

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 56th SESSION

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner

19 - 20 June 2024



Photo: Presentation of the report by Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Presentation of the report¹ by the High Commissioner

Interactive Dialogue: Statements by States

Member States: Joint Statements	
Australia	Reported the systemic discrimination against women and girls continues in Afghanistan . The persecution of women and girls continues in Iran . Conflict-related violence is escalating in Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, the DRC and Haiti . It condemned allegations and reports of conflict-related sexual violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories ; LGBTQIA+ violence and discrimination in Uganda ; and treatment of women and girls in China .
European Union	Condemned Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the atrocities committed in this context. It condemned the brutal repression against civil society in Russia. We reiterate our concerns about the human rights situation in China . Remained concerned about the situation in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Egypt, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Iran .
Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council GCC)	Sharing concerns of the HC, affirmed that international human rights systems are facing new challenges. Remained concerned about religious differences exploited for political ends and electoral reasons.
Venezuela (on behalf of a Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the UN) ²	Attached supreme value to the promotion and protection of all human rights, both individual and collective without distinction of levels or categories. Promotion protection is enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, all in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation . Rejected the double standards in the field of human rights. Serious concerns at the continued and growing proliferation of mechanisms, procedures and imposed reports against specific states such as Eritrea, and Nicaragua without the due consent.
Pakistan (on behalf of OIC)	Affirmed that it is imperative that the multilateral system lives up to people's trust and especially protects those who remain in dire need of its support. All crimes committed against the Palestinian people are investigated and accountability instituted .
Jordan (on behalf of League of Arab States)	Insisted on the importance of the role of the HC and his involvement in the human rights situations in various parts of the world. The settler occupation that is ongoing against the Palestinian people and the double standards of the international community have become clear in dealing with the situation. So, it called on the HC to bring to an end the occupation and the siege on Gaza . Was concerned about the racist and hate speech cases, including cases of the burning of the Quran and the targeting of churches and mosques.
Russian Federation (on behalf of a Group of Countries)	Expressed concern at acts of intolerance and violence based on religious belief towards individuals, members of religious communities, and religious minorities as well as a steady increase in cases of xenophobia and religious intolerance. Violations of international human rights obligations by some European states foster manifestations of religious hatred under the pretext of freedom of expression.
Senegal (on behalf of 36 Countries: Groupe de Soutien de	Supported Morocco's full sovereignty over its territories. Called for cooperation in economic and investment terms to promote regional and continental prosperity and development. Supported efforts to relaunch the political process uniquely through the UN in line with the Security Council resolutions to emerge at a political solution that is practical, and can be implemented.

¹ [Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#). Summary of the report, [here](#).

² Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

l'intégrité territoriale du Royaume du Maroc) ³	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the Sri Lanka core group) ⁴	Called on the government of Sri Lanka to engage with its recommendations to address the suffering caused by enforced disappearances and its impact on all communities. Stressed the need to safeguard judicial independence and the independence and transparency of the country's legal institutions. Remained concerned by ongoing reports of tensions related to land seizures in the north and east of Sri Lanka and by reports of arbitrary arrests, irregular searches, and ill-treatment in detention during police operations. Urged the Sri Lankan government to ensure that transitional justice mechanisms are independent, inclusive, impartial, transparent and meet the expectations of affected communities.
Uganda (on behalf of NAM)	Shared the HC's view. It echoed the need to promote unity, solidarity, and cooperation and pledged to strive to make a constructive contribution towards building a new pattern of international relations based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, cooperation among states, and the right to equality of all states. Reiterated the important role that human rights dialogue can play in the enhancement of cooperation in the field of human rights at the bilateral, regional, and international levels.
China (on behalf of a group of countries: group of friends on the promotion and protection of human rights through dialogue and cooperation in the group of countries)	The HRC and other international human rights mechanisms must uphold fairness and justice , abide by the purposes and principles of the UN charter, adhere to the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-politicization and non-selectivity in their work and operation. They must stand firmly against double standards , bullying and unilateralism and ensure that the international human rights mechanisms truly serve as a platform for constructive dialogue and cooperation among all countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect.
Gambia (on behalf of the African Group)	Noted that despite these advances, the human rights and humanitarian situation remains concerning in different regions of the world, undermining efforts to achieve a more just and peaceful world. Recalled the need for sufficient resources to address the budgetary constraints faced by the office of the HC as well as the HRC and its mechanisms in the fulfillment of their mandates.
Cote d'Ivoire (on behalf of 100 States) ⁵	Stressed that the family is a social, cultural, moral, and religious value that is not in doubt and should be celebrated. States should take specific measures to ensure full support and protection of the social institution to promote this unity and sustainability to increase cooperation and partnership at all levels on matters relating to the family. Commend the decision to adopt climate change as the theme of the International Day of 2024 : climate change has a negative impact on the health and well-being of family members given increased pollution and extreme climate events and family initiatives to promote empowerment faced with climate change is vital for everyone.
Namibia (on behalf of a cross-regional group of states)	Concerned with the continued denial of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara , as well as the systematic violation of human rights and international humanitarian law.

³ Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jordan, Kuwait, Liberia, Maldives, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia

⁴ Canada, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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Statements made by the Member States	
Türkiye	Highlighted the unprecedented scale of violations and suffering in Gaza continues unabated (calling for an immediate and permanent cease-fire, implementation of ICJ provisional orders uninterrupted and adequate delivery of humanitarian aid, release of all hostages and detainees); reiterated its commitment to a fair peace in Ukraine through negotiations and diplomacy and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and remained concerned by the rise of racism, Islamophobia and far-right populist rhetoric especially in the European Union.
Luxembourg	Affirmed that the HRC must be a space for the development of positive obligations for states to their rights holders. Resolution (together with Sierra Leone, the Dominican Republic, and a transregional group) on the importance of free-of-charge education from early childhood through preschool, primary and secondary education.
Peru	Shared the HC's concerns about the impact of the spiral of challenges on the enjoyment of human rights . It highlighted that in Peru all institutions operate in compliance with the constitution and the regulations and laws of the republic.
Ecuador	Was concerned at the persisting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in different areas of the world. It continued its efforts to consolidate its national mechanism for presenting reports and following up on recommendations on human rights, thus bolstering and formalizing its normative structure and institutional coordination (applied to be a member of the HRC 2027-2029).
Estonia	Was concerned over the consequences of the current liquidity crisis and its impact on mandate deliveries. Supported efforts for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza . Affirmed that for too long Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continued with impunity. Perpetrators must be held accountable. Alarmed by the rights of women and girls and gender equality under threat globally, including in Afghanistan and Iran . Alarmed that repressions against civil society, independent media and freedom of opinion and expression persist with impunity, including in Russia and Belarus .
China	It was committed to putting the people at the center and has found a path for human rights development suited to our national conditions to better promote the equal enjoyment of human rights in the process of achieving modernization in Chinese style. Rejected all accusations against China based on false information.
Portugal	Appreciated Mozambique's commitment to opening the OHCHR country office. Resolution (along with Brazil, Thailand and Colombia) on human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS . It would continue to advocate for the rights of women and girls in all their diversity.
Italy	The protection and promotion of human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination represent a long-standing priority of Italy's foreign policy in accordance with our constitution. Believed in democratic principles and free societies, universal human rights, social progress, respect for multilateralism and the rule of law . Continued to support Ukraine's fight for freedom; and African countries to achieve sustainable development, democratic governance, global stability and prosperity. Condemned discrimination, violence and persecution against religious minorities such as Christian communities.
Chile	Affirmed that the proliferation of conflicts and the role played by the OHCHR is increasingly important. However, its work has been progressively hampered because of the liquidity crisis .
Chechia	Highlighted that the people of Ukraine are facing the Russians' unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression. Russians' actions constitute war crimes and grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law. Legal deportations of Ukraine and children and

	civilians must stop. Russians' leaders must be held accountable. Raised attention on the systematic cross-humanized violations in Belarus, the DPRK and Iran, as well as in China (Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong).
Lesotho	Expressed deep concern over the rapidly evolving global landscape that is marked by escalating conflicts and pressing humanitarian crises. The principle of sovereign equality and noninterference into the domestic affairs of states are fundamental: issues pertaining to the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of China should be treated as such.
Finland	Condemned Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia must end the unlawful practice of child deportation and forcible transfer. In Gaza , strongly supported the new proposal as established by Security Council Resolution 27/35. Called for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus . Called on China to implement the recommendations of the OHCHR and treaty bodies in relation to laws, policies and practices that violate human rights including Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.
Sri Lanka	Shared the serious concerns expressed at the immense loss of life and suffering in Gaza . Challenging human rights situations must be assessed with impartiality, non-selectivity and avoiding double standards in keeping with founding principles of this council. Strongly opposes arbitrary and unilateral action.
Norway	Three points: encouraged Member States to adopt a principled and consistent approach to human rights law without discrimination and double standards; called on Member States to ensure that all persons can cooperate with international human rights bodies and mechanisms free from intimidation, reprisal, or sanction; and urged MS to fully cooperate with the OHCHR and human rights instruments and mechanisms including by providing access. Gender equality integrative part of the Summit of the Future.
Lithuania	Remained concerned about the worsening human rights situation in Belarus, Russia, and China, especially in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet, in Iran, Afghanistan, and South Sudan . Affirmed that for more than two years Russia has waged a war of aggression against Ukraine deliberately attacking civilians using sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war lawfully deporting Ukrainian children and illegally adopting them with a genocidal aim to change their national identity.
Kuwait	Reported that violations of human rights, armed conflicts, and impunity are on the rise. Gaza and the West Bank . The international community has a heavy moral responsibility before it because we are seeing the human rights system threatened.
Zambia	Importance of the Summit of the Future . Was concerned with human rights abuses around the world, including political repression and armed conflicts (Gaza). It remained concerned with the restrictions on freedoms and shrinking civic space in countries that are set to have their elections. Concerned with the impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights .
Qatar	Reported that the occupying power has tried to destroy everything in Gaza : death, and displacement. Respected for human rights in Gaza. Called for stability and rejection of Islamophobia and a halt to practices that harm and spread the discourse of extreme right groups.
Morocco	Placed great importance on interaction between human rights mechanisms .
Costa Rica	Highlighted the work of the office and the need to collaborate with countries to draw up rules to combat discrimination and we want to see an intensification of this work. Focused on the triple crisis of climate change and human rights . Called on all states, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and scientific institutions to contribute to the efforts of the OHCHR and this council to address on an equal footing all aspects of the triple planetary crisis.
Armenia	Reported an atmosphere of total impunity Azerbaijan attacked and ethnically cleansed Nagorno-Karabakh.
Ireland	Condemned reprisals by state and non-state actors against human rights defenders, members of civil society and all those cooperating with the HRC and the UN . Concerned about restrictions on civic space including restrictions on funding to civil society.

