

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 55th SESSION

Item 2¹: General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

04 – 05 March 2024

Contents

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	2
Member States: Joint Statements.....	2
Member States: Statements made in national capacity	4
Statements made by the Observer States	8
Statements Made on Behalf of the National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations:.....	15
Rights of Reply.....	16

This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 2 that took place on 04-05 March 2024 at the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The statements provided by the speakers are not exhaustive. **Please also refer to the Geneva Centre’s other summary reports considered under Item 2: Oral Update by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk is available [here](#).**

¹ Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
European Union on behalf of a group of countries²	In addition to the statements made during the interactive dialogues, it reiterated condemnation of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine . It continued the support in Colombia, Guatemala, and Sri Lanka . Expressed concern over the number of femicides and killings of environmental defenders in Honduras . It remained concerned about the arbitrary arrests and reprisals against human rights defenders in Egypt, as well as human rights violations in Yemen, Viet Nam, and Bahrain . It emphasized the importance of ensuring the rights and security of Karabakh Armenians and to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to Nagorno-Karabakh.
Pakistan on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation – OIC	The OIC condemned in the strongest terms all crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces in OPT . It remained concerned on the human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir . It urged India to comply with the applicable UN Security Council resolutions and implement OHCHR's recommendations. It called to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people including through their safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar . It condemned the acts of religious hatred manifested in the repeated acts of desecration of the holy Quran .
Qatar on behalf of Gulf Cooperation Council - GCC	Sharing concerns of the HC , it urged on increasing efforts to lift the siege and provide humanitarian assistance in an unimpeded manner in Gaza . Thanked the HC for his efforts to prepare the solutions vision and that in the context of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, hopefully this vision will reinforce the pace of peace.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of a group of countries³	It attached a supreme value to the promotion and protection of all human rights , both individuals and collectives without distinctions of levels or categories and consider also that their promotion and protection is enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, nonselectivity, nonpolitization and nonconfrontation . The OCHR has the highest responsibilities for the realization of one of the three main pillars of the UN. It reiterated its categorical rejection of double standards in the field of human rights as such an approach prevents a harmonious environment and progress in this field. It expressed serious concern at the continued and growing proliferation of mechanisms and procedures that pretend to conduct impartial assessments of the human rights situation in specific states such as Eritrea and Nicaragua .
Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group	It urged the HC to deal with all human rights issues on an equal footing in an objective manner while taking into account what we have seen from the Israeli aggression and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. This reflects a stark double standard . It called on the international community to immediate end the fire in OPT and to allow unfettered access to humanitarian assistance to prevent genocide. It expressed concern at the continuing of events related to burning the holy Quran and the targeting of mosques and churches in armed conflict.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of a group of countries⁴	It urged the government to enact amendments to align the Online Safety Act with Sri Lanka's human rights obligations and commitments. It called for the prevention of terrorism act to be replaced. Noting the effort to establish a commission on

² North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Republic of Moldova and Palestine.

³ Group of friends in defense of the charter of the United Nations.

⁴ Sri Lanka core group comprising Canada, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

	truth, unity and reconciliation, it stressed the importance of an inclusive participatory process to build trust in advance of any legislation.
Equatorial Guinea on behalf of a group of countries⁵	It emphasized that the interaction of Member States and the HC should retain their bilateral nature and be protected from any instrumentalization that would give rise to counterproductive political debates within the Human Rights. The Sahara question is a political dispute managed by the Security Council which recognizes the primacy of the autonomy initiative presented by Morocco as credible which would be a lasting political solution to the regional dispute over the Sahara.
Namibia on behalf a cross regional group of countries	It was concerned with the systematic violence of human rights and breaches of humanitarian law in the occupied non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara. The lack of human rights monitoring and documentation is direct consequence of the refusal of the occupying power. It drew the attention to the numerous breaches of international humanitarian law resulting from the illegal and indiscriminate use of armed drones east of the bend resulting in death and injuries among the civilian from Western Sahara and the neighbouring countries.
Uganda on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement - NAM	It shared the OHCHR's concern about severe acts of multiple forms of discrimination in many regions, widespread violations of economic and social rights and attacks motivated by stereotypes and hatred of many kinds. It was gravely concerned about the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the OPT including its Jerusalem, especially the catastrophic humanitarian crisis and immense suffering and losses being endured by the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli military aggression and total siege imposed since October 2023. It demanded an end to this illegal aggression and siege and immediate cease fire and humanitarian aid at scale to meet the dramatic needs of the population.
Türkiye on behalf of a group of countries	It was deeply concerned by the disproportionate impact of armed conflicts on children across the globe. Latent disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law continues to severely violate children's rights. The war in Gaza is having a catastrophic impact on children. This war against children must end.
Pakistan on behalf of a cross regional group of countries⁶	It expressed profound concern for the state of human rights in Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem. Besides violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Gaza, the occupying authorities actions since October 2023 directed at Palestinians as a group of people, inflicting severe mental and bodily harm, imposing measures intended to prevent births and deliberately creating living conditions intended to partially or wholly destroy the Palestinian presence in Gaza fall within the scope of the Genocide Convention. The public dehumanization of and genocidal rhetoric against Palestinians constitutes incitement to genocide and UN human rights mechanisms have warned of dehumanization, discourse directed at Palestinians and call for the prevention of genocide.
Saudi Arabia on behalf of a group of countries	It recognized the value of contributions of persons with disabilities to our global community and acknowledged that despite substantial progress persons with disabilities continue to face significant challenges that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. The ongoing aggression in the Gaza Strip has further magnified these challenges. It urgently called for first and immediate cease fire in Gaza and the unconditional permission of humanitarian access and relief to all affected areas in the Gaza strip to ensure that persons with disability receive the support and resources they need.

