

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 55th SESSION

### Overview of Week 5 (25 - 29 March 2024)

During the **fifth week** of the 55th session, the UN Human Rights Council will continue the **Adoption of the Universal Periodic Review Outcomes of Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu, Germany, Djibouti, Canada, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Cuba, and Turkmenistan**. Moreover, the Council will hold general debates under Agenda Items 7<sup>1</sup>, 8<sup>2</sup>, 9<sup>3</sup>, and 10<sup>4</sup>. In particular, the Council will discuss with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation on OPT, with the Independent Expert on Mali, and with the High Commissioner on his report on Ukraine. It concludes the week holding the **Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**; under the theme: *A decade of recognition, justice and development: implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent*.



#### Panel discussions



27 March: **Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**; under the theme: *A decade of recognition, justice and development: implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent*

#### Agenda Item 7: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues



26 March: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese**.

26 March: Presentation of reports under Agenda Item 7

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: **Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan**.

A/HRC/55/72: The report considered **findings of the HC in regards to the displacement of Palestinians** through settler violence and State violence; a trend that accelerated dramatically in the weeks following the attacks carried out on 7 October 2023 by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) and other Palestinian armed groups on Israel. The High Commissioner provided **updates on other developments that could also contribute to acts of forcible transfer**. The establishment and continuing expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan amount to the transfer by Israel of its own civilian population into the territories that it occupies, which is strictly prohibited under international humanitarian law, as consistently confirmed by the competent UN organs, including the ICJ. Such transfers amount to **a war crime** that may engage the individual criminal responsibility of those involved. In conclusion, the HR recommended the Israeli authorities to fulfil its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law regarding the protection of all Palestinians and their housing, land and property; immediately and completely cease and reverse the establishment and expansion of Israeli

<sup>1</sup> Human rights in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

<sup>2</sup> Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

<sup>3</sup> Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: followup to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

<sup>4</sup> Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.

settlements in the occupied territories; ensure that victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law have their right to remedy and reparation upheld; among others.

## [Agenda Item 9: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues](#)

### 27 March: Presentation of reports under Agenda Item 9

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief.

[A/HRC/55/74](#): The report presented information provided by States and other stakeholders on the efforts and measures taken for the implementation of the action plan and views on potential follow-up measures for further improvement of its implementation. It contained **recommendations** with regard to implementing the action plan, including through training initiatives for law enforcement officers, members of the judiciary, faith-based actors, teachers and media professionals on combating religious hatred. States should effectively counter religious profiling, act expeditiously on hate crimes and protect religious or belief minorities, including their places of worship. States must also uphold their international obligations to enact and enforce comprehensive anti-discrimination laws. Peaceful dialogue and coexistence are increasingly hindered around the globe by intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief. Religious differences have been weaponized and manipulated for political gain, feeding off the dangerous claim that one group is superior to another. Social media platforms continue to be vehicles for the spread of hateful messages, with unparalleled speed and reach, nourishing the echo chambers of ignorance and incitement to hatred against religious or belief minorities, with harmful repercussions both online and offline.

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on its twenty-first session.

[A/HRC/55/75](#): The report provided information on the twenty-first session of the Working Group (2023). The Working Group acknowledged the **essential contribution** of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to the effective implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by reaffirming the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination and by promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It highlighted that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action addresses a wide range of subjects, including the need for national action plans, adequate and appropriate legislation and legislative frameworks, and measures in the fields of education, awareness-raising, employment, health, environment, poverty eradication and economic development; and underlines the importance of appropriate remedies and positive action for victims of racial discrimination. **Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance** can suffer from multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth, disability or other status. The report stressed the **invisibility of people of African descent in policymaking processes**. This enables structural and systemic inequalities and perpetuates disparities in socioeconomic development. In conclusion, **among the several recommendations listed, the WG called upon States** to effectively implement the DDPA by taking concrete and practical steps through the adoption and effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks, policies and programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, taking into account the particular situation of women and girls; and to ensure that textbooks and other educational materials reflect historical facts accurately as they relate to past tragedies and atrocities.

## Agenda Item 10: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues

**28 March:** Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Mali, Alioune Tine.**

[A/HRC/55/79](#): The Independent Expert was not able to visit Mali during the period covered by the report. The report is based on information made available to the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, by several actors working in Mali, including United Nations bodies and civil society organizations. The wide-ranging, multifaceted, cumulative and interconnected crisis facing Mali continues to be a cause of **serious concern** in the subregion and internationally. The **strategic and security challenges** impact on the protection of civilians and their fundamental rights and freedoms, and the significant humanitarian consequences. The Independent Expert reiterated his serious concerns about the **rapid and ongoing deterioration of the security situation in almost all regions of Mali**. In conclusion, the IE **recommended** the Malian authorities to fight against impunity for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law; find a solution to prison overcrowding, including through the use of alternatives to pretrial detention; and take all appropriate and specific measures to combat more effectively the gender-based violence experienced by women victims of descent-based slavery, among others. The IE **recommended** the international community to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Malian authorities; and **urged** armed groups, armed movements that have signed the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and those that have not, and militias and community self-defence groups, to immediately cease all hostilities and attacks against civilians and civilian property and respect the human rights of civilians.

**28 March:** Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on the findings of OHCHR report on the situation of human rights in **Ukraine.**

**28 March:** High-Level dialogue on human rights situation in the **Central African Republic.** Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights to assess developments in the situation of human rights on the ground.

## General Debate

*25-26 March: General Debate under Agenda Item 6.*

*26-27 March: General Debate under Agenda Item 7.*

*27 March: General Debate under Agenda Item 8.*

*27-28 March: General Debate under Agenda Item 9.*

## Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review



**25-26 March:** Adoption of UPR Outcomes: **Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu, Germany, Djibouti, Canada, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Cuba and Turkmenistan.**

**Turkmenistan:** [Report](#) of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (henceforth “Working Group”) lists 228 recommendations received by Turkmenistan, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Malaysia, Montenegro and Sudan.

**Burkina Faso:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 265 recommendations received by Burkina Faso, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Eritrea, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

**Cabo Verde:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 205 recommendations received by Cabo Verde, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Costa Rica, France and the Gambia.

**Colombia:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 231 recommendations received by Colombia, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Mexico, South Africa and Viet Nam.

**Uzbekistan:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 234 recommendations received by Uzbekistan, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Germany, Nepal and Somalia.

**Tuvalu:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 167 recommendations received by Tuvalu, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Lithuania, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

**Germany:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 346 recommendations received by Germany, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Luxembourg, Qatar and Senegal.

**Djibouti:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 259 recommendations received by Djibouti, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Algeria, Honduras and India.

**Canada:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 332 recommendations received by Canada, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Belgium, Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay.

**Bangladesh:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 301 recommendations received by Bangladesh, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Cuba, Pakistan and Romania.

**The Russian Federation:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 360 recommendations received by the Russian Federation, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: China, Gabon and United States of America.

**Azerbaijan:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 319 recommendations received by Azerbaijan, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bolivia, Malawi and Maldives.

**Cameroon:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 291 recommendations received by Cameroon, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Cote d'Ivoire, Czechia and Finland.

**Cuba:** [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 361 recommendations received by Cuba, which will provide responses during the 55th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Argentina, Benin and Nepal.

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