	Echoed concern on verbal attacks, threats, and reprisals online and offline not only against human rights defenders and civil society actors but increasingly against special procedures and international judicial institutions.
Latvia	Concerned by escalating human rights crisis around the globe. Condemned increasing violence, threats, and attacks against women , human rights defenders worldwide. Reported the current authoritarian repression of incomplete disregard for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an attempt to silence all opposing voices in Russia and Belarus . Said that Russia's brutal war against Ukraine has inflicted immense suffering on the Ukrainian people.
Mexico	Focused on the national election , held in June 2024. In light of the regrettable killings of candidates, the Attorney General's office and the local prosecutors are investigating to ensure justice. It held coordination meetings across the three levels of government to give effect to the strategy of security and determine operatives and units and intelligence operations and pursuit of justice to guarantee that the elections took place in a free, peaceful, and orderly way in a democratic atmosphere.
Egypt	Appreciated the HC's efforts to shed light on the great violations of human rights and IHL in Gaza . Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, countries must respect their commitments and pledges in the human rights sphere while promoting their integrity.
Indonesia	Shared deep concerns over the extensive toll of armed conflicts worldwide. Highlighted the urgent need to address the severe insufficiency of human rights. The discourse on providing access to basic rights in Gaza .
United Arab Emirates	Looked forward to further constructive cooperation with all states to promote and protect human rights and to strengthen the credibility of the human rights system in line with the mandate of these. Informed about national legislative reform to combat money laundering, trafficking in human beings, and cross-border crime and terrorist crimes.
Japan	Reiterated that human rights are independent and interrelated. Failure to uphold basic rights and freedoms including those of minority groups should not be considered inevitable for development. It addressed the issue of abduction by North Korea which is a serious humanitarian issue with a time constraint.
Maldives	Affirmed its commitment to ensuring that the council's work is credible, balanced, efficient, and effective. Initiatives are guided by the principles of human rights, democracy, good governance, and climate justice which are central to the development strategy and foreign policy. Committed to achieving ambitious climate goals, increasing renewable energy to 33%, establishing biosphere reserves, planting 5 million trees for resilience, and implementing vertical farming for food security.
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Called upon states to ensure freedom of expression and assembly and to effectively protect civic space and civil society actors before, during and after elections. Russia's unprovoked and continuing war of aggression against Ukraine blatantly violates human rights and international humanitarian law. Urged Russia to immediately end its aggression and withdraw from Ukraine . Called for accountability and justice for the victims. Also, urged China to implement all recommendations. Called on China to restore civil and political rights in Hong Kong.
France	Condemned the abuses committed against the people of Sudan and the people of the DRC ; Russia's war of aggression and the armed conflict in Gaza . Stressed that the universality and indivisibility of human rights are vital.
Greece	Affirmed that it is shocking that global peace, security, and human rights protection have declined. An immediate end must be sought to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza , the unprecedented loss of civilian lives, and the detention of hostages. The same applies to the Russian invasion of Ukraine . Focused on systematic violations in Afghanistan, Sudan, DRC, and Belarus . It reported that the triple planetary crisis further pressures human rights, especially for vulnerable populations.