⁵ A group of 36 states that support the full sovereignty of Morocco over its Saharan provinces.

⁶ A group of 65 countries.

European Union on behalf of a group of countries	It deeply concerned about the systematic crackdown on civil society and the repressions of political opposition and critical voices throughout the Russian Federation and abroad . It called on Russia to immediately and unconditionally release all other political prisoners. It recalled that the prohibition of torture is absolute under international law .
Chile on behalf of a group of Latin American countries	Insecurity and violence are special concerns for the states of Latin America and the Caribbean . It recognized the challenges in facing crime, the drugs trade and violence linked to the production and the trafficking of drugs in the region and the challenges arising as regards the duty of states to protect people's safety and the human rights. States are obliged to protect our population from the scourge of violence, especially the most vulnerable groups including communities, children, adolescents, young people.
Bangladesh on behalf of a cross regional group of countries	It focused on the mass forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza resulting from brutal Israeli aggression. The magnitude and scale of destruction, killings and sufferings in occupied Gaza in modern history is unprecedented. This massive human rights crisis and humanitarian catastrophe must be addressed urgently. It urged to ensure the safe return for all displaced Palestinians , compliance with international law and the implementation of provisional measures ordered by the ICJ.
Albania on behalf of a group of countries⁷	It stated its commitments to strengthening the council good practices and pledge to cooperate in good faith, including responding in a timely manner to special procedure communication, urgent appeal and country visit request.
Iran (Islamic Republic of) on behalf of a group of countries	It condemned the killing of over 152 members of the UN staff in Gaza . In the OPT the situation has reached a dire humanitarian crisis marked by violations of human rights by Israeli forces. Israeli occupying forces destroying civilian objects and halting all humanitarian aid and services , cause forced and permanent displacement and eliminate Palestinian resilience and self-determination.
Maldives on behalf of a group of countries	It reported that in Gaza , the deliberate killing of journalists starkly violates the protections afforded to journalists in conflict zones in illegally occupied territories. Some countries including members of the council have imposed domestic restrictions on peaceful protests calling for the ending of killings in Gaza, seeking humanitarian access and calling for a cease fire. This inconsistency in standards demands a reevaluation. These principles must be applied uniformly without double standards.
Member States: Statements made in national capacity	
1. Lithuania	Lithuania stressed the Russia 10 years of aggression against Ukraine. Russia occupied Crimea, Ukraine including Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhian regions. There are no guarantees that Russia's war will not escalate further. Russian armed forces continue to kill and torture, commit acts of sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians, deliberately target civilian and critical infrastructure. Children fall victims of Russia's war crimes. Human rights situation within Russia has significantly deteriorated since the full scale invasion to Ukraine.
2. Georgia	Georgia focused on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine which bring unbearable suffering to innocent people and leads to massive violations of their rights. Russian tactics of targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine is unacceptable. Moreover, Russia's ongoing occupation of Georgia's regions further deteriorates the dire situation therein.
3. Qatar	Qatar affirmed that to overcome a number of worldwide challenges and to achieve the SDGs, the international community needs to strengthen human rights. Need to pull international efforts to strengthen international cooperation far from

⁷ Dominican Republic, Ghana and Albania.

	<p>politicization, selectivity and double standards. Israel tries to kill and destroy Palestine. It was concerned at religious hatred.</p>
4. Luxembourg	<p>Luxembourg affirmed that most people support human rights but very few Governments will openly say they oppose the human rights. A serious obstacle to achieving the human rights of everyone is a lack of real political will to achieve them. The triple planetary crisis is also a crisis of our means of production and consumption.</p>
5. Germany	<p>Germany stressed the importance of the HRC in terms of human rights violations. It focused on the Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine and the massive violations of human rights committed in Ukraine and in Russia itself as well as the dire situation in the OPT since October 2023. It affirmed that to structurally advance human rights, Germany gets involved first, engaging to advance accountability for serious human rights violations.</p>
6. Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	<p>The Netherlands expressed its concerns on the situation in Israel and the OPT. It called upon all respective states to ensure freedom of expression and assembly and effectively protect civic space and civil society before, during and after elections. It urged South Sudan to take without delay all necessary steps to enable free, fair and credible elections and to create a viable political and civic space so that all can freely express views without threat or without hindrance. It stressed the importance of a solution for the ongoing concerning situation regarding democracy and human rights in Venezuela. Expressed concerns about the persistent persecution of dissenting voices and the deterioration of the human rights situation in Nicaragua.</p>
7. Costa Rica	<p>Costa Rica commended the OHCHR's work. It stressed the importance and interlinked of development, human rights and peace and security elements.</p>
8. United States of America	<p>The United States shared OHCHR's concerns about challenges facing human rights defenders and growing restrictions on civil society globally as well as the rising use of transnational repression as a means to suppress dissent. It deplored the detention of journalists and human rights defenders by all parties in Yemen. Was deeply concerned about the human rights violations in Ukraine, China, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Turkmenistan, Haiti, Ethiopia and Nicaragua.</p>
9. Belgium	<p>Belgium commended OHCHR activities in Africa. It deplored the current liquidity crisis in the United Nations, that serious impacts the Council's work but also on all human rights mechanisms. It urged all countries to fulfill their financial obligations. It commended Colombia on its progress in transitional justice, however encouraged he country to fully implement the 2016 peace agreement. It was alarmed by the human rights situations in Nicaragua, DRC, and Ethiopia.</p>
10. Cuba	<p>Cuba called for an immediate and lasting cease fire and the unrestricted entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza as well as a lasting and fair solution to the conflict which ensures the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to statehood in the borders prior to 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. It denounced the United States' blockade against Cuba which includes putting the country on its unilateral and unlawful list of supposed state sponsors of terrorism. The blockade is the most severe and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures against any country ever. It reiterated its steadfast opposition to the manipulation of human rights issues against countries such as China, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Iran, Syria, Belarus and Russia.</p>
11. Morocco	<p>Morocco shared concerns regarding the severe situation in the Gaza Strip and reiterated its call for urgent action for an immediate lasting, verifiable cease fire for humanitarian aid to be able to enter smoothly and without obstacles and for a political approach to the Palestinian issue in order to move forward to a two-state solution. It informed about the national</p>

