant increase in executions for drug-related offences.

The Consolidated Secretary-General and High Commissioner report on the right to development (A/HRC/54/38) contains an analysis of progress and challenges in the realization of the right to development in the context of the response to, and the recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite progress in the access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments worldwide, major inequalities in access persisted, particularly for least-developed countries.

The High Commissioner's annual report on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/HRC/54/39) sets out relevant developments in human rights bodies and mechanisms as well as activities undertaken by the Office, that contributed to the full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Throughout the reporting period, persistent challenges affected the human rights of indigenous peoples.

The High Commissioner's summary report on the discussions held at the regional seminars on the contribution of **development to the enjoyment of all human rights (A/HRC/54/43)**. The seminar series called for robust international cooperation and solidarity to ensure that development contributed to the enjoyment of human rights for all.

The Office's analytical report on the future of the right to work in connection with **climate change actions, responses, and impacts in the context of sustainable and inclusive economies (A/HRC/54/48)** is based mainly on the panel discussion on the topic, held on 27 September 2022. The report concludes, among other things, that climate change was a planetary emergency. Immediate mitigation measures were needed to safeguard the planet and human rights, including the right to work. Rights-based climate action required a fundamental restructuring of the energy sector, phasing out fossil fuels and ensuring access to safe and affordable renewable energy.

The High Commissioner's report on the rights of the child and inclusive social protection (A/HRC/54/36), in which approximately 600 children provided inputs into both reports, highlights systemic and structural barriers States faced in meeting their human rights obligations and providing universal social protection for all children, particularly those facing intersecting forms of discrimination and in vulnerable situations. More than 1.77 billion of the 2.4 billion children worldwide had no access to social protection, with significant regional disparities in coverage.

The Office's report on the implementation of the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/54/37), summarises the views of States and other stakeholders for the fifth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2025 to 2029). A worldwide consultation was launched in March 2023 and as of the 30 June deadline, the Office had received 50 submissions from 53 respondents, including States, intergovernmental organizations, Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, and civil society, among others. Three key thematic issues stood out, including human rights in the digital space; environmental rights and climate change; and gender equality.

The High Commissioner's report on the human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem (A/HRC/54/53), is based on 108 contributions received from Member States, United Nations agencies, and civil society, in response to a call for submissions. The report observes

that the main areas of concern in the world drug problem were the lack of unequal access to treatment and harm reduction, the militarisation of drug control, over-incarceration and prison overcrowding, the use of the death penalty for drug-related offenses, and the disproportionate impact of punitive drug policies on youth, people of African descent, indigenous peoples, and women.

The Secretary-General's report on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/54/81), focuses on thematic issues related to the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants addressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/172. The report highlights that migration was an age-old human phenomenon that could have positive outcomes for migrants and societies, when migrants were placed at the centre, and the protection of their human rights was ensured. Migrants continued to face discrimination, anti-migration narratives, and other human rights protection gaps throughout their journey.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
1. Costa Rica on behalf of a group of countries²	Stated that there are more than 11.5 million people in prison or other forms of criminal justice detention, globally. The vast majority of people in prison will be released and rejoin society. All States face the challenges of the effective social reintegration of persons released from detention and people under supervision, addressing stigmatization, and discrimination, and preventing recidivism.
2. Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group	Reaffirming its commitment to the effective realization of all human rights called for the necessity of equal treatment for CPR and ESCR, including the right to water and sanitation, and to health. It rejected the use of all forms of unilateral coercive measures that undermine the fulfillment of essential human rights in some regions. The African Group remained concerned by environmental threats caused by hazardous wastes.
3. Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Reminded the importance of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognized the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world rests on upholding civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. This can be achieved by adherence to the core principles of impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity.
4. Belgium on behalf of a Group of countries³	Emphasized that children are disproportionately affected by armed conflicts and are the primary victims. The recruitment and use of children by parties to conflicts, abduction, sexual violence, in particular on girls, killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access, are among the most serious violations. Protecting children in situations of armed conflict from such violations is essential to ending the cycle of violence and laying the foundations for lasting peace.