Belgium	Condemned the war of aggression it is waging against Ukraine and the internal repression that has increased stems from this. Pressure on civic space and the restrictions of fundamental freedoms are seeing worrying developments in several regions of the world. Regretted the adoption of the law on foreign influence (Georgia). Concerned about the repression of human rights defenders, journalists, and lawyers in Tunisia . Belgium supported the three-step peace plan adopted by the UN Security Council.
Honduras	Supporting the work and efforts of the OHCHR, echoed the concern regarding the triple planetary crisis proportionate effect on the countries that have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions.
Algeria	Informed about the current national political and economic reform, including a Presidential Election in September 2024. Concerned about the human rights situation in Palestine and the West Bank . Condemned the war crimes that were perpetrated by the colonial occupying powers against the Palestinian people. Called for an immediate intervention to stop those crimes.
Ethiopia	Focused on a national adoption of a Transitional Justice Policy : aims to accomplish accountability through seeking redress for victims, reconciliation, and healing contributing to the full implementation of the cessation of the agreement signed in Pretoria (currently under implementation).
Slovenia	Reported deeply concerned by the continued deterioration of the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan . Condemned the widespread human rights violations of women and girls in Iran , stemming from structural and institutionalized discrimination. Remained concerned about the widespread and systemic human rights violations and abuses, ethnically targeted killings, sexual and gender-based violence, and grave violations against children in Sudan .
Republic of Korea	Supported the HC's eight recommendations in his vision statement including technology and science for all. Affirmed that given the current crisis, the OHCHR needs broad financial support from Member States while continuing to enhance its efficiency. The human rights situation in DPRK remains dire.
United States of America	Condemned war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in Sudan ; Condemned the DPRK's egregious human rights record. Condemned ongoing atrocities in Xinjiang , human rights abuses in Tibet , democratic backsliding in Hong Kong , and transnational repression committed by the PRC. Reported concerns and situations in Belarus, Russia, Syria, Iran, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela . Reiterated protection of civilians in Gaza .
Spain	Reported the catastrophic violation of human rights for the Palestinian people in the OPT . Considered the protracted war of aggression of Russia in Ukraine as a flagrant violation of the UN . Condemned the serious violations of human rights in Sudan .
Iraq	Focused on the 10th sad anniversary of the killings that were perpetrated by Daesh against the Iraqi people. Shared the concern with the HC regarding the alarming situation that was enforced by the Israeli side upon Palestine . Called for the respect of people and their sovereignty over their international affairs; everybody should refrain from intervening and interfering with those affairs. Mutual respect to benefit from stability and peace.
Israel	Questioned the HC why there was no mention of Hamas' terrorism in the statement. For nearly 20 years Hamas has turned to a terrorist stronghold, raining rockets indiscriminately on Israeli cities as a matter of routine, executing terror attacks against civilians. Hamas' ultimate goal is clear, the annihilation of the Jewish state. Hamas is the first and foremost cause of suffering in Gaza.
Bangladesh	It was appalled at the ongoing genocide in Gaza by the Israeli occupying forces which has been enjoying impunity despite flagrant violations of international law. Was deeply concerned at the presumption of hostilities in Rakhine which forcibly displaced tens of thousands of Rohingyas. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the enjoyment of human rights.

<p>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</p>	<p>Reported the ongoing crimes committed by the occupying forces in Palestine resulting in the loss of countless innocent lives and the denial of the basic human rights of those who have survived over the last ten months: violation of international law and genocide. It said that in many European countries and the United States, human rights abuses continue, often in the form of systematic racism, Islamophobia, the declaration of the holy Quran, and the brutal police crackdown on university students exercising their right to express their opinions against the Gaza's genocide.</p>
<p>Colombia</p>	<p>Espoused the call to increase financing for the human rights pillar of the UN and use the future summit as an opportunity to strengthen this. Mentioned the unacceptable war [and IHL's violation] of Russia against Ukraine and in Gaza. Focused on consultations on the rights of peasants and support for the peace dialogue and the transitional justice process in the country.</p>
<p>Sweden</p>	<p>Condemned the continued targeting in Russia of human rights defenders and political opponents. Demanded that Russia cease its aggression and withdraw from the territory of Ukraine. Condemned the unprecedented level of repression in Belarus. Called for an immediate cease-fire and release of hostages in Gaza. The situation in China remains very serious including in Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang. The human rights situation in Iran remains deeply concerning not least for women and girls.</p>
<p>Russian Federation</p>	<p>Focused on the selectivity in the work of the OHCHR and Mr. Turk. Through silence and indifference, the HC is tolerating mass violations of the national and linguistic rights of minorities and indigenous peoples with hate speech and neo-Nazi ideology. The OHCHR does not condemn the EU, the UK, the USA, Canada, and other countries for the UCMs. The office frequently ignores the situation of lawlessness in Ukraine.</p>
<p>Croatia</p>	<p>Was extremely worried about the severe discrimination against women and girls and the widespread use of corporal punishment in Afghanistan. A truly devastating number of civilian casualties and a dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, DRC, Haiti, Ethiopia, Sahel, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen is the cause of great concern. We remain deeply distressed by the violence and mass killings of civilians in Ukraine, Myanmar, and Sudan as well as the sexual violence and killings of civilians by Hamas in Israel.</p>
<p>Sovereign Order of Malta</p>	<p>Affirmed the urgent need for the Council to strengthen international legal frameworks by ensuring that all parties in conflict adhere to IHL principles, by enhancing the capacity of local organizations and volunteers to deliver aid and protect human rights, and by mobilizing international and local civil society organizations to put pressure on conflicting parties to respect human rights. By these, the respect for human rights in conflict situations can be significantly improved, ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches those in need and that their rights are protected.</p>
<p>Nigeria</p>	<p>Appreciated the technical advice provided by the office to strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants. Remained deeply concerned about the current global human rights and humanitarian crisis and reiterated the call for genuine and constructive dialogues to forge stronger synergy for the attainment of global peace, security, and prosperity.</p>
<p>Belarus</p>	<p>Affirmed that the human rights economy is a priority despite the sanctions by Western countries. Reported that hundreds of European farmers have been sentenced for taking part in peaceful processes. Highlighted the systemic racism and cruel action against migrants. Condemned human rights for geopolitical interests, interference in internal affairs, and undermining the judicial independence of Venezuela around China and other countries.</p>
<p>Malaysia</p>	<p>Echoed the call for an immediate and permanent cease-fire for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation in the OPT and for accountability. Remained steadfast in our commitment to building a more inclusive and just society for all Malaysians, including elderly persons.</p>