	family code , an important inclusive reform to enhance gender parity as enshrined in the constitution. It adopted the Rabat Declaration to improve the health of refugees and migrants in African terms.
12. Indonesia	Indonesia affirmed that the protected conflict all around the world still take a heavy toll on innocent civilians and it is exacerbated by the current atrocities that could amount to genocide in Gaza . Just like in almost every conflict in the world, women and children are those who suffer the most. It affirmed that inequality and social injustice as well as inadequacy of access to the most basic rights such as the right to food and the right to decent standard of living often are the root cause of many classes among societies.
13. Finland	Finland expressed its concern over the accelerating and systematic repression in Russia . Women are important actors of change: Ukrainian women are heroically participating in the fight for human rights and freedom against Russia's illegal aggression on Ukraine. However, they have been raped by Russian soldiers, hospitals including maternal health facilities have been subject to attacks. In the unbearable conditions in Gaza, pregnant women and newborns are amongst the most vulnerable. Finland supports a sustainable and lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan .
14. Maldives	The protection of fundamental freedom and promotion of human rights is a priority for the Government of Maldives. The new government is committed to advancing democracy and upholding the rule of law . The government has established the office of civil rights and revised the composition of the judicial service commission to safeguard the independence of the judiciary and prevent political interference. It remained deeply concerned over the Israeli genocidal war against the Palestinian people and called for an immediate and urgent end to the war in Gaza .
15. South Africa	South Africa focused on the empowerment of women and the promotion of their rights , including other vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities. It stated that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continue to deprive millions of people not only of their human rights but also of their dignity and humanity. It welcomed the order of on provisional measures that Israel must take action to prevent acts of genocide against Palestinians, and called for the immediate implementation of the same and denounce the actions of the occupying power that led to scores of fatalities in the past few days with the resultant grave humanitarian situation.
16. Ghana	Ghana condemned the systematic violence of human rights which mostly affect the vulnerable group including civilians, women and children, disabled and human rights defenders. It reaffirmed its support for the commitment to the one China policy and took note with appreciation that the people of Azerbaijan and Tibet enjoy social stability, economic development and ethnic solidarity and religious harmony.
17. Malaysia	Through democracy, freedom, justice and security for all, Malaysia firmly believed that it serves as a cornerstone for fostering a vibrant and thriving democracy. It recognized that economic, cultural and social rights and the right to development are intrinsically linked to democracy for true freedom cannot exist without access to basic necessities and opportunities for socioeconomic advancement. Freedom of expression is crucial to a healthy democracy; it is not absolute, and it must be exercised with responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others. Regretted the repeated deliberate and public desecration of the holy Quran .
18. China	China affirmed that the conflict in Gaza resulted in an unprecedented humanitarian disaster with loss of life of innocent civilians. It is imperative to reach an immediate cease fire to create conditions for humanitarian assistance and restoring peace. The international community must respect the diversity of civilizations and respect different historical, cultural conditions of various countries instead of imposing one's own values and development models on others. In terms of respect

	and equality, the international community must carry out in depth and extensive dialogue, foster common understanding while setting aside differences and increase mutual trust and resist the practice of using human rights as a pretext to interfere in internal affairs.
19. Algeria	Algeria affirmed that the international community must avoid politicization and double standards on Palestine . Cannot be security without a cease fire to stop the injustice and the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. It was gravely concerned at the systematic violations of human rights of international humanitarian law in the Western Sahara . It called for a documentation of all violations against the Sahrawi people. Adoption of National Law on combating human trafficking .
20. Japan	Japan affirmed that all countries should respect the universal values such as human rights, freedom, democracy and the rule of law. It denounced serious human rights violations . It appreciated the step taken by Sri Lanka towards national reconciliation.
21. Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan stated that the challenges posed by ongoing and escalating conflicts around the world, climate change, environmental degradation and food insecurity are causing human suffering around the world, especially among the most vulnerable. The HRC has a key role to play in addressing these issues collectively and collaboratively
22. Romania	Romania reaffirmed the importance of fixing deficiencies in its mechanics but not altering core values and principles. Unimpeded access to reliable information and human rights education are basic preconditions. Upholding human rights all the more in conflict situations, ensuring protection of civilians, especially for those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and supporting human rights defenders is our daily noble duty. Situations in Gaza and Ukraine .
23. India	While noting the HC's concerns, they do not reflect the reality of the largest democracy in the world. The electoral process has been characterized by a high degree of people's participation and full faith in the electoral mandate by all. Today when the world is riddled with conflicts and war, India called for dialogue and diplomacy .
24. Viet Nam	Viet Nam was steadfastly committed to promoting and protecting human rights. It underscored the importance of universality, non-selectivity and non-politicization and noninterference in the domestic affairs of individual countries. A number of statements have referred to Viet Nam, but they are generalized comments, not accurate or checked . They can only jeopardize the promotion and protection of human rights.
25. Albania	Albania affirmed that the Russian unprovoked aggression against Ukraine has resulted in a disastrous human rights situation across the country and has given rise to human rights violations as well as attacks against civilian infrastructure. It was concerned about the humanitarian situation, destruction, civilian casualty and suffering in Gaza . The women and girls in Afghanistan and Iran deserve support. Concerns on human rights violations in South Sudan, Eritrea, Sudan, Myanmar .
26. Honduras	Honduras focused on the close link between implementing economic and tax policy and promoting and protecting human rights in the framework of the triple planetary crisis which affects developing states more and vulnerable people more. National experience in implementing measures on economic and tax policy.
27. Bangladesh	Bangladesh shared information about its parliamentary elections conducted in a free, fair, impartial, inclusive and transparent manner. It focused on genocide in the OPT by the Israeli occupying forces which has been enjoying impunity despite flagrant violations of international law including the genocide convention. It asked the international community to hold Israel accountable and put an end to this culture of impunity. Rejected double standards on the human rights agenda. Additionally, the Rohingya crisis needs to be addressed at its root which lies in Myanmar . Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the enjoyment of human rights of ours and the succeeding generations.