² Costa Rica, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia, North Macedonia, Timor-Leste, State of Palestine.

³ Group of Friends CAAC: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

<p>5. China on behalf of a group of countries</p>	<p>Focused on issues affecting women with disabilities, including insufficient social security, discrimination, and poverty. Since the adoption of the convention, the protection of the human rights of women with disabilities has increasingly become a consensus within the international community. Promoting an inclusive society is vital to benefit women with disabilities and to contribute to equal life and development. Affirmed the importance of raising awareness of social inclusion, eliminating prejudice and discrimination, and improving education, employment, and social and care systems.</p>
<p>6. Pakistan on behalf of a Group of Countries⁴</p>	<p>Reported that as of 2023, 1.1 billion people are living in extreme poverty across 110 countries and more than 379 million people in over 80 countries face high levels of food insecurity. Millions of people are bearing the brunt of climate change. Inequity was evident in the accessibility and affordability of vaccines. Called on Council members from the global North to review the impact of their economic and trade policies on the economic and social rights of people beyond their borders and institute remedial measures.</p>
<p>7. Viet Nam on behalf of a group of countries</p>	<p>Focused on the crucial role of immunization in realizing SDG 3.8 and reaching the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted the comprehensive benefits of vaccines and vaccine multilateralism in preventing both non-communicable and communicable diseases, as well as the primary responsibility of States as duty bearers. Stressed the importance of providing the necessary technical support and capacity building.</p>
<p>8. Kazakhstan on behalf of a group of countries</p>	<p>Stressed the vital importance of the right to life, liberty, and the security of a person. The right to life is fundamental to the enjoyment of the other rights. Citing the UN General Committee’s General Comments 36, affirmed that the use of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the right to life. It is a crime under the international law. Stressed that nuclear weapons are inhumane and immoral due to the catastrophic humanitarian risks.</p>
<p>9. Chile on behalf of a group of countries⁵</p>	<p>Focusing on the SDG 8.7 to “<i>end child labor in all its forms by 2025 and to eradicate forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030</i>”, reported that an estimated 160 million children are in child labor, nearly half of whom - 79 million children – are in hazardous work, while 70% of child labor takes place in agriculture. Around 50 million people are caught in the grip of modern slavery, of which almost 28 million people are in forced labor, with children accounting for 12% of all those in forced labor. It called on all governments here today to join the Alliance and take urgent action to achieve SDG 8.7.</p>
<p>10. Spain on behalf of European Union</p>	<p>Reaffirmed its strong and unequivocal opposition to the use of the death penalty under all circumstances. The death penalty is indeed a cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. Called on all States who have not yet abolished the death penalty to establish a moratorium. Affirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic posed many challenges to the full realization of human rights, including a shadow pandemic of sexual and gender-based violence, and has exemplified the limitations of our health, education, employment, and social protection systems. Shared HC’s view that effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are crucial for a just and human-rights-based transition to a green global economy.</p>
<p>11. Switzerland on behalf of a group of countries⁶</p>	<p>Welcomed the OHCHR report on the human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem. Expressed deep concern over the use of death sentences for drug-related offenses. Recalled that the punitive characteristics of the</p>

⁴ Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran - Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic , Lebanon, Malaysia, Namibia, South africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania , Zambia, Zimbabwe.

⁵ Alliance 8.7: Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire , France, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) , Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland , United States of America.

⁶ Albania, Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Uruguay.

