

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 57th SESSION

Organizational Meeting

26 August 2024

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Council of Human Rights, Ambassador Omar Zniber. He welcomed Mrs Mariana Oliveira, the new Chief of Branch of the Human Rights. The regular session is scheduled to last for five weeks from **9 September to 11 October 2024**. In this session, no lunchtime meetings will be held.

The representation of Myanmar in the HRC remains unchanged, since 2021. The 2 IDs on Myanmar will move ahead as scheduled, without the participation of the concerned country.

During its 57th session, the Council will hold 6-panel debates:

- **Panel discussion on promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities** (11 Sept), introduced by China.
- **Panel discussion on quality education for peace and tolerance for every child** (18 Sept), introduced by Kazakhstan.
- **Biennial panel discussion on the right to development**. Theme: Realizing the right to development: the case for a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation (18 Sept), introduced by Uganda.
- **Panel discussion on the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members** (25 Sept), introduced by Egypt.
- **Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples**. Theme: Laws, policies, judicial decisions and other measures taken by States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (25 Sept), introduced by Guatemala.
- **Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**. Theme: Enhancing gender integration in human rights investigations: a victim-centred perspective (30 Sept), introduced by Chile.

Overview of the Programme of Work

The session will **be opened** by the President of the Human Rights Council, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland as host country.

The Council will hold 27 Interactive Dialogues with the Special Rapporteur and other mechanisms, 5 Enhanced Interactive Dialogues on the report of HC and experts. 8 Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner or his office, 1 Interactive Dialogue with the Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights and 1 interactive dialogue with the Advisory Committee. There will be General Debates during the 57th session on Agenda Items 2-9.

4 Special Procedures mandate holders and Expert Mechanisms are expected to be appointed by the Council.

Deadlines:

- **States:** the online system for inscription in the list of speakers for all Interactive Dialogues and Panel Discussions will open on Monday, **02 September 2024. Video messages will be accepted until 24 hours before the start of the meeting.**
- The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate.
- The deadline for the submission of draft proposals is Wednesday, 02 October 2024 at 1:00 pm.
- **NGOs:** the list of speakers for all debates will open online on Tuesday, 03 September 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
- List of speakers for **Panel Discussions:** states will be asked to rank panels in order of priority when inscribing on the list of speakers. Slots will be allocated by the system taking these priorities into account.

Information Sharing on Initiatives

- **Mexico:** A *draft resolution* on **the human rights of migrants**. It will emphasize the importance of promoting narratives on migrants and migration focused on human rights, the importance of countering disinformation and promoting evidence-based messages. The draft will go into the protection of migrants throughout the migratory cycle, placing special emphasis on strengthening measures to prevent and address violations and abuses of human rights. **(with Guatemala)** An *annual resolution* **on the human rights indigenous people**; and a *resolution* on **terrorism and human rights (with Egypt)**. The draft consists of a technical update of resolution 51/24 presented in 2022 and adopted by consensus.
- **Kazakhstan:** *New draft resolution* on the **elimination of domestic violence**. The rationale for bringing this draft resolution to the human rights council is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights. 2 side events: *first* on civil society's role in criminalizing domestic violence in Kazakhstan (17 Sept); the *second* on sharing my country's experience in reintegrating and ensuring the rights and freedoms of women and children repatriated from conflict zones which will take place on (18 Sept).
- **Switzerland:** Side event with the **National Council for the Archives and the Swiss Foundation for Peace**, titled Records of Temporary International Criminal Courts and Mechanisms (12 Sept, 1-2 pm).
- **Bolivia:** Side event on the rights of peasants and rural populations to determine their own food and agricultural systems, food sovereignty in confronting the multidimensional crisis. **Along with Colombia:** side event on the rights of indigenous persons and free determination as well as the use of medicinal plants according to ancestral practices. This event aims to present the negative impact of the current classification of natural cocoa leaves on economic, social, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.
- **Australia, (along with Timor-Leste):** *biennial resolution* on **national human rights institutions**. NHRIs are one of the most important actors for the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level by empowering individuals to understand and exercise their human rights and playing a vital role in ensuring transparency and accountability. *Draft resolution* on the rights of **persons with disabilities**, focusing on the vital role of NHRIs in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disability.
- **Dominica Republic:** Organize a side event on the Human Rights in the Era of Plastic, Challenges and Solutions (18 Sept, 1-2 pm). Also, *Joint declaration* concerning the increase in sea levels and its impact on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights.
- **UK:** *3 draft resolutions*: firstly, on the core group on Sri Lanka, which comprises **Canada, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the United States and UK**, *resolution* on **promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka**. Secondly, the core group on Sudan, which comprises in this case **Germany, Norway, the United States and the UK**, a *resolution* under item 2 of our agenda **extending the mandate of the fact-finding mission on Sudan for a further year**. Finally, the core group on Sudan, which consists of **France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United States and the UK**, a *resolution* on the **human rights situation in Syria**.
- **Gambia, on behalf of the African Group:** *draft resolution* **entitled from rhetoric to reality, a global call to concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance** on Agenda Item 9; *resolution* on **technical assistance and capacity building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo**. This resolution is an annual initiative by the African Group.
- **Brazil (with South Africa and Colombia):** *draft resolution* under Agenda Item 9 entitled **education as a tool for the prevention of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**, an update to the resolution 22/34 first approved in March 2013. Side event entitled human rights education and the 2030 agenda sustainable development. This is a partnership with the institute for development and human rights from Brazil and international institute on race, equality and human

rights to discuss the relations between the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the world program for human rights education (16 Sept, 1-2 pm).