28. Sudan	It commended China's commitment to promoting human rights including the right to development. Reiterated the importance of respecting people's cultural diversity. This should never be used as a pretext for interfering in the rights of peoples and imposing a single vision. China's territorial integrity must be respected, and it must be able to choose its policies in view of this context and the needs of its peoples.
29. France	France condemned the mass violations of human rights committed by Russia against Ukrainians and the strangling of distant voices in Russia . It condemned the current humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza , there must be an immediate cease fire which is lasting to ensure the entry of humanitarian aid and the protection of civilians in the Gaza Strip. Women's and girls' rights in Afghanistan .
Statements made by the Observer States	
1. Czechia	Focused on full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine , Russian forces have been committing flagrant war crimes in the occupied territories including torture, mass executions or sexual violence. Russia must stop the ongoing armed attack on Ukraine and cease acts of enforced disappearances. The human rights situation in Afghanistan and Iran is a permanent cause of dismay. It condemned the culture of impunity.
2. Norway	Norway affirmed that human rights situation is deteriorating in several countries. It is exacerbated by a series of crises and escalations of conflicts. It was also alarmed by the impending funding crisis affecting the UN system. It urged all states to pay their assessed contributions in full.
3. Bahrain	Bahrain affirmed that the world still suffers from wars, conflicts, and racial discrimination based on sex, race or religion. It shared the HC's concerns. It called on the international community to intensify efforts for peace and stability .
4. Türkiye	Stressed that any report on Cyprus would remain incomplete and misleading if it does not emphasize the unjust isolation and violations of basic human rights and freedoms imposed on Turkish Cypriots for more than 60 years. The report also fails to refer to the constructive proposals of the Turkish Cypriot side including the irregular migration and demining issues .
5. Portugal	It believed that human rights should be at the center of governance, at the center of peace building, at the center of our economies, at the center of our environmental action and at the center of science and technology. To make human rights truly the center of our public policies and our government's actions, the international community must strengthen the human rights system.
6. Ecuador	It was concerned about the harmful impact of the economic, food, environmental and security crisis on the respect for human rights of millions around the world. The international community must strengthen the multilateral system of international cooperation in order to tackle these global challenges.
7. Nepal	Nepal noted positively the efforts made by Sri Lanka towards building national reconciliation and achieving economic recovery. Remaining committed to protecting and promoting all human rights; it reiterated the importance of upholding the principle of non-selectivity, objectivity and impartiality in all human rights mechanisms.
8. Denmark	It remained deeply concerned that despite the universal acceptance of the prohibition of torture, hundreds of thousands of persons worldwide are still subjected to torture. It strongly condemned the widespread and systematic practice of torture by the Belarusian authorities. Violence against women and girls continues globally and in particular, in Afghanistan . Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in Ethiopia . Grave violations against children and conflict-related sexual violence in Somalia. Libya and Yemen should respect international human rights law.