	“war on drugs” have grave implications and disproportionate impacts on specific groups, namely young people, people of African descent, Indigenous People, and women.
12. Switzerland on behalf of a group of countries⁷	Sharing the SG’s analysis on progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty , expressed concern on the imposition and application of the death penalty has resumed or increased significantly in a number of countries.
13. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of a Group of countries⁸	Emphasized the importance of the right to development : realization and enjoyment of it is more urgent. One of the examples of social inequalities and impositions is the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. They are not only violating the purpose and principles of the UN Charter, and the norms of international law but also pose an obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. They are a deliberate attack on the right to development of people, causing pain and suffering.
14. Azerbaijan on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	All human rights, including the right to development , are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated. The Council should provide equal treatment to Civic and Political, and ESC rights. Stressed the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone.
15. Oman on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	Emphasized continued involvement in all initiatives that would promote human rights, as well as their interest in contemporary issues and challenges that have direct and radical impacts on human rights, including climate change and new technologies, the right to development, and transnational corporations . Reiterated its position calling for adopting an approach based on dialogue and partnership, rather than pointing fingers and distortion, to achieve progress in this field.
16. Panama on behalf of on behalf of a group of countries	Focused on issues related to gender equality, sexual-gender violence, maternity mortality, child pregnancy and early forced marriage . Governments must apply a human rights-based transformative approach to maternal mortality and morbidity, with an increase in budgets. All women and girls, including adolescents, must be guaranteed universal access to sexual and reproductive health services that are available, accessible, acceptable, and of good quality.
17. Cuba on behalf of a group of countries	Remained concerned about hate speech, the proliferation of discrimination against migrants, racism, religious intolerance, and the application of UCMs. The UCM has a negative and devastating impact on the realization of human rights, including the right to development and the right to food. Highlighted that human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent, and mutually enforcing. The HRC should be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity.
18. Spain on behalf of a group of countries	Affirmed that sport is a powerful vehicle to promote sustainable development, peace and reconciliation, solidarity, and respect for all persons. It is also a space for women's empowerment, where discrimination and gender-based violence cannot be accepted. However, remained concerned about the persisting discrimination and sexism in sport. Stressed the efforts to promote gender equality in sports, including women and girls’ participation in national and international sports events free from harassment and abuse.
19. Brazil on behalf of a group of countries⁹	Valued the right to development , as an instrument to the achievement of the enjoyment of all human rights. The realisation and enjoyment of the right to development was most urgent, especially as the sustained and historical economic and social inequalities

⁷ Core group on the human rights implications of drug policy: Albania, Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay.

⁸ Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations: Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe, State of Palestine.

⁹ Argentina, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Uruguay.

	between countries of the Global South and the Global North continued to expand, a speaker said, noting that such inequalities required reaffirming more than ever the transcendence of the right to development. The right to development is a collective responsibility.
20. Saudi Arabia on behalf of a group of countries	Focused on the global crises of unsafe water and sanitation and the ingrowing demand for water resources. Water is critical to achieving the SDGs and other goals in the social, environmental, and economic fields. Requested the OHCHR to coordinate actions among other stakeholders to achieve water-related goals.
21. Colombia on behalf of Colombia, Estonia, and New Zealand	Focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic , including the deprioritisation of sexual and reproductive health services, has presented further challenges to our collective SDG to reduce maternal mortality by 2030 to less than 70 per 100,000 births. It affirmed the necessity of a human rights-based approach to the application of policies and programs for the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, to achieve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls. All Women and girls, including adolescents, must be guaranteed universal access to sexual and reproductive health services that are available, accessible acceptable, and of good quality. The international community must work together to overcome pre-existing barriers.
Statements made by Member States	
1. Luxembourg	Said that human rights are a constraint on the exercise of power and authoritarianism . The gender-based apartheid that the Taliban established against women and girls in Afghanistan is an illustration of a totalitarian system that seeks to erase all human progress. Supported Bolivian's initiative to create a new special procedure on the rights of peasants.
2. China	Focused on persons with disabilities and the violations of their rights, informing the Council about national policies and initiatives to fully protect their rights and to improve their livelihood. Equal treatment and the creation of an adequate social atmosphere are the best forms of care. Equal social participation in public life. Elimination of visible and invisible barriers and discriminations.
3. France	Affirmed increasing efforts in guaranteeing equal access to food, health and social protection, quality education, digital technologies, and a healthy environment. Education and school programs to fight poverty and protect the planet. The independence and pluralism of the media, the right to inform or be informed, and the ability to express critical points of view are essential to preserve freedoms. Likewise sexual and reproductive rights and health .
4. Ukraine	Affirmed that Russia's aggression against Ukraine has trampled on all human rights that everyone in Ukraine or elsewhere in the world is entitled to. The right to education and cultural heritage are under constant threat. Russia's aggression seriously undermined progress on almost all SDGs in Ukraine and far beyond. It has global socioeconomic implications, including food insecurity, environmental damage, and nuclear threats that undermine the promotion and protection of all human rights: civil, political, economic, social, and cultural, including the right to development.
5. United States of America	Informed that the White House released the first-ever National Strategy to Advance Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities . It affirmed that it embraces and celebrates the rich cultures of people of African descent.
6. Malawi	Stressed that the right to development is at risk due to the unwillingness to address the root, historical, and structural causes of current disparities. Concerted efforts at both the national and international levels are essential to address the complex interplay of

