

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 55th SESSION

Overview of Week 2 (04 - 08 March 2024)

During the **second week** of the 55th session, the UN Human Rights Council will continue with the consideration of reports under **Agenda Item 2**¹. Following the presentation of reports on the OHCHR activities in Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras, the Council will hold a General Debate. Further, the Council will discuss several thematic reports under **Agenda Item 3**², such as sale of children, housing, freedom of religion, albinism, environment, food, torture and peaceful assembly and law enforcement in context of peaceful process. Additionally, the Council will hold Panel Events on Countering Religious Hatred and on Right to Social Security.



Panel discussions

08 March: Panel discussion on countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

08 March: Panel discussion on challenges and good practices to realize the right to social security and to provide quality public services.

Agenda Item 2: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues



04 March: The High Commissioner's global update, followed by a presentation on reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General on OHCHR's activities in Colombia, Guatemala, and Honduras; and other reports and oral update on human rights situation in Cyprus, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka.

A/HRC/55/21: The report covered the activities of the OHCHR office in **Guatemala from 1 January to 31 December 2023**, as well as the situation of human rights in the country. The report highlighted advances and persisting challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights, with a focus on issues related to equality and non-discrimination, inclusive and sustainable human development, justice, combating impunity, and democratic space. **Systemic and structural problems related to inequality and discrimination worsened in 2023**. The OHCHR also recorded a significant increase in deliberate attacks on judicial independence and observed an attempt to undermine the integrity of the electoral process. Attacks on human rights defenders increased as well, with an impact on democratic space. The OHCHR called upon the State to formulate and implement public policies promoting the realization of human rights under conditions that are equal and fair for all, and taking into account the multi-ethnic, pluricultural, and multilingual nature of the country. It **recommended** that the Guatemala government should ensure consultation with and the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples; implementation of decisions that protect their rights; conditions to enhance their participation in decision-making; legal security of their lands, territories, and resources; and implementation of General recommendation No. 39 of the CEDAW. The Government should also continue to

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.

² Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

implement the certification process of persons with disabilities, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their organizations.

A/HRC/55/22³: The report covered human rights situation and the activities of the OHCHR in **Honduras, from 1 January to 31 December 2023**. Violence and insecurity continue to impact the country. The OHCHR registered a considerable increase in attacks against human rights defenders, mainly against those who defend land, territory and the environment, as well as journalists, without an effective State response considering the situation of risk they face. The office **recommended** the authorities to develop and implement public policies, with human rights and environmental protection at their centre, to promote equitable and sustainable development that significantly reduces poverty and inequality; strengthen the National Protection System for human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice operators, in order to ensure its effective functioning and the shared responsibility of the institutions that comprise it; and adopt the policies and legal reforms necessary to guarantee the human rights of women, including sexual and reproductive rights, as well as the right to a life free of violence; among others.

[A/HRC/55/23](#): The report covered the situation of human rights in **Colombia in 2023**, focusing on the impact of territorial violence on human rights; on peace, security and dismantling policies; on the state of implementation of human rights provisions of the Peace Agreement; and on civic space. Despite a reduction in some indicators of violence in 2023, on-going territorial expansion and violent social and territorial control strategies by non-State armed groups and criminal organizations against the civilian population, ethno-territorial and grass-roots organizations, continues to put the physical and cultural survival of many peoples and historical organizational processes at risk. The OHCHR **recommended the** competent authorities to strengthen the institutional capacity to improve the protection of the civilian population in the territories; strengthen coordination between the total peace policy, the security policy, the dismantling policy, and the drug policy to address the territorial situation and structural factors of the violence; guarantee the equal and effective participation of women in peacebuilding spaces and implement the recommendations; and develop territorial strategies to provide comprehensive and confidential services to victims of gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict zones, incorporating the participation of ethnic authorities in the identification of cases; among others.

[Agenda Item 3: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues](#)

05 March: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur **the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children**, [Mama Fatima Singhateh](#); study on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the entertainment industry.