Georgia	Condemned the escalated aerial attacks by Russia in Ukraine targeting civilian infrastructure and reiterated its call upon the Russian Federation to comply with the provisional measures. Condemned the latest detentions of UN diplomatic and NGO personnel in Yemen and called for their immediate release. Condemned illegal so-called parliamentary elections in Russia-occupied regions.
Syrian Arab Republic	The HC report lacks objectivity in describing the situation and identifying the root causes and the challenges with deliberate neglect of the direct role of violating the clear principles and rules of international law and UN charter in creating the situation and deepening the challenges and suspicious dismissing of the responsibility of certain states, in particular the United States .
Kyrgyzstan	Focused on a note with all the details concerning the law that was adopted in the Kyrgyz Republic.
Panama	Was concerned by the alarming global picture that we see every day. With the rise in conflicts and violence, geopolitical divisions, inequalities , and a lack of empathy for human suffering are all accompanied by a rhetoric of hate and dehumanization.
Viet Nam	Affirmed that among the countries most affected by climate change , Viet Nam recognizes the nexus between climate change and human rights. It supported the fundamental principles of universality and impartiality, objectivity, nonselectivity, and noninterference in the internal affairs of states .
Albania	Condemned the targeted attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure in different regions. Use of torture, extra-judicial execution, arbitrary detention, sexual and gender-based violence, and enforceable deportation of Ukrainian citizens. Condemned discriminatory practices, bans, and draconian restrictions against women and girls in Afghanistan . Deeply concerned about the devastating impact of the conflict in Sudan , especially on women and children, and the alarming increase in sexual and gender-based violence.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Affirmed that the people's first principle , the cornerstone of our state activities is embodied in all fields of social life and the people's dignity, rights, and interests are given the highest and absolute priority in our institutional, legal, and practical way. Stressed the HRC and OHCHR should abide by core principles enshrined in the United Nations charter as well as the impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity to construct dialogue and cooperation in compliance with the mandate entrusted to the Council. It opposed unfounded accusations against China out of political motivation based on the disinformation and interference in China's internal affairs including Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong at the pretext of human rights.
Brazil	Reaffirmed its commitment at the highest levels to strengthen the international human rights system. Active participation in the CEDAW review, the permanent forum for people of African descent, ILO conference.
Senegal	Stressed that despite significant progress, the world continues to face significant challenges which jeopardize our enjoyment of fundamental rights. Current crises: racism, xenophobia, the negative impact of climate change, the inequality of development amongst many others .
Cabo Verde	Reported 3 main UN pillars : peace and security development and human rights. Committed to promoting and protecting human rights, reiterated the key role to be played by the Human Rights Council.
Cameroon	Affirmed the importance of recognizing the specific characteristics of different civilizations and the specific challenges of each region. It welcomed the efforts made by many countries, particularly in the south. Welcomed the progress made by China in order to modernize their governance and human rights and to make rights a reality.
Cuba	Focused on the negative impact that the blockade of the United States government against Cuba has on the enjoyment of the human rights of our people. This blockade has worsened with the inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of states that supposedly sponsor terrorism.

South Africa	Stressed that discrimination including structural and systemic racism remains the root cause of poverty, marginalization, social exclusion, and inequalities. Continued efforts towards the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and the agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality. The continued denial of the right to self-determination of the people of Palestine and Western Sahara remained a major concern for South Africa. Condemned reprisals on multilateral organizations and their personnel including the ICJ, ICC, and the staff of the UN bodies and agencies as well as special procedure mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive response to all human rights challenges.
Paraguay	Noted the importance of support for national mechanisms for implementation reporting and follow-up and the need to have resources that are commensurate with the importance of human rights as one of the three pillars. The national mechanisms play a key role in the field that the international system is trying to promote to benefit human rights.
Austria	Concerned about the deterioration of the situation of many women and girls across the globe . Systemic gender-based violence worldwide and the increase of conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan, Ukraine, DRC, and Israel, Gaza is deeply troubling. Also, concerned about the economic crisis and lack of healthcare, climate change, and violence, intimidation, and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists, and media workers .
Yemen	The human rights and humanitarian situations in the country have been affected by the conflicts in the Middle East . Condemned and demanded that it be stopped. Demanded support for the legitimate government to restore security and stability, to reduce security imbalances, and to normalize the situation within the framework of a comprehensive and just political solution that meets the aspirations of the Yemeni people.
Oman	Took note with great concern of the polarization and politicization within the Council with double standards , especially when it comes to the country's interests, strategic interests, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Systemic destruction of the family as a historic core of societies by introducing new definitions of families. Highlighted the many attempts to impose values and patterns on societies and to impose legal systems on these countries.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Focused on the situation in China . In Ukraine , violations by Russian forces including arbitrary detention, forced deportation, and torture continue unabated. In Russia , political opposition is punished, anti-war sentiment is repressed, and fear pervades society. International humanitarian law must be respected. Civilians must be protected and famine prevented by allowing life-saving aid into Gaza . Called on all parties to agree on the deal on the table in order to stop the fighting and the suffering of the Palestinian people and release the remaining hostages.
United Republic of Tanzania	Considering the many current challenges, state parties should take deliberate measures both individually and collectively to promote international cooperation. Affirmed the need to reduce inequalities by making transformative reforms that will benefit all including developing countries as well as the future generation.
Ghana	Acknowledged the positive actions taken by several countries to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms . Noted the commendable initiatives by China , ensuring that its citizens, especially those in Xinjiang and Tibet , enjoy social stability, economic development, ethnic solidarity, and religious harmony.
Romania	Affirmed the need for collective and urgent action to end human rights violations and abuses and ensure full respect of international law. The pact of the future is the opportunity for the human rights-based world of tomorrow that should not be missed. Human rights education and culture of tolerance, respect for human dignity and participation in decision-making processes of youth, women,