	factors hindering the full realization of the right to development. Effective multilateralism, international solidarity, equality and mutual respect among nations will ensure the effective enjoyment of the right to development.
7. Malaysia	Underlined the need to place the right to development on an equal footing with other fundamental rights. It called on the Council to continue paying attention to the impacts of climate change, food insecurity, and inequalities on the effective enjoyment of human rights, as well as the High Commissioner to continue engaging with international financial institutions to ensure a more just, equitable, and inclusive global financial architecture. It continued to undertake measures to reform the criminal justice system .
8. Costa Rica	Stressed that violence and discrimination against women and girls is a universal problem. Reported that more than 500 million women and girls do not have access to menstrual products and hygiene facilities and are exposed to gender stereotypes, taboos, and stigma with serious repercussions on their human rights, and to participate in cultural and public life without discrimination, as well as millions of women and girls are excluded from the right to education due to menstruation. It called for this Council to increase its efforts.
9. Georgia	Remained committed to the promotion and the full realization of human rights for all. Highlighted national policies and initiatives aimed at protecting the rights, dignity, and independence of older people . Health-care program. Improved social system, education program, and COVID-19 recovery plan. Stressed Russia's occupation of the country and the related human rights and humanitarian violations.
10. Romania	Affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living depends on many preconditions but can't be reached without the realization of the right to work. Advanced digital skills, flexibility and diversity in the work process, well-being at work, and the collaborative economy/gig economy are just some of the trends that are expected to define the future of work. These developments create many opportunities, but also challenges, of which companies and employees must be aware and prepared to include in the work process in the very near future.
11. South Africa	Highlighted the importance of the urgent need for equal treatment for economic, social, and cultural rights by the provision of sufficient human and financial resources. It believed strongly in the fundamental freedoms of opinion and speech and the right to gather to voice those opinions collectively in advocacy or protest. Stressed the importance of giving a voice to the voiceless, the victims of gross violations of human rights perpetrated with impunity by Transnational Corporation.
12. Bangladesh	Affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and mutually reinforcing. The Council should treat CP and ESC rights equally and fairly. Said that some countries are highly vulnerable to external economic and environmental shock, as played by growing hunger, poverty, malnutrition, inequality, digital divide, humanitarian emergencies, and environmental degradation and disasters. Protection and promotion of human rights of all, focusing on the principle of equality and non-discrimination . Anti-Discrimination Bill. Right of social security vital tool to combat discrimination and reduce poverty and social exclusion.
13. Maldives	Informing about the substantial progress in areas including education, healthcare, social protection, gender equality, and women's empowerment, affirmed the importance of addressing the triple crises of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. It called for enhanced multilateral cooperation to operationalize the right to development .
14. Pakistan	Remained committed to promoting universal values of equality, non-discrimination, peace, and justice, as well as all freedoms and rights enshrined in the Declaration. The cascading effects of climate change, food insecurity, and geopolitical conflicts have exacerbated existing inequalities within and among nations and impeded progress toward achieving SDGs. Reported that the