[A/HRC/55/55](#): The report presented a **thematic study on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the entertainment industry**. In the report, the Special Rapporteur explored the **risks of sexual exploitation and abuse** to which child performers are exposed within the entertainment industry and identified pathways for mitigating such risks. Clear and inviolable norms and principles based on the best interests of the child must be introduced and underscored within the entertainment industry, spanning all countries. Systems and structures that promote child sexual abuse in the entertainment industry and the power dynamics inherent in the relationship between potential offenders and aspiring child entertainers must be identified and addressed, as they have been major factors in the perpetuation of child sexual abuse and exploitation in the industry. She also presented a set of **recommendations for States and other stakeholders** intending to contribute towards an understanding of the areas in which intervention is needed to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation in the entertainment industry, including the legal framework, knowledge-sharing, awareness-raising and capacity-building, access to justice and services, and research and cooperation.

[A/HRC/55/55/Add.1](#): visit to **the Philippines, from 28 November to 8 December 2022**, to assess the situation of the sale, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse of children and to evaluate the national child protection

³ Unofficial English translation of the report. As of 03 March, only the advanced Spanish version is available.

system, with a view to making recommendations to prevent and eradicate all forms of the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. The SR **encouraged the Government** to put prevention and protection measures, as well as the care, recovery and integration of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, at the forefront of child protection policies and initiatives. Such action should also include addressing the sale of children as a phenomenon distinct from trafficking in children. The SR also noted the existence of **gaps** in the understanding of the phenomena of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and the limited data on those phenomena and their manifestations in cases related to the sale, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse of children. Those challenges, coupled with limited specialized support services and a workforce of professionals insufficiently trained to deal with cases of sexual abuse, are issues that require urgent action.

[A/HRC/55/55/Add.2](#): visit to **Uruguay from 16 to 26 May 2023**. The report highlighted legislative initiatives, the institutional framework, and child protection policies implemented to combat and prevent the phenomena, as well as measures taken to care for and ensure the recovery and reintegration of child victims. However, a **lack of disaggregated data** on the different forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, cohesive data-sharing and coordination among various child protection agencies **makes it difficult to engage in evidence-based and informed policy development and interventions**. The SR made **recommendations** to strengthen efforts to prevent and eradicate the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. In particular, the Government is encouraged to adopt and implement a comprehensive child protection strategy for the effective application of legislation and regulations in order to better coordinate interventions to prevent the sale, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children in line with the international standards; remove all statutes of limitations for crimes against children; and to put in place regular monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact and measure the progress of various preventive interventions, including awareness-raising and capacity-building activities among other.

05 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on **adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**, **Balakrishnan Rajagopal**; Resettlement after evictions and displacement: addressing a human rights crisis.

A/HRC/55/53⁴: The report elaborated on the current state of crisis with respect to **resettlement of persons** following evictions and displacement, which **negatively affects the right to adequate housing and other human rights**. While evictions and displacement are recognized as major human rights concerns, negative outcomes with regard to resettlement have yet to be acknowledged as a significant human rights issue globally. Such negative outcomes result in serious violations of the rights of those affected, including the right to adequate housing. Resettlement has significant impacts on the lives and well-being of people. While forced evictions and arbitrary displacement have long been recognized as gross violations of human rights, less attention has been given to what displaced persons endure after displacement. Many displaced communities have never been accorded durable solutions or offered the opportunity to resettle in conformity with international human rights standards. The **Special Rapporteur called to prevent and counteract the poor outcomes and negative impacts** of resettlement in an age that is witnessing increased displacement caused by disasters, development, conflict, uncontrolled use of eminent domain, urbanization, industrial agriculture, climate change and other drivers. The SR concluded with **recommendations** for avoiding and reducing the harm caused by displacement and poor resettlement outcomes and argues for the development of comprehensive global principles and guidelines to ensure that resettlement is undertaken in full compliance with human rights. In particular, **States, regional, local and other public authorities, international organizations, United Nations bodies and agencies, international financial institutions and business enterprises**, should recognize in law, policy and practice that all human beings have a right to remain where they live and that, if they are forced to leave, they have a right to return, or, where return is not feasible or desired, a right to resettlement that is fully consistent with international human rights norms and standards; avoid evictions and involuntary resettlement of communities in the context of conservation, ecotourism, eco-city development or other eco-justified projects, including for climate change mitigation; and proactively engage and seek the partnership of communities that are at risk of resettlement during the entire process of resettlement; among others.

⁴ As of 29 February, only the advance edited version is available.