	and human rights defenders of persons most affected by conflicts, disasters and weak governance are essential in changing the course of the world for the better.
Libya	Urged the HC to consider the human rights situation with objectivity and non-selectivity in all countries . Condemned the crimes committed by the occupying forces against the Palestinian people (a genocide) . Condemned the fact that many countries do not consider these human rights violations.
Kenya	Recognized the role of the Human Rights Council in safeguarding human rights globally: in Syria , Kenya plays an essential role in fostering stability by actively contributing to peacekeeping initiatives; in South Sudan , Kenya is a key actor in the process of signing a peace process. Reaffirmed the support for the one-China principle: Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang are parts of China's territory and opposed interference in internal affairs .
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Expressed concern for the support that OHCHR provides to mechanisms that are supposedly independent but are set up in a politicized manner against specific countries. Rejected the imposition of these mandates which reflect the manipulation of humans which is undeniable. The HC should pay attention to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures including economic and financial measures which affect the enjoyment of human rights, and jeopardize the right to development. The US and EU should stop the imposition of UCMs.
Mali	Was concerned that terrorism and violent extremism faced by countries in the Sahel and Mali continue to be major factors in the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. The security crisis as well as the effects of climate change lead to mass displacements of people both within and outside borders and they live in great precariousness.
Denmark	Was deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and its disproportionate effect on civilians, recalling condemnation of Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel. Condemned extremist settler violence and illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. In Ukraine , Russia's illegal war of aggression remains a flagrant violation of the UN charter. Condemned in the strongest terms Russia's atrocities against Ukraine and civilians and civilian infrastructures. Concerned about the situations in Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Belarus, Iran, Libya, Central Sahel, and Jordan .
Gambia	Remained resolute against FGM and in safeguarding the legislation that protects women and girls from its harmful practice. Recognized the severe health and psychological consequences of FGM and was dedicated to eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.
State of Palestine	Reported that the colonial power continues unabated with this genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people with total impunity and with the complicity of several states by all means available to them. Condemned campaigns of incitement, threats, and reprisals against civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and special procedures, particularly the atrocious campaigns against Ms. Francesca Albanese.
Sudan	Supported the decisions of China in terms of its people. Focused on global challenges, in particular those facing young people and those related to environment, racism, and other fields. Informed about the office's staff who withdrew in 2023 following the coup d'état and a fact-finding mission was created.
Kazakhstan	Echoed the HC's call to peace. Reported National progress in the field of human rights: the law on ensuring the rights of women and safety of children (March 2023); ratification of the OP to the CRC.
Burkina Faso	Reported the Country's security and humanitarian crisis, involving repeating terrorist attacks .