- **Georgia:** *Annual resolution* on the **Cooperation with Georgia**. The resolution maintains its humanitarian focus and reinforces the ongoing successful collaboration between the government of Georgia and the OHCR. It focuses on the human rights situation in Russia occupied regions, of Georgia.
- **Thailand, with a cross regional core group of countries comprising Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore and Turkey:** *draft resolution* entitled **enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights at the 57th session of the HRC**. This resolution does not seek to replace or duplicate the resolutions on NHRIs and NMIRFs, rather, it aims to encourage discussion on how technical cooperation helps to strengthen national human rights mechanisms, particularly through the enhancement of NHRIs and NMIRFs.
- **Argentina (on behalf of the core group: Germany, Greece, Israel and Argentina):** *draft resolution* on **counter cyberbullying against children and persons with disabilities**. The draft resolution recognizes the importance of addressing the phenomenon, the challenges it presents and the need to take action to eradicate it. It addresses the obligations of states to combat cyber bullying and also acknowledges the importance of ensuring safeguards for the protection of persons with disabilities.
- **Cuba:** *2 draft resolutions* on the **use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and preventing the enjoyment of full determination of peoples;** as well as **on promoting a democratic and equitable international order**. It is increasingly urgent and necessary to transform the current international paradigm and global financial architecture which do not contribute to efforts towards sustainable development. Rather, they perpetuate inequality and alarmingly increase the gap between developing and developed countries.
- **Ukraine:** Shared information concerning the latest Russian attacks. Ukraine will also continue to shed light on the plight of the victims of the Russian aggression and advocate for accountability for all human rights violations committed by Russia against Ukraine and its people. Ukrainian prisoners of war arbitrarily detained innocent civilians and lawfully deported and forcibly transferred little Ukrainians must remain a priority for this council since their rights continue to be grossly violated by Russia.
- **UAE (on behalf of the Arab Group):** *Draft resolution* to provide **technical support and capacity building in Yemen**. Organize a side event (with the Secretariat of the Arab League and UN Women) on the regional and international perspectives on gender. The side event will aim to improve the awareness as to the importance of combating all forms of violence against women and girls and exchanging best practices in this regard in such a way as to improve legal frameworks and implementation mechanisms in favor of the rights of women and girls. (16 Sept, XXIV Room).
- **Marshall Island:** *2 draft resolutions:* with **the Bahamas, the European Union, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Panama, Paraguay and Sudan:** resolution to continue the **mandate of the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change**. **With Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa and Vanuatu:** resolution on the **nuclear legacy of the Marshall Islands**. 2 side events relating to these respective resolutions.
- **Republic of Korea:** *draft resolution* on **local government and human rights (with Chile, Egypt, Romania and the Republic of Korea)**. This resolution will highlight the role of local government being at the grassroots level and approximate to the local stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights and fostering discussion on ways to build the capacity of local government to actually fulfill this role. Side event on addressing the gaps and challenges of the work of the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms and OHCR in the area of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.
- **Chile (on behalf of the core group: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay):** *draft resolution* on **renews the mandate of the OHCR and the office and of the fact-finding mission in Venezuela**.

