

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 57th SESSION

### Overview of Week 2 (16 - 20 September 2024)

*During the second week of the UN Human Rights Council, the Council will continue discussion on thematic reports under **Agenda Item 3**<sup>1</sup>, including water and sanitation, international order, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, right to development, and of peasants, to name a few. **It will conclude with a general debate on this Item.** Further, the Council will start analysing **Agenda Item 4**<sup>2</sup>. In particular, it will consider the **human rights situations in Burundi, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, and Belarus.** During the second week, the Council will hold **two panel discussions on quality education for peace and tolerance for every child, and on the right to development, under the theme: Realizing the right to development: the case for a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation.***



#### Panel discussion



**18 September: Panel discussion on quality education for peace and tolerance for every child.**

**18 September: Biennial panel on the right to development. Theme: Realizing the right to development: the case for a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation.**

#### Agenda Item 3: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues



**16 September: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo Agudo**, on water and economy nexus: managing water for productive uses from a human rights perspective.**

**A/HRC/57/48:** In the report, the Special Rapporteur argued that, in implementing the strategy, it is crucial to adopt a **sustainable, human rights-based approach to water management**, with water being understood as a common good rather than a commodity or simply a productive input. Adopting such an approach implies addressing sustainability challenges in economic water uses like irrigation, hydroelectric production, industry and mining, managing all water uses from an integrated approach, prioritizing human rights dependent on water and ensuring no one is left behind. Given the need for the United Nations to develop a general strategy on water and sanitation, the Special Rapporteur recommended to recognize water as a common good, with responsibilities nested at the local, basin and global levels. The Special Rapporteur recommended promoting a water management approach presided over by the principle of sustainability and based on human rights. To enhance the efficient and responsible use of water in the face of increasing scarcity caused by climate

<sup>1</sup> Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

<sup>2</sup> Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

change, the Special Rapporteur recommended to prioritize compliance with human rights and the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems, avoiding their overexploitation and pollution, as bases for economic and social progress.

[A/HRC/57/48/Add.1](#): **Visit to Canada.**

*16 September*: Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the **promotion of a democratic and equitable international order**, [George Katrougalos](#).

[A/HRC/57/49](#): In the report, the Independent Expert presented his vision for the mandate. He aims to further promote the mandate, by bridging the geopolitical divide in relation to the development of a democratic international order. In doing so, the IE provided a historical overview of human rights and international law and analyzed the events that led to the eventual drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with the subsequent international human rights treaties and instruments. He noted that, at the international level, the concept of democracy entails due respect for the independence and sovereign equality of States and their equal participation in global decision-making along with the participation of their citizens. In conclusion, he **highlighted six thematic priorities for the mandate**, including (a) reinvigorating North-South dialogue on democracy and human rights; (b) mainstreaming the application of human rights through the United Nations system; (c) integrating artificial intelligence into the promotion of global democracy; (d) committing multinational corporations to the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; (e) promoting dialogue among civilizations in relation to democracy and human rights; and (f) protecting international and national adjudicating bodies facing authoritarian and illiberal practices.

[A/HRC/57/49/Add.1](#): **Visit to Maldives, from 12 to 21 March 2024.** The Independent Expert