<p>9. Armenia</p>	<p>It drew the attention of the international community on the new wave of warmongering by Azerbaijan and its territorial claims addressed to Armenia. It hoped that this time the international community will consolidate its support into territorial integrity, serenity of the borders of Armenia and the human rights of the population concerned.</p>
<p>10. Egypt</p>	<p>Egypt stressed the importance to shed light on the heinous crimes and the grave violations of human rights in the OPT; as well as the shed light on the repeated acts of Islamophobia including the burning of the holy Quran.</p>
<p>11. Sovereign Order of Malta</p>	<p>In Sudan, Malta called on all factions to hold the violence and to engage in negotiations to reach a sustainable peace agreement. It condemned any acts of violence and terrorism, including the Hamas terrorist attacks of 7th October 2023. The ongoing military action by Israel in Gaza is deeply concerning. It continued to demand Russia's immediate withdrawal from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.</p>
<p>12. Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Focusing on the urgent need for the global human rights framework, emphasized urgent need for an immediate cease fire and measures to ensure humanitarian aid in Gaza. The failure to address such profound civilian suffering undermines the credibility of the international human rights framework. Polarization of the Council through politicization of human rights is a hindrance to achieve its objectives. Sri Lanka supported the one China principle and noted China's cooperation with human rights mechanisms. Interference in the internal affairs of any sovereign country cannot and should not be tolerated.</p>
<p>13. Ukraine</p>	<p>Ukraine informed and updated the Council about the national human rights situation. Russia has made children its military targets. Ukrainian POWs and noncombatant civilians continue to be subjected to torture and inhumane treatment in the Russian hands. It called upon the UN Member States to redouble efforts to make Russia stop its aggression against Ukraine while taking steps to fight impunity and establish justice.</p>
<p>14. Iran (Islamic Republic of)</p>	<p>Focused on the most pressing being the systematic and widespread violation of human rights and international law by occupying forces in Palestine. Protection the lives of innocent people is currently the most crucial responsibility entrusted to the HRC. The consideration of the human rights situation under item 2 should be conducted in a manner that takes into account the principles of cooperation, dialogue, avoiding double standards, no politization and understanding the concerned countries' national, historical, cultural and religious backgrounds and realities. Economic challenges arising from external factors should also be considered during the deliberations.</p>
<p>15. Australia</p>	<p>Australia stressed that across the world human rights are under attack, civic space is shrinking, and there are challenges to achieving gender equality. It was disturbed by the rising incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism. It welcomed Ghana and Malaysia's progress towards abolishing the death penalty. However, it remained deeply concerned at the criminalization of same sex relations with offenses punishable by death in some countries including Uganda and Yemen.</p>
<p>16. Pakistan</p>	<p>Pakistan demanded an immediate and unconditional cease fire, unhindered provision of humanitarian relief as well as a lasting end to Israel's illegal occupation and atrocities against the Palestinian people. It reported arbitrary arrests, torture, summary executions, confiscation of properties, destruction of homes have been inflicted upon the Kashmiris, in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It recognized Sri Lanka's success.</p>
<p>17. Iraq</p>	<p>It condemned the genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the occupying force in Gaza. Egregious violations of the rights of the Palestinian people must be made accountable and we affirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It called for an immediate cease fire without any preconditions. Basic services such as water, electricity and fuel must be made immediately available and there must be a stop to forced displacements in line with international human rights and international humanitarian law.</p>

<p>18. Russian Federation</p>	<p>The Russian Federation noted the selectivity of the reports and the statements by the HC and OHCHR. Most of these are based on manuals of a certain group of countries which are self-appointed, shining lights on promoting democracy and human rights. The HC continues to ignore the materials transmitted by Russia on the rampant lawlessness, the use of torture and some executions of civilians in prisons of war in Ukraine, the repression of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the strikes on civilian infrastructure in Donbas and other Russian regions, Russophobia, the violation of the rights of Russians and the Russian-speaking population in Europe.</p>
<p>19. Slovenia</p>	<p>Slovenia stated that women and girls in all their diversity have equal rights including the right to life, liberty, security of person and to live free from fear. However, raised concerns over the humanitarian and human rights situation in Sudan, including the widespread sexual and gender-based violence. It remained concerned about the widespread and systematic human rights violations and abuses in Myanmar.</p>
<p>20. Philippines</p>	<p>The Philippines affirmed that in the light of the current liquidity crisis in the UN, the judicious use of limited financial resources is paramount. Money must be devoted more to concrete initiatives and less to administrative costs that entrench jobs and mandates beyond the usefulness. The OPT needs the UN presence.</p>
<p>21. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)</p>	<p>Venezuela stressed the importance of the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, no selectivity and without politicization or double standards. It called on the Office to deal with all countries in a balanced and objective fashion and focus its attention on the adverse impact of unilateral coercive measures. It opposed the political manipulation of human rights to attack China, Sri Lanka and Nicaragua in the Council. It condemned the Israel's massacre in Gaza.</p>
<p>22. Belarus</p>	<p>It noted ongoing imbalances in the work of the Office. There continues to be abusive country-based approaches against states which do not follow the beaten track of the western countries. Resources within the system are used pointlessly despite the lack of them. In this session we once again see politicized initiatives against Nicaragua, Belarus, Venezuela, Iran, DPRK, Russia, Syria, African countries and selectivity and politicization with increased pressure from a group of country on China despite the information provided by its Delegation and the UPR on progress.</p>
<p>23. Uruguay</p>	<p>Expressed concerns at the liquidity crisis and budget crisis facing the Office. Despite progresses, remained concerns about the human rights situation in Nicaragua, including violations of the freedoms of expression and belief in that country against journalists, members of the clergy and all opposition figures.</p>
<p>24. Canada</p>	<p>Canada was concerned by the situation in several countries, including in Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Gaza. It called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. Rapid, safe, and unimpeded humanitarian relief must be provided to civilians.</p>
<p>25. Senegal</p>	<p>It reaffirmed its commitment to the rights of development which it considers to be a basic, crucial human right needed for the full enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights. Poverty, marginalization, and social exclusion dehumanize. They feed frustration and extremism. They are a threat to peace, stability, and social cohesion. Senegal reiterated its call for a more inclusive, fairer, more equitable world order for effective enjoyment of all human rights.</p>
<p>26. Republic of Korea</p>	<p>It was deeply concerned about the dire humanitarian and human rights situation in the Gaza Strip. It urged all parties to the conflict to protect innocent civilians by adhering to international humanitarian and human rights law and to ensure the release of hostage and humanitarian cease fire. In Sudan, persistent reports of human rights violations including sexual violence are equally alarming. In Afghanistan, the human rights picture remains grim.</p>