	situation of human rights in the disputed territory of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir has been gravely exacerbated under the unilateral and illegal actions of the occupation regime since August 2019; urged the OHCHR to continue monitoring such situation.
15. Cuba	Said that the promotion and promotion of all human rights is threatened by an extremely critical juncture, in which the unjust international economic order perpetuates inequalities and poverty and establishes multiple additional challenges for developing countries. It also affirmed difficulties in advancing human rights violations due to unilateral coercive measures punitive approaches and politicization . Constructive dialogue and cooperation on human rights, based on universal and non-discriminatory principles is necessary.
16. Algeria	Reiterated commitment to the realization of human rights, including the right to development, in a way that is fair, and balanced . Affirmed that the country put an end to the use of violence within the territory. Adopted legislation in the media sector. The role of young people is particularly important for public policies.
17. India	Affirmed that while the COVID-19 pandemic is now no longer considered a global health emergency, however, the human rights agenda continues to bear its lasting impact . It reiterated the importance of ensuring universality, objectivity, and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues by the Council, and the elimination of double standards and politicization
18. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Stressed that the repercussions of the international crisis have caused a negative impact on human rights , added to the pre-existing consequences of the unjust established international economic order, which has caused a significant increase in extreme poverty, discrimination, and gaps of inequality , mainly affecting population groups in vulnerable and historically relegated situations. It is urgent that the efforts of this Council focus on the promotion of all human rights without distinction, closing the gap in attention to economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development.
19. Mexico	Affirmed that private actors must stop their activities that impose threats on human rights, including manufacturing and firearms sectors. States should ensure that. These create internal displacement and threaten the right to life and personal integrity. This is a transnational problem due to the lack of regulations. Latin America is one of the most affected areas.
20. Honduras	Reaffirmed commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights. Dialogue in the face of humanity's challenges, implementation of mechanisms on transparency and accountability transitional justice, memory justice, and reparation; are crucial for the protection and combat the arbitrary detention and forced disappearance. All persons should be free from any form of slavery . States have the duty to provide reparation to victims, and justice. Fiscal justice to ensure the right to development .
Statements made by the Observers	
1. United Nations Population Fund	Focused on mother mortality and maternity, including reported data from Latin America . Affirmed also that the COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated the negative trend by disrupting the availability and access to sexual and reproductive services. Indigenous peoples and marginalized communities are disproportionately affected.
2. Ecuador	Agreed on the need for migration governance based on human rights, as well as to improve international cooperation and solidarity in this area. Sharing national initiatives, affirmed that it is necessary to design and implement inclusive and innovative solutions, with a transversal approach that guarantees the well-being, security, and human rights of all people in situations of human mobility.
3. Egypt	Affirmed that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind is a basic rule of international human rights law . The rapid and comprehensive elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related

	intolerance constitutes a priority task for the international community. Joint work is important to enhance the effectiveness of bilateral communication channels on human rights issues, away from stigma and defamation policies.
4. Iraq	Supported the implementation of human rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and agreed upon international conventions, and emphasizes that human rights are universal, integrated, and indivisible rights while emphasizing the importance of taking into account the difference in the size of the challenges facing countries, and the value disparity of societies and their customs and its traditions. It stood against any form of racial discrimination, hate speech against peoples, religions, sects, and religious symbols, burning divine books, and insulting messengers and prophets , and reiterated that any targeting of the beliefs of others cannot be justified under the pretext of the rights of opinion and expression and that this leads to incite violence and threaten societal peace.
5. Bahrain	Emphasized the importance of promoting and protecting all human rights , civil, political, economic, social, and cultural, including the right to development, in a fair, just, and equal manner, with the importance of removing obstacles that limit the full enjoyment of basic human rights. Especially in light of natural disasters .
6. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Stressed the importance of having a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development . Such a framework would not only benefit developing countries but can also contribute to promoting global peace, stability, and prosperity for current and future generations.
7. Sovereign Order of Malta	Focused on the increasing number of migrants who find themselves in vulnerable situations. The Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta (CISOM) has been engaged in rescue activities in the Mediterranean Sea for around fifteen years, with medical teams on board ships. It called on all States to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly the most vulnerable (women, children, persons with disabilities, and religious minorities) in accordance with their obligations under international law.
8. Armenia	Highlighted the recent Azerbaijan aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh . It was accompanied by gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as war crimes. It reported the current ethnic cleansing: the civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh are trapped and they do not have a way to evacuate since Azerbaijan continues to block the only lifeline connection with Armenia.
9. Russian Federation	Raised the attention to the blatant cases of discrimination against Russian citizens in the West , which has reached unprecedented proportions. Among the most common practices are the denial of educational, medical, and banking services, the introduction of measures against businesses, the seizure of personal property, forced public repentance and condemnation of the actions of the Russian authorities, exclusion from sports competitions, cultural events, attacks, threats, insults, intentional damage to property, media censorship and encouraged everyday discrimination.
10. Indonesia	Reaffirmed its commitment to human rights. National policies target the human rights of four groups of people: women, children, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples .
11. Zimbabwe	Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the UDHR , stressed the core principles of universality, inalienability, indivisibility, interdependence, and interrelatedness of all human rights.
12. Burkina Faso	Remained committed to the promotion and protection of human rights which constitute the lever of all human development. However, its efforts are put to the test by terrorist attacks . It remained convinced that support for victims of terrorism is an effective