A/HRC/55/53/Add.1⁵: visit to **the Netherlands, from 11 to 21 December 2023**, to analyse the legal protection and enjoyment of the right to adequate housing in the country, the state of housing crisis and its causes, social housing and urban renewal policies and the challenges experienced by various social groups, including by persons experiencing homelessness, communities affected by earthquakes caused by natural gas extraction, Sinti, Roma, caravan dwellers, students, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees. **The SR called on the Netherlands** to incorporate the right to adequate housing in its domestic law; regulate rents in the private rental sector and authorize disputes to be heard by rental tribunals including those brought by undocumented residents; ensure that rental contracts and advertisements for tenants should be non-discriminatory and not express preferences based on citizenship, nationality, gender, family status or other disallowed grounds under international law; ensure that all universities must provide adequate housing rental options for the duration of the study for which students are admitted, which is affordable; and establish oversight over the temporary employment agencies which recruit migrant workers, including through a centralized registration system, and issue regulations as appropriate to prevent abuses; among others.

05 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on **freedom of religion or belief**, **Nazila Ghanea**; Hatred on the basis of religion or belief.

[A/HRC/55/47](#): The report called for **greater efforts** to counter hate speech, promote freedom of religion or belief, foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue and understanding and protect religious and belief minorities while upholding all human rights. To ensure effectiveness, hatred based on religion or belief must be addressed by States in a human rights-compliant manner. The Special Rapporteur made **recommendations to States, and non-State actors**, including engagement in transnational advocacy networks, for addressing hatred based on religion or belief with ongoing vigilance. Hatred based on religion or belief must be addressed by States in a human rights-compliant manner. Any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should be prohibited by law. Political and religious leaders have a crucial role to play in speaking out firmly and promptly against intolerance and hate speech. While international norms and standards provide the framework to combat incitement to discrimination and violence, laws alone are not sufficient and States should also adopt policies and programs to promote diversity and freedom of expression in increasingly multicultural and interconnected societies.

[A/HRC/55/47/Add.1](#): visit to **Tajikistan from 11 to 20 April 2023**, to analyse the extensive limitations placed on the right to freedom of religion or belief in the country. The SR highlighted the need to move from the current religion or belief model, which results in extensive human rights violations, to one that upholds the obligations of Tajikistan with regard to freedom of religion or belief. That calls for increased understanding of both religions and freedom of religion or belief and the adoption of a new approach. **The SR recommended the Government** provide space to positively accommodate religious diversity in society without discrimination or fear; and allow everyone the freedom to freely manifest freedom of religion or belief without restriction, surveillance, monitoring, and fear, and in line with article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and recognize freedom of religion or belief as an inherent right for everyone, including prisoners; among others.

A/HRC/55/47/Add.2⁶: visit to **Sweden from 11 to 20 October 2023**, to understand how freedom of religion or belief is upheld given Sweden's strong secular tradition, its increasing religion/belief-related pluralism, its separation of church and state in 2000 and how the interrelatedness of freedom of religion or belief with other human rights is understood, in particular in the context of recent instances of religious intolerance. Sweden largely **possesses the requisite legal and policy frameworks for promoting and protecting** the enjoyment by all persons of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief. However, politically expedient responses to a diversifying society, together with the lack of understanding of the full scope of freedom of religion or belief, pose challenges to the framework in place for the respect of human rights. The Government faces a number of core challenges as it grapples with the emergence of its multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. The SR highlighted **concerns raised by religious communities**, including Muslim and Jewish communities, about growing intolerance. The SR **recommended** a human rights-based approach to addressing the challenges facing Sweden is necessary to avoid the setbacks that security-based

⁵ As of 29 February, only the advance edited version is available.

⁶ As of 03 March, only the English Advance unedited version is available.

or populist responses to tensions between communities beget. Moreover, the Government should incorporate the ICCPR into domestic law and review domestic legislation; build capacity in all authorities, at every level, to better recognise and counter discrimination based on religion or belief and provide redress; investigate and prosecute religiously motivated hate crimes, including hate speech and physical attacks against Muslims, Jews and others; and promote awareness of the widespread nature of hate crimes on religious grounds in Swedish society; to list a few.

06 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on **the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism**, [Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond](#); the right to education for persons with albinism.