27. Spain	Spain firmly supported the independence and integrity of the OHCHR’s mandate. This council has a clear responsibility towards urgent situations requiring response including the protection and defense of more vulnerable persons. The Council must ensure accountability for human rights violations and strengthen the use of accurate data and information to counter fake news.
28. Syrian Arab Republic	It affirmed that this report was prepared with one goal which is the traditional political exploitation of human rights issues and to serve its pre-prepared conclusions that unfairly ignored the efforts of the Syrian government to create appropriate conditions for the return of all refugees and IDPs and presented the challenges facing this return in an unrealistic manner. It now denounced all politicization in the Human Rights Council. Such politicization should stop.
29. Nigeria	It underscored the value and importance of constructive multilateralism in robustly facilitating international cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. States are vested with a sovereign right to make laws on good governance and protection of their people. In this context, the enactment of the same-sex marriage prohibition act of 2013 by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria resonates with our social cultural values and religious sensitivities rejecting foreign impositions capable of damaging the social fabric of our de-envisioned Nigeria.
30. Iceland	On Gaza , Iceland deplored the unacceptable death toll and the immense suffering inflicted on civilians. We call for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to deliver life-saving assistance to the people of Gaza. Hamas must immediately release all remaining hostages without conditions. On Sudan , it fully condemned gross violations and abuses committed by the warring parties which demand investigation and accountability. On Ethiopia , it reiterated our serious concern regarding alleged violations and abuses of human rights. On Myanmar , it condemned the military regimes ongoing atrocities and human rights violations such as sexual and gender-based violence and the restriction of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.
31. Oman	It called for ending the war in Gaza and ending the blockade and funding UNRWA .
32. Peru	It expressed concerned at the challenges that the world is facing and call for the respect of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It recognized the need for a comprehensive coordinated response with cooperation on security and to address the threat from transnational criminal groups. Peru adopted a plan of action identifying specific actions on key areas to address this threat and ensure security and well-being for the population.
33. Mauritania	It expressed deeply concerned over the continued violations of human rights in the OPT , calling for an immediate cease fire in occupied Palestine and to facilitate entry of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The work of the HRC should be based on impartiality, neutrality, and non-selectivity.
34. Tunisia	Tunisia informed the Council about its 2022 constitution, which includes a chapter on rights and freedoms. It strongly condemned the war crimes and genocide committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the other occupied Palestinian territories . It called on an immediate end of the aggression and the blockade. Tunisia stressed the importance of reconsidering the international financial system and to address the issue of indebtedness of developing countries and to facilitate the recovery of stolen assets of different countries which is a legitimate right for these countries and their peoples.
35. Afghanistan	It stated that the atrocities occurring in Afghanistan demand our greatest attention and decisive action. For the systematic institutionalized discrimination and exclusion of women and girls to prevent the torture, ill treatment, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, Afghanistan is plugging into darkness.

36. El Salvador	El Salvador affirmed it will in promoting the effective implementation of human rights to overcome challenges and protect our worthy population in a sustainable lasting way.
37. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	The UK supported implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan , that works towards credible and peaceful elections. Accountability remains severely limited. In Sudan , warring parties must be held accountable for the egregious human rights violations and abuses. It urged President Ortega to fully respect the human rights of all Nicaraguans , calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners. Civil society in Libya continue to face restrictions and regular reprisals by armed groups and security actors. In Ethiopia , civilians must be protected support for peaceful resolution, reconciliation, and transitional justice.
38. Yemen	Yemen affirmed that the current situation in the Middle East with the attacks on Gaza have affected all countries in the region including mine. The military escalation in the Red Sea has undermined human rights and the peace efforts in Yemen. It called for an end to the escalation and the war in the Red Sea and in the region.
39. Sweden	Reported concerns over the violations of human rights in Nicaragua (arbitrary detentions), Yemen, Mali, Ethiopia .
40. State of Palestine	Stressed that the Israel's genocidal assault continues unabated by starving and dehydration, by shelling and bombing, by disease and malnutrition. War crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and genocide are being committed by Israel while it continues to be treated as a state above the law. Israel as an occupying power does not have the right to invoke self-defence under the UN charter. Reported data . The reality not only gravely undermines international law but shamefully tarnishes the credibility of the international system and remains a constant threat to international peace and security.
41. Lao People's Democratic Republic	The Lao PDR remained committed to the principle of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and international dialogue and cooperation in line with domestic priorities in the promotion and protection of human rights. Reaffirmed its support to the one China principle: Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang related issues are China's internal affairs. The principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states should be upheld.
42. Azerbaijan	Reported the situation in the country: 30-year long occupation. Azerbaijan after liberating its territories has faced a number of post-war challenges emerging during the Armenian occupation of these territories including massive contamination with mines and refusal of Armenia to provide concrete and accurate information on mine fields, completely plundered and devastated cultural, historical and religious legacy of Azerbaijan in the formerly occupied territories. It called on Armenia and the HC to extend full cooperation with Azerbaijan in addressing such challenges.
43. Thailand	Recently it withdrew reservation to CAD and to CRC. In the process of ratifying ICPPED. It supported efforts to revitalize and strengthen multilateralism. Thailand is an excellent candidate for the Human Rights Council for the term 2025 to 2027.
44. Lesotho	Shared views of the HC: the right to peace is the mother of all rights and that ways must be devised to counter the escalating hatred and hostilities around the globe. In this regard, it is imperative for Member States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and in a manner that ensures that international peace, security, and justice are not endangered. This includes issues relating to the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of China .
45. Democratic People's Republic of Korea	In the DPRK, the people first principles, is a cornerstone of state activities. It opposed the unfounded accusations against China out of political motivation and based on disinformation and interference in China's internal affairs including Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong and the pretext of human rights. Likewise, it opposed countries' specific initiatives and mechanisms without concern of the country concerned such as Nicaragua and Sri Lanka .