	means of combating violent extremism and the radicalization of those left behind, and to this end called on the international community for greater commitment to their regard.
13. Peru	Affirmed its commitment to respect human rights , a fundamental to achieving Agenda 2023 and SDGs. In order to respect the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the international community must step up efforts to reverse the setback caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, conflicts, and climate crisis. It improved living standards, gender equality, and sustainable development, by straightening the healthcare system, labour program, and education plan.
14. Namibia	Focused on the devasting impacts of climate change . It identified various opportunities to contribute towards the global effort to address climate change. These include amongst others the development of a green hydrogen industry and the production of clean synthetic fuels. It urged all States to actively participate in the ICJ advisory proceedings.
15. Tunisia	It emphasized the interconnectedness of human rights in all their dimensions, their indivisibility, universality, and equality , and the necessity of paying due attention to the right to development and the rest of the economic and social rights so that the rights are fully implemented for all peoples. Further, among others reiterated the need for serious cooperation between the concerned parties to facilitate countries’ recovery of their looted and smuggled funds abroad in order to invest them in development projects that serve their people and eliminate poverty without having to fall under the burden of debt.
16. Venezuela	Affirmed that the illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed by some States seriously hinder the enjoyment of human rights, and constitute crimes against humanity against the populations that suffer from them. It reiterated its call for the immediate lifting of these bloody and illegal measures used to attempt to subvert the sovereignty of States, in violation of the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the UN and international law. It also reiterated the need to address human rights issues based on the universal principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and impartiality, objectivity and transparency, without selectivity, politicization, or double standards .
17. Philippines	Attached high importance to human rights education as an area of cooperation in this Council and in other fora. National law enforcement and military establishments likewise benefit from regular training on international human rights and humanitarian laws.
18. Afghanistan	Stressed the erosion of human rights after the Taliban’s takeover . The Country is on a precarious situation: the basic right to life and the human dignity are limited. Arbitrary detention, torture and other forms of cruel and degrading treatments. Threats to individuals and their families. Civil rights, and fundamental freedoms, such as expression, association are vanished. Journalists are targeted. Called for accountability and access to justice .
19. Mauritius	Stressed that the triple planetary crises are affecting the realization of human rights and SDGs. Affirmed its vulnerability to climate change issues. Climate change affects the right to food, shelter, and education. Additionally, the COVID-19 Pandemic has severe impacted to economic, health system and social development efforts.
20. Belarus	Urged an adequate assessment of the threats posed by PKOs , which are on the rise, harming millions of people, undermining the rights to development and health, and harming global food security. At the same time, the countries initiating illegal sanctions are blocking the creation of mechanisms that are “inconvenient” for them to study the consequences of OKOs. Stressed the problem in the deliberate cross-use of false information by OHCHR, special mandate holders, and individual countries.
21. Uganda	Refused destruction attempts of its national development efforts informed by our democratic structures and committed to ensuring the promotion and protection of the rights of our citizenry, especially the right to development . Without politicization of only