[A/HRC/55/45](#): The report focused on the **right to education for persons with albinism** and their experiences in different regions. Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition that occurs at varying frequencies in populations all over the world, regardless of race or ethnicity. Prevalence figures for oculocutaneous albinism vary from region to region: Africa has the highest incidence, with an average rate of approximately 1 case in 4,000, whereas in Europe there is an estimated rate that is three times lower, with an average of approximately 1 case in 13,000. The right to education is a fundamental human right and has a solid basis in international human rights law. The report highlighted that **the multitude of superstitions and myths, as well as the lack of understanding** of albinism, have led to widespread discrimination against persons with albinism. In the context of the right to education, bullying and name-calling were the most evident forms of stigma and discrimination against persons with albinism. Exclusion from sport and other activities, as well as failure to provide specific forms of support, also ranked high as forms of discrimination experienced by persons with albinism in places of learning. While there are still many concerns regarding the realization of the right to education for learners with albinism, **some promising practices have emerged**. In conclusion, **the Independent Expert recommended States, the international community, and development partners** establish and implement policy guidelines for educators, through a consultative process with learners with albinism, their guardians, and representative organizations, to ensure access to appropriate and timely reasonable accommodations at places of learning for both the visual and skincare requirements of learners with albinism; introduce frequent monitoring and evaluation to measure how effectively reasonable accommodations and assistive devices are being accepted and implemented in classrooms; and provide financial support, to persons with albinism to eliminate barriers to the right to education; among others.

[A/HRC/55/45/Add.1⁷](#): visit to **Panama, from 28 August to 7 September 2023**. The report contained an overview of the human rights challenges experienced by persons with albinism, who, in Panama, are predominantly found within the Guna Indigenous communities. The challenges include obstacles to the full realization of the right to health, including as persons with disabilities, the right to education, the right to employment and the right to be free from discrimination. Underpinning all those rights and their interconnected nature is the right to life. The Independent Expert recommended the authorities to implement **Act No. 210 of 2021**; to carry out awareness-raising programmes on albinism throughout the country; make quality health services available, affordable and accessible, including through sufficient numbers of specialized doctors; and integrate provision for learners with albinism into inclusive education programmes to ensure that learners with albinism are well integrated in mainstream schools, among others.

06 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of **human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**, [David R. Boyd](#); business, planetary boundaries, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

[A/HRC/55/43](#): In the report, the Special Rapporteur **evaluated the inadequacies of voluntary normative frameworks for ensuring that businesses respect human rights** and clarified **State obligations to protect the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment from harms caused by businesses**. Systemic and transformative changes are needed to achieve a just and sustainable future, including new business models, climate and environmental laws that incorporate planetary limits, fiscal policies that internalize externalities and reduce inequality, and holistic societal goals that replace gross domestic product (GDP) and limitless

⁷ As of 03 March, only the English advance edited version is available.

growth. Extensive recommendations are provided for States. The purpose of business should be to solve the problems of people and the planet profitably, not to profit by causing problems for people and the planet. States are obliged to transform legal regimes governing businesses to ensure that businesses respect human rights, benefit society, and contribute to a sustainable future. To do so, the **SR recommended States** to strengthen legal recognition of this right in constitutions, legislation, and treaties; enact mandatory human rights due diligence legislation and mandatory environmental due diligence legislation; and end subsidies to climate-damaging, polluting, and environmentally destructive businesses; among others. To ensure that businesses respect the procedural elements of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, States should improve public access to information, public participation, and access to justice.

[A/HRC/55/43/Add.1](#): visit to **Chile, from 3 to 12 May 2023**, to examine how Chile has been implementing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, to identify good practices and to investigate the environmental challenges that the country faces. Chile has a strong new climate change law and deserves credit for leadership related to closing coal-fired power plants, generating solar electricity, and protecting a large proportion of its marine territory. Ongoing challenges include sacrifice zones, air pollution, access to safe and sufficient water, adapting to the climate crisis and effectively implementing environmental laws and policies. Among his **recommendations, the Special Rapporteur encouraged Chile to substantially increase the budget of the Ministry of the Environment, clean up the notorious sacrifice zones, strengthen air quality standards, reverse the privatization of water, continue to accelerate renewable energy generation, and shift towards a circular economy.**

[A/HRC/55/43/Add.2](#): visit to **Botswana, from 3 to 11 October 2023**, to examine the implementation of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, to identify good practices, and to investigate the environmental challenges that the country faces. The country, leader in nature conservation and global biodiversity hotspots, faces **multiple human rights and environmental challenges**, including a lack of access to safe and sufficient water and adequate sanitation, the global climate crisis, human-wildlife conflict, pollution and inadequate waste management. The SR **recommended to recognize the right to a healthy environment in law at the national level**, prioritizing the fulfillment of the rights to water and sanitation for all, accelerating the transition to renewable energy by becoming a solar superpower, and addressing challenges regarding the procedural elements of the right to a healthy environment.