Malawi	Stated that the role of the council is critical and should be carried out in the spirit of complementarity, respect for the priorities of different states, non-selectivity, and equality of states. The pact for the future offers an opportunity for research, especially in terms of transforming global governance and sustainable development and financing for development. It is a platform for us to reaffirm multilateralism.
Montenegro	Affirmed that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza , the devastating human rights situation in Sudan , and the growing violence of the armed gangs in Haiti are just a few reminders of the alarming human rights situation in the world. All these conflicts come on top of the triple planetary crisis, growing inequality, societal polarization, and risks stemming from the ungoverned AI and digital technologies.
Thailand	Highlighted the ratification of the ICPPED . It continued to make constant progress in policy formulation and strengthening of legal infrastructure and law that further enhanced equality and inclusivity . Adopted the second national action plan on business and human rights . It submitted its midterm update of the third cycle of UPR this month in line with a voluntary pledge to ensure accepted recommendations are fully effective and implemented.
Republic of Moldova	Remained concerned about the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region of Moldova. The so-called anti-extremism strategy silences public dissent, turning peaceful protests into accusations of treason and could be followed by imprisonment. The freedom of movement continues to be limited, including for journalists, hindering the free flow of information.
Uganda	Affirmed that the Council should pay attention to the most vulnerable situation of Sudan, the State of Palestine and the Western Sahara . Peace, security, and development remain top of the agenda to ensure our people's survival and enjoyment of core rights like food, health, shelter, education, and water.
Mozambique	Was concerned about the crisis the world is facing characterized by conflicts, natural disasters, and others which negatively impact the enjoyment of people and human rights globally. Noted that since October 7, 2023, more than 120,000 people in Gaza , predominantly women and children have been killed or injured as a result of conflict between Hamas and Israel. Almost 1 million Palestinians have been displaced and are living in deplorable conditions without access to humanitarian aid. It called for an end to this conflict.
Niger	The military authorities and the government are fully in support of the principle of the free choice of government by the people exercising sovereignty and keeping with our traditional values and Republican principles. In line with the principles of non-selectivity and non-politicization of human rights, the country reiterated its support for the principle of one China and believes that issues relating to Hong Kong and Xinjiang arise purely in the context of the internal affairs of China.
Vanuatu	Raised awareness towards the human rights violations in New Caledonia and Papua and West Papua provinces of Indonesia.
Lebanon	Reported that for decades Israel , the occupying power has been occupying parts of south Lebanon and relentlessly attacking and threatening its people and sovereignty. Since October, it has intensified its bloody attack against Lebanon, killing civilians including women and children, journalists, media personnel, and health workers.
Ukraine	Strongly urged the HC not to allow Russia the aggressive state to abuse this body by justifying its illegal war against Ukraine. Donbas has always been and will remain an integral part of Ukraine. Reported that Russian troops have been ordered not to capture Ukrainian soldiers as prisoners but to kill them with inhumane cruelty.
Germany	Condemned Russia's unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and the massive human rights violations by Russia in Ukraine including the abduction of children. Seriously concerned about the systematic crackdown on civil society in Russia itself.

	Condemned Hamas' brutal terrorist attack against Israel. Deplored the human suffering and unprecedented civilian casualties in the ensuing war in Gaza . Reported systematic widespread and gross human rights violations in DPRK, Iran, Belarus, Eritrea, and Myanmar .
Argentina	Recalled that human rights are a priority for the country and that constitutional rights must be observed. It seeks to overcome the traces of the previous government's policy on the economy. It fully guarantees freedom of expression .
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Affirmed its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with its constitutions and laws and the country's international obligations and commitments on human rights. Expressed its commitment to the principles 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 for the One China principle . Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang-related issues are China's internal affairs. Therefore, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states should be upheld.
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Agreed with the concern in terms of the rise of conflicts and the inherited impact, particularly on women and children, especially in Gaza . Called the Council to continue its work through constructive dialogue and cooperation with states based on universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, and non-politicization. Called for each country's right to select its development path to be respected.
Hungary	Today's armed conflicts deepen the divisions in the international community and this polarization makes open and constructive dialogue particularly challenging. It believed that we must avoid over-politicizing the Council's work and keep channels of communication open with an emphasis on strengthening technical assistance and capacity building. Attached particular importance to the thematic work of this body, especially with regard to the protection of the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities . It is appalling that their rights are often still systematically violated. The Council can serve as a forum for facilitating constructive intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
Azerbaijan	Focused on the military occupation by Armenia . Armenia had committed crimes against humanity and other grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against the Azerbaijani population. Stated that the report lacked assessment of police brutality and violence against protesters as well as deliberate attacks against and arbitrary detentions of journalists which take place almost every day in Armenia. This is a manifestation of double standards.
India	Shared its pride in the general elections . This was the largest electoral exercise in the history of mankind with 650 million voters with full faith in the electoral mandate and all this backed by a pluralistic and open society with robust institutional mechanisms and safeguards. Democratic nations across the world including India have had regulations for many decades to guard against legitimate concerns about the misuse of foreign funds. Principles of transparency and accountability cannot be applied selectively. Portraying a dependence on the crutches of opaque or illegal foreign funding is also a disservice to India's vibrant civil society.
Pakistan	While welcomed the recent steps taken by several countries to recognize the state of Palestine, shared its concerns regarding the situation in the occupied territory. Welcome the OHCHR's continuing monitoring of the human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir .
Democratic Republic of Congo	Said that given the generalized insecurity, there are real violations of human rights by the rebel terrorists and there is pillaging of the natural resources of our country. Impunity is rife. Needs lasting solutions to ensure there is peace, development and respect for human rights in the region. The perpetrators of these violations must be prosecuted and sanctioned both nationally and internationally.