	specific rights, the world would be a better place if the attention given to civil and political rights was the same attention given to economic and development rights.
22. Zambia	Focused on difficulties faced by women with disabilities , including insufficient social security, poverty, and discrimination. Commended China's efforts in this regard. Formulated policies to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Called for inclusion of persons with disabilities within ESC affairs.
23. State of Palestine	Affirmed that the continuous colonization of Palestine and the global inaction on it is evidence of the failure of this system and therefore put its very existence in question. The Israeli colonial project has many of the common colonial characteristics, such as supremacy, exploitation, and entitlement, but it also has at least one distinguishing feature – its multinational corporate nature. Israel has created an economic incentive structure that continues to perpetuate the conflict in order to grow profit. The current Israeli colonial practices cannot be separated from the history of colonialism.
24. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Welcomed the report's recommendations on decriminalization of drug use, adequate investment in and provision of gender-sensitive harm reduction services , and investment in and partnership with communities led by people who use drugs as critical to ending AIDS by 2030. People who inject drugs suffer significant inequalities in the HIV response.
25. South Centre	Affirmed its continued support to developing countries for the achievement of these objectives and the provision of innovative solutions for tackling the unique challenges faced by developing and least developed countries. Advancing the effective implementation of the Declaration on the rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas through the establishment of a special procedure would be a welcome outcome. It would serve as an important example of how international cooperation and dialogue can improve human conditions and support the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of all human rights.
26. Azerbaijan	Focused on the efforts to reintegrate Armenians into the Karabakh region, with no results. Armenia rejected the ownership of the territory of the Karabakh region from Azerbaijan. Armenia planted mine explosions, and six Azerbaijani were killed. Azerbaijan used countermeasures, in accordance with the National Constitution. Integration dialogue between Azerbaijan and the Armenians Karabakh.
27. Lebanon	Supported the Convention on the Right to Development . Questioned about the implications of such convention, and the international, economic, and political arrangements and norms. Urged the Council to support the work of the WG to close the remaining gaps.
28. Türkiye	Focused on the illegal Armenian military groups in Karabakh. They should be disarmed, disbanded, and withdrawn from the region. A comprehensive negotiation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia is the only way to maintain of peace, security, prosperity, and lasting stability in the region.
29. Nigeria	It recognized the responsibility of States to ensure sustainable development, provide an enabling environment, and formulate policies that promote the economic, social, and cultural rights of its people. Underscored that the ability of a State to make laws for the good governance of its people remains one of the noble and unassailable attributes of nationhood. Remained committed to global peace and security, respect for human rights, democracy, and good governance as vital to building vibrant and prosperous societies.

List of NGOs that took the floor (88):

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, Soka Gakkai International, Law Council of Australia, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos, Iran Autism Association, United Nations Association of China, International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, Federation for Women and Family Planning, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Il Cenacolo, Open Society Institute, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Mouvement National des Jeunes Patriotes du Mali, International Humanitarian Society for Development Without Borders, Centre Europe - tiers monde, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, World Evangelical Alliance, Iranian Thalassemia Society, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Action Canada for Population and Development, British Humanist Association, Human Rights and Democratic Participation Centre SHAMS, and Humanists International, Make Mothers Matter, Iranian Elite Research Centre, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Jubilee Campaign, Sikh Human Rights Group, Mouvement contre le racismisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Conscience and Peace Tax International, International Service for Human Rights, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales Asociación Civil, International Harm Reduction Association, Institute for Protection of Women's Rights, International Federation on Ageing, Amnesty International, International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, VIVAT International, International Commission of Jurists, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, INHR, and Friends World Committee for Consultation, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture, European Centre for Law and Justice, Comité International pour le Respect et l'Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples, Asociacion HazteOir.org, Regional Centre for the Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des revendications démocratiques/culturelles du peuple Azerbaïdjanais-Iran, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Rahbord Peimayesh Research and Educational Services Cooperative, Edmund Rice International Limited, Union of Northwest Human Rights Organisation, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, Institute of Sustainable Development, Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Women's Human Rights International Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Africa Culture Internationale, Le conseil universel des droits de l'homme, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, and Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism.

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