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of **human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**, [David R. Boyd](#); expert seminar on the responsibility of business enterprises to respect the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

[A/HRC/55/41](#): In the report, the Special Rapporteur summarized **key points** related to systemic problems facing the global economy, promising practices concerning the responsibility of business enterprises to respect the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, gaps in the current normative frameworks and the necessary next steps. The current global economic system is exploitative of both people and the planet, resulting in egregious multidimensional inequalities, exceeding planetary boundaries and impeding the full enjoyment of human rights for billions. The **planetary climate and environmental crisis** cause **roughly 9 million deaths** annually through pollution; contributes to the surge in heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, floods and other extreme weather events; and damages the ecosystems and biodiversity that provide the Earth's life support systems. Ongoing business activities in part contribute to such crisis. Transformative changes appear necessary to modify the global economic system, harness the positive power of businesses and achieve a just transition to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all. He also **recommended concrete steps that States and businesses should take**. Among others, States should recognize and protect the right of present and future generations to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in constitutional, environmental, and human rights law; replace non-binding normative frameworks on business and human rights with legally enforceable human rights and environmental due diligence legislation for business enterprises; and, enhance strong access to information legislation.

06 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**, [Clément Nyaletsossi Voule](#); model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests.

[A/HRC/55/60](#): The report introduced the **Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests**. The aim of the Model Protocol and the toolkit is to enhance the capacity and practices of law enforcement agencies to fulfil their duty to promote and protect human rights in the context of peaceful protests. The **Model Protocol** contains practical recommendations aimed at assisting States and their law enforcement agencies and officials in strengthening the required institutional capacity, rules, protocols, strategies and procedures and fulfilling their international human rights obligations, specifically in relation to respecting, promoting and protecting human rights while facilitating a peaceful protest. The **toolkit** includes detailed checklists complementing the main parts of the model protocol; information on the use of digital technologies by law enforcement in the context of peaceful protests; and an outline of a handbook on facilitating peaceful protests for law enforcement officials. The toolkit can further assist States in realizing their human rights obligations, which require them to adopt legislative, judicial, administrative, educative and other appropriate measures and to provide effective remedies for human rights violations.

07 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in the field of **cultural rights**, [Alexandra Xanthaki](#); right to participate in science.

[A/HRC/55/44](#)⁸: The report emphasized the **importance of an inclusive approach to the right to science**. The SR recalled the evolution of the meaning of science, which now encompasses all scientific approaches. Science and technology carry **extraordinary potential for human rights**. The right to participate in science through varied modalities must be guaranteed for all and she advocates for multiple and wide-ranging science-policy interfaces and special measures to remove obstacles to the exercise of that right. **Scientific freedom must be guaranteed and a human rights approach** to science must be implemented at all levels by all actors. States and other stakeholders should fully recognize, respect, protect and promote the right of everyone, not only professionals, to participate in science as a human right to varying modalities, without discrimination. States must devise public science programmes that involve individuals of all sectors of the population; remove the specific obstacles that prevent women from participating effectively in science, including stereotypes and biases; and ensure the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples in all matters relating to science that concern them.

[A/HRC/55/44/Add.1](#)⁹: visit to **Germany, from 28 November to 9 December 2022**, to gain an understanding, through cooperation and constructive dialogue, of the ways that the Government endeavours to implement cultural rights, and identify good practices in, and possible obstacles to, the promotion and protection of cultural rights in Germany. The country has made significant progress in recognizing its difficult past and the changes in its society, and in building a sophisticated legal and policy framework to uphold its international human rights and humanitarian law commitments. The **recommendations** of the Special Rapporteur aimed at embedding the **good practices** for the implementation of cultural rights in the long-term strategies, policies and legal structures of the country, in order to guarantee the full realization of those rights for all, across every state in the country, regardless of political agenda and majority. In particular, authorities should support projects that reduce discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons, and work for the protection and recognition of sexual diversity.