46. Uganda	Uganda stated its priority on socioeconomic to pursue Development Agenda . It underlined the importance of this Council to respect the democratic processes and laws of states including our own that are informed by our historical values, social, cultural and development priorities. Recognized universality of human rights and opposed to the imposition of foreign values on any country.
47. United Republic of Tanzania	Tanzania affirmed that the pandemic has been profound and equal at national and global levels, revealing how far countries are from meeting the human rights principle of non-discrimination and from taking the human rights obligation of international assistance and cooperation seriously, the international community is currently facing a myriad of challenges disrupting the achievement of SDGs. HRC plays a great role in maintaining peace, stability, and security. It recommended to uphold the principles of non-selectivity and impartiality .
48. Panama	Affirmed that since the adoption of the Declaration: huge global turmoil because of the escalation of violence and armed conflict with unprecedented levels of cruelty and impunity, worsening the suffering of millions, particularly women and children. Agreed on the fully achieve the right to peace and foster a culture of peace and at the same time on promote non-discrimination, gender equality, environmental protection and a digital transition and human rights-based economies .
49. Niger	It was pleased with the approach adopted towards the human rights situation in the central Sahel by recognizing that the prime responsibility for human rights violations in Mali, Burkina Faso and in the three-border area with Niger lies with terrorist groups and other organized criminal outfits, even if there are some forms of collateral damage. Regretted the perilous ground on which certain states are treading on the internal affairs of China through the issues of Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong despite the irreversible principle of China's unity enshrined by the UN in international relations.
50. Ireland	Ireland remained concerned on the situations in Eritrea, the occupied Palestinian territory, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Sudan, Amara and Aromia, Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain . All human rights violations and abuses should be investigated, and perpetrators held to account. It commended Ethiopia on the progress being made on the transitional justice process and look forward to a concrete policy framework. It urged the Kerr Parliament to reject the foreign representatives' draft law and protect space for civil society.
51. Hungary	Affirmed that the HC's criticism has zero credibility. Hungary stood up strongly for the protection of human rights and will continue to engage constructively with the HRC. The brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks against Israel shocked world. The UN must play a pivotal role in achieving peace and preventing the further escalation of the conflict in the Middle East. National minorities in Transcarpathia affected by legislations limiting the rights of language used in education and in the public sphere.
52. Mexico	Remained commitment to the universal human rights system, reflected in institution building, promoting democracy and ensuring that there are appropriate protection mechanisms for our people. It reported a national human rights architecture which gives priority to the rights of vulnerable people. Remained committed to democratic values.
53. Republic of Moldova	It reported the deterioration of human rights situation in the region: alarming trend of increasing the number of cases of prosecution including criminal prosecution and prolonged deprivation of liberty of people who made statements critical of the Teraspol administration. It called for a more active involvement of international partners to use all the existing mechanisms to end the continuous violation of human rights.
54. Cambodia	Stressed the adherence to the highest standard of due diligence, objectivity, balance, and inclusivity to verify source-to-source information taking into account the responses provided by and in context of the state. Joined call by many

	Delegations for the OHCHR to work with the concern of the country concern and genuine cooperation in the fair and diplomatic manner guided by principles of universality, impartiality, transparency, objectivity, non-selectivity and no double standard. Recognition of civil political space and socioeconomic rights. In mitigating poverty, vulnerabilities and inequalities while boosting human development and economic growth, Cambodia implemented wide-ranging social assistance schemes . This includes national or social assistance for their protection in response to emergency.
55. Libya	It condemned the crimes perpetrated by the occupation which amount to genocide against the Palestinians . Condemn the double standards . It called for an immediate cease fire and full implementation of the ICJ's provisional measures. Israeli officials should be held accountable for the serious violations against the Palestinian people. Expressed deep concerns regarding the events and attacks on the holy Quran . Called for actions against all acts of hatred, hate speech and against that impose strict regulations.
56. Nicaragua	Nicaragua rejected the manipulation of human rights. Reiterated its support to the principle of one China, Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang are in several parts of territory and issues related to the internal affairs of China without any interference from abroad being possible. Opposed to the accusations against China . Rejected instrumentalization of human rights against Sri Lanka despite its difficulties to make progress in promoting and protecting human rights. Item 2 of the agenda must not be used for political aims to interfere in sovereign states: demanded respect for sovereignty and self-determination .
57. Lebanon	It concerned by the immense challenges hindering human rights internationally: human rights situation for the Palestinians and the humanitarian situation due to the blatant and devastating Israeli aggression on Gaza and Gazans . Due attention should be given to the fact that continued aggression and absence of a political solution would lead to severe consequences, namely expansion of war, more suffering for the peoples of the region including the Lebanese people.
58. Ethiopia	Informed about the efforts in implementing the Pretoria peace agreement . National validation workshops on the draft policy [draft national transitional justice policy] with the participation of key stakeholders. Focused on policy centred on accountability of violations of human rights and humanitarian law, redress to victims, truth-telling, healing and reconciliation and institutional reform. Reported activities of armed groups that posed security challenges in Oromia and Amhara regions of the country .
59. Bolivia	It condemned the attacks on Gaza and the obstacles to humanitarian aid, the use of firearms against unarmed civilians seeking food. The UN must take immediate action to stop this and call for an immediate cease fire, as well as respect impartiality, universality, and avoid selectivity and double standards .
60. Chad	Chad was deeply saddened by the tragic events of 27 th and 28 th February, determined to shed light on these events which led citizens to take up arms and threaten the institutions of the republic. The transition government is determined and reaffirms its commitment to upholding democratic order and national stability . It called on the international community to provide the necessary support for this process to be completed.
61. Sovereign Order of Malta	Affirmed that dialogue mechanisms are indispensable tools to understand the problems experienced by local communities and to guarantee the full enjoyment of their rights. Two projects undertaken in Colombia : social dialogue for healthcare access in rural and ethnic communities; and on resilience, strengthening food security and climate change adaptation. One core objective is to strengthen the relationship with the regional institutions in charge of the agricultural and disaster risk management sectors to create a robust framework of preparedness and response to emergencies.