Burundi	Stressed climate change and damage to the environment require the joint efforts of the international community. Affirmed the need for objectivity and non-selectivity in the human rights sector. Welcomed the efforts made by the People's Republic of China given their particular situation and their actions are a good example to others.
Equatorial Guinea	Commended China for the efforts they are making to safeguard the fundamental rights and freedoms of their citizens such as freedom of expression, assembly and religious belief. Supported the one-China principle: Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang are an inalienable part of Chinese territory and there should be no foreign interference.
Nicaragua	Commended the People's Republic of China for their actions in the human rights field. Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang are inalienable parts of the territory and there must not be any foreign interference. Were against accusing China in an unfounded manner for political reasons based on misinformation. Welcomed the efforts that the country is making to safeguard the rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens such as freedom of expression of assembly and religious belief and we are opposed to the interference of other countries in their domestic affairs. Recognized the efforts made by the People's Republic of China to work for peace, stability, and promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.
Switzerland	Was concerned about the draft bill to lift the prohibition of female genital mutilation in the Gambia . In Georgia , regretted the adoption of the law and the transparency of foreign influence. Called the authorities to preserve the freedom of expression and of association and to prosecute perpetrators of acts of violence, and intimidation against demonstrators, journalists, and NGOs. The right to freedom of expression must be guaranteed notably in Xinjiang and the autonomous region of Tibet . There must be independent investigations into the situation in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories . Called for an immediate cease-fire, the freeing of hostages and an increase in humanitarian aid.
Botswana	Agreed with the HC on the importance of cooperation by states with mandate holders and special procedures ; encouraged Member States to not only extend invitations but also to grant access to all places to which human rights mechanisms may wish to visit and to respond to their communications. Noted the delayed implementation of some projects due to the liquidity crisis currently affecting the Secretariat's regular budget; called for continued support of the work of the OHCHR through increased political will and budgetary allocations to enable it to effectively execute its mandate.
South Sudan	Affirmed that constructive dialogue and cooperation are the best way to resolve issues of human rights worldwide. Technical assistance and capacity building should be available to states in need to create an enabling environment for the promotion and protection of human rights. Politicization, confrontation, selectivity, and interference in the internal affairs of other states are counterproductive and violate the noble principle enshrined in the UN charter. Affirmed its support to the one-China principle, Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang are inalienable parts of China ; commended China for safeguarding citizens' fundamental rights and freedom as well as its active fulfillment of international human rights obligations.
Dominican Republic	Emphasized the importance to have global cooperation to protect human rights in line with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as well as the progress made in promoting economic social and cultural rights. When looking at increasing polarization and generalized conflicts, restated its commitment to dialogue and cooperation as ways to solve conflict and promote peace.
Saudi Arabia	Affirmed that the promotion and protection of human rights are very important, and committed to respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights pursuant to the United Nations charter and international law. Reiterated the importance of putting an end to the very serious crimes committed by the occupying forces. The international community should do everything it can to save

	lives in Gaza . Agreed with the HC regarding racism and discrimination in European countries . Xenophobia and hate crimes in Denmark .
Rwanda	Commended the initiative on Agenda 2030. Noted with great concern that armed conflict continues to destroy many lives. Need to strengthen measures aimed at combating violence against women and girls, especially gender-based violence, and prevention of genocide in combating hate speech called to commit violence and dehumanization. Concerning minority inclusion, commended China's pursuit of a people-centered approach and human rights development path aimed at achieving a happy life.
Tunisia	Human rights should be respected everywhere in order to ensure that there is democracy and the rule of law. Were concerned about what the EU and Belgium have said regarding a restriction on liberties including freedom of expression and association. These are freedoms enshrined in law and everyone is equal before the law. There is no restriction in line with the allegations that have been made. Condemned crimes against Palestinians in occupied Arab territories and called for an end to these violations .
Iceland	The number and severity of the crisis highlighted by the HC is a stark warning; human rights are under attack and no country is immune from regression. The collective failure to ensure universal respect for international human rights law and humanitarian law comes at a hefty price. Any form of hate speech is dangerous for social cohesion. The increasing attacks, threats, and reprisals both online and offline against international institutions, judiciaries, and mechanisms are not only unacceptable but also precarious.
Jamaica	Stated that it serves as a co-facilitator on the intergovernmental negotiations on the Declaration for Future Generations , remaining committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. The voluntary technical assistance trust fund for LDCs and SIDS supported 41 Delegates over the period. This included Jamaica.
Eritrea	Expressed concern over the UNHCR's report, particularly the alarming increase in civilian casualties, especially women and children. The report fails to address the root causes of these conflicts. Specific situations demand specific attention: in Gaza , called Israel to uphold international law, seize its operations, and call the international community to hold perpetrators of these crimes accountable; in China , reaffirmed the support of the one-China principle. Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang are ineligible parts of China's territory. Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang-related issues are China's internal affairs which tolerate no external interference. Opposed the political manipulation by some countries out of their anti-China strategy, their attempt to initiate anti-China actions at the Human Rights Council. The West African region , called for respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and self-determination of countries seeking to break free from neocolonial dominations.

Interactive Dialogue: Summary of statements made by NGOs

Thematic Issues raised:

- Liquidity crisis
- Stop aggression against civilians
- Freedoms of expression

Country-specific situations:

- Human Rights situation in the Philippines
- Women and girls' situation in Iran, use of the death penalty
- Restriction of freedom of expression in China

- Unlawful killings in Burkina Faso
- Sudan, Türkiye (Kurdish people)
- Restriction of civic space in India
- Ethnically cleansed Nagorno-Karabakh

List of NGOs that took the floor (12):

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, The Philippines Commission on Human Rights of The Philippines, World Jewish Congress, Maat For Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Justice For Iran, Ltd, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, American Civil Liberties Union, Mouvement Contre Le Racisme Et Pour L'amitié Entre Les Peuples, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, Il Cenacolo.

Full recording of the Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner on Item 2 is available on the UN WebTV, [Part 1](#), and [Part 2](#).