Report of the OHCHR on **strengthening a child rights-based approach in the work** of the United Nations

[A/HRC/55/36](#): The report described **how children's rights are integrated** into the delivery of the mandate of the High Commissioner to mainstream and coordinate a human rights-based approach in the United Nations system and highlights promising practices of mainstreaming children's rights in the OHCHR and the United Nations human rights mechanisms and investigative and accountability mechanisms. It contained commitments targeted at strengthening the mainstreaming of children's rights, in the work of both OHCHR and the mechanisms, with an intended ripple effect on the entire United Nations system. Member States should systematically adopt a child-rights based approach at the national level to realize, promote and respect the full spectrum of children's rights obligations under international human rights law; take steps to establish

⁸ As of 03 March, only the English advance edited version is available.

⁹ As of 03 March, only the English advance edited version is available.

structured and child-friendly modalities for the participation of children, with due respect for their safety, to promote the right of children to be heard in local, national, regional and international forums; among others.

07 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **right to food**, **Michael Fakhri**; fisheries and the right to food in the context of climate change.

[A/HRC/55/49](#): The report provided a framework for the **advancement of the rights** of small-scale fishers, fish workers, and Indigenous Peoples and a **guide for States** to ensure that the world's aquatic ecosystems are biodiverse and safe and that **States fulfill human rights obligations** despite climate change challenges. Policies need to be refocused on addressing the needs and challenges of small-scale fisheries, which are integral to most countries' recovery from the pandemic and food system transformation, to counteract the fact that large industrial fleets dominate fisheries management efforts and political interests. The SR **recommended** States to recognize the vital contribution to aquatic life and health made by small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples and fish workers; should respect, protect and fulfil Small-scale fishers' and Indigenous Peoples' customary tenure rights. States must revisit the blue economy agenda and should protect small-scale fishers, fish workers and Indigenous Peoples from competing "blue economy" sectors.

07 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur **on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**, **Alice Jill Edwards**.

08 March: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert **on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights**, **Attiya Waris**; fiscal legitimacy through human rights: a principled approach to financial resource collection and allocation for the realization of human rights.

[A/HRC/55/54](#): The annual thematic report focused on **fiscal legitimacy and the import and requirements of a principle-based approach** to the use of financial resources in the realization of human rights. The IE explored the challenges faced globally, nationally, regionally and within institutions in the collection and use of financial resources for the raising of living standards. In conclusion, the IE set out **seven key principles** that should be taken into consideration in ensuring that financial decisions uphold and maintain standards of living, namely accountability, transparency, responsibility, efficiency, effectiveness, fairness and justice. The IE put forward **recommendations** aimed at accelerating decarbonization and detoxification strategies that are guided by human rights principles. In particular, States, international organizations and institutions should engage in international cooperation to share best practices in fiscal legitimacy and human rights. In doing so, Governments can contribute to building and maintaining fiscal legitimacy, fostering trust among citizens and promoting progressive realization of social and economic human rights, as well as sustainable economic development.

[A/HRC/55/54/Add.1](#)

[A/HRC/55/54/Add.2](#): visit to **Bahamas from 21 to 31 August 2023**, in order to collect and assess first-hand information related to issues falling under the scope of the mandate and to offer constructive recommendations to the Government and other stakeholders. The Government is implementing programmes for the poor and vulnerable segments of the population, including food and rent assistance; financial assistance; and temporary shelter and disability allowances. The Country is currently faced with **great challenges, in particular owing to its ranking as a high-income country, in the current climate change context**. These challenges greatly affect its capacity to maintain a stable economy, develop progressively and raise funds to provide for the basic needs of its population, while at the same time adapting to the increasing occurrence of natural disasters and rebuilding repeatedly. Climate change is a phenomenon for which all States are collectively responsible. Among the suggestions to the Bahamas authorities, the IE **recommended international financial institutions and States** to be cognizant of the many socioeconomic and environmental challenges; and to contribute substantially to the loss and damage fund.

General Debate

04-05 March: General Debate under Agenda Item 2.

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