<p>62. Switzerland</p>	<p>It was concerned at the violence which strengthens the general climate of fear and intimidation, arbitrary detentions, and ill-treatment of persons in detention: called for an independent investigation of the death of Alexei Navalny. Regretted the execution by suffocation using nitrogen gas in the US. Switzerland categorically opposed to death penalty everywhere in all circumstances. Expressed concerns on human rights violations and attacks in Ethiopia, Libya. The perpetrators must be brought to account. We call on all stakeholders to commit to protecting human rights in the country.</p>
<p>63. Greece</p>	<p>Reported the horrifying humanitarian situation in Gaza, calling for rapid and unhindered humanitarian access and immediate humanitarian pause that would lead to a sustainable cease fire and the unconditional release of all hostages. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a flagrant violation of the UN charter. Expressed particular concern regarding the situation in Syria, Sudan and Ethiopia, violation of women's rights in Afghanistan, the violence against religious minorities in Pakistan and the threat against the safety of navigation in the Red Sea. Mentioned Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh and its right to return to their homes in a voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable way without intimidation or discrimination. Also mentioned the 50 years of continuing Turkish military occupation of one-third of the Republic of Cyprus. Hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots continue to be denied their right to return, their right to property and other fundamental rights and freedoms. Moreover, the isolation and the violation of human rights of the Turkish Cypriots resulting from military occupation.</p>
<p>64. South Sudan</p>	<p>South Sudan's conviction that collective effort in promoting and protecting human rights bear better fruits if the Council adopts the course of constructive cooperation, not confrontation, and if we assist each other rather than blame and discourage each other. Countries facing challenges in the field of human rights, including South Sudan, need to be provided with technical assistance and capacity building. Reaffirmed its support to the one China principle. Commended China's efforts to safeguard citizens, fundamental rights and freedom of religion, belief and family oppose some countries' interference in China's internal affairs. Sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of Sudan should be safeguarded to avoid destabilization of the region. It commended the government of Sri Lanka for the progress achieved in improving the situation in the country.</p>
<p>Statements Made on Behalf of the National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power of human rights is rooted in their universality, the equal value of every human life that is at their core. However, double standards have been noted. • Condemned Russia's war crimes in Ukraine; Israel's war crimes in Gaza, Myanmar military accountable for campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya; • Chinese government's crimes against humanity against Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang. • Violations and abuses of human rights in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Honduras, Argentina, Morocco, Colombia, Sudan, and Nicaragua. • Gravely concerned to see that despite the serious violations of human rights in the camps on Algerian territory. • Reported war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide against the people during the final status of the war in Sri Lanka. No justice nor accountability for these atrocities. Today, Tamils and Muslims are disproportionately affected by the government's repressive tools. • Raised attention to illegal occupation of land in six districts of Pakistan. • Raised concern about the increasing restrictions on the civic space with human rights defenders, journalists and as well as by hate speech and discrimination against minorities, especially Muslims in India. 	

Rights of Reply

- **India** in reply to the statement made by “one particular Delegation which does so as they do not have anything constructive to contribute”.
- **Azerbaijan** in reply to the statement made by **Armenia**.
- **Venezuela** in reply to the statements made by **the Netherlands and other European countries**.
- **China** in reply to the statements made by **the UK, the US, France and some other countries as well as some anti-China NGOs**.
- **The Russian Federation** in reply to the statement made by **a number of Delegations**.
- **Armenia** in reply to the statement made by **Azerbaijan**.
- **Cyprus** in reply to the statement made by **Türkiye**.
- **Israel** in reply to a number of statements made during the debate.
- **Pakistan** in reply to the statement made by **Greece and another Country**.
- **Türkiye** in reply to the statement made by **Cyprus**.
- **Greece** in reply to the statements made by **Turkey and Pakistan**.

List of NGOs that took the floor (42):

Human Rights Watch, Réseau Africain pour le Développement, la Gouvernance et les Droits Humains (RADHEG), People for Equality and Relief in Lanka Inc, Advocates for Human Rights, Shaik Taher Azzawi Charity Organization, Il Cenacolo, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Africa Culture Internationale, World Evangelical Alliance, Peace Brigades International, Franciscans International, International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA), iuventum e.V., Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Iraqi Development Organization, World Muslim Congress, Maloca Internationale, Associazione Comunita' Papa Giovanni XXIII, International Service for Human Rights, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Center for Justice and International Law, International Action for Peace & Sustainable Development, Promotion du Développement Economique et Social, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Amnesty International, Action Sri Lanka, International Bar Association, B'nai B'rith, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, International Commission of Jurists, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Society for Threatened Peoples, Pan American Development Foundation, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, International Muslim Women's Union, Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement.

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