- **Türkiye:** Side event on toxics, zero waste, women and human rights (13 Sept, XXIV Room). This initiative aims to develop more synergies amongst stakeholders and a better outreach on the environment agenda of the human rights council.
- **Egypt (with Mexico):** *Biannual resolution* on **terrorism and human rights**. It is a technical update of the HRC Resolution 51/24 adopted by consensus. **With El Salvador:** *draft resolution* on **representation of Youth and human rights**. **With Chile, Romania and Republic of Korea:** *draft biennial periodic resolution* on **local governments and human rights**.
- **Luxembourg:** *draft resolution* to **extend the mandate of the SR on the human rights situation in the Russian Federation**.
- **Kuwait:** Side event on **water and sanitation** (21 September, at 3:00 pm). This will be an opportunity to sensitize and reach out regarding the issues, the current crises and will provide updated information.
- **Spain (with Germany):** *biannual resolution* on **human rights to potable water and sanitation working**. Side event on the water economy.
- **Qatar:** Joint statement during the UN International Day of Peace; side event to commemorate the 5th international day to protect education from attacks (10 Sept, 12-1 pm). A high-level side event on the promotion and the protection of the human rights of women and children in conflict and post-conflict situation (25 Sept, 12-1 pm). A reception on Qatar progress in promoting and respecting human rights at the national and regional international level (25 Sept, 1-2 pm).
- **Costa Rica:** *Draft resolution* on **the social reintegration of persons freed from detention and persons under or who are subjected to noncustodial measures**. Side event on the theme (16 Sept, 2pm). *Draft resolution* to **continue the global program for human rights education**. It calls on fostering constant dialogue and transparency. It is necessary to harness all existing spaces, all on the basis of empathy, solidarity and, of course, the rule of international law, universality and independence of human rights.
- **Czechia:** *Triennial resolution* on **equal participation in political and public affairs**. Political and public participation plays a crucial role in the promotion of good governance, the rule of law, social inclusion and economic development as well as in the advancement of all human rights. The resolution is supposed to focus on election as the key means through which individuals exercise their right to participate in public affairs.
- **El Salvador (with Egypt):** *draft resolution* on youth and human rights.
- **The EU:** *Draft resolutions* on **extending the mandate of the SR on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, and in Burundi**. EU is also part of the core group, along with the Marshall Island, Bahamas, Fiji, Panama, Paraguay and Sudan (*draft resolution* on human rights and climate change).
- **Poland, on behalf of the regional core group (Australia, Chile, Republic of Korea, South Africa and Poland):** *draft resolution* on **good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights**, focusing on fighting corruption, strengthening public institutions and ensuring access to public services and on the role of the new technologies and different stakeholders in fostering good governance.
- **Philippines, on behalf of Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Senegal, Slovenia and Thailand:** *draft resolution* on **world program on human rights education and training**. Side event titled after technical cooperation, taking ownership of the national human rights agenda (04 Oct, 1-2 pm).
- **Sweden on behalf of the core group (Brazil, Nigeria, Tunisia, United States and Sweden):** *draft resolution* on **promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet**.
- **Belgium (with DRC):** Side event on the violence that has been suffered in the DRC for around 30 years in a climate of impunity. (6 Sept, 3 pm)
- **Colombia:** *Draft resolution* relating to the **importance of applying a human rights perspective to the implementation of the global biodiversity framework**; with Brazil: *draft resolution* on **education and prevention of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance**; 2 side events on the impact of policies against drugs and their impact on indigenous peoples and their rights; and on good practice to end violence against children.

- **Cyprus:** Side event titled Digital Cultural Heritage Opportunities and Challenges in Light of Cultural Rights aiming to provide a space for dialogue among various stakeholders (12 set, 1:00 pm).
- **Bahrein:** 2 Side events: The first is the fourth report for the UPR on human rights; and the second on the program to combat violence and addiction.

Other matters:

The 3-year program of work for 2024 to 2026 is being updated and will be posted on the Extranet. The voluntary yearly calendar for thematic resolutions is being updated and will be circulated prior to the start of the session.

Draft resolutions: at least one informal open-ended consultation should be held on each draft resolution and/or decision before the Council can take action on it. These consultations should be scheduled in a timely, transparent, and inclusive manner.

Modalities:

- The 57th session will be held in Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and on an online platform (Zoom). State delegations can participate in person, via pre-recorded video statements, or via Zoom. The capacity of Room XX is no longer restricted. Point of order can be raised via Zoom by using the raise hand function. The delegations can exercise their right of reply remotely in the same manner as during the past regular session, by sending an email to: OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org
- Liquidity constraints caused by an insufficient level of contributions since July 2023 and extended into 2024. The hiring freeze extended throughout 2024. Spending restrictions, reduction of conference services in the four duty stations. 50% less funds to hire external assistance. This means insufficient capacity to cover all requests for documentation and interpretation services. Conservational measures (to be approved by the Director-General): priority will be given to mandated meetings with strict adherence to meeting time and duration; no extensions of meeting duration in view of the limited funds available for the entire year; and restrictions on documentation processing times and volume.
- Special Procedures mandate holders, Investigative Mechanisms and Panelists unable to travel to Geneva are able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
- **NGOs with ECOSOC status and NHRIs with "A" status** have the possibility of delivering their statements in person from Room XX or via pre-recorded video statements. The list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates will be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous sessions.
- All oral statements should be electronically submitted to the interpreters at least 1h00 prior the estimated time of delivery, to ensure the quality of the interpretation. Submission of transcript is mandatory for all online statements.

Accessibility: a Task Force on enhancing accessibility has been established, and the focal point for accessibility in the Secretariat can be contacted. Oral statements are to be uploaded in Word format on the online system for lists of speakers, and delegations encouraged to ensure live captioning and sign interpretation during their panels.

Reprisals: a climate of trust and safety within the Council is essential, where states prevent and ensure adequate protection from any act of intimidation or reprisals. A constructive, safe, and respectful atmosphere is essential. Intimidation and reprisals can take many forms, and our common duty is to ensure intimidation or reprisals will not happen in any circumstances.

Documentation: 60 out of 126 reports for the 57th session are already available in all UN languages.

Watch the full recording here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1b7y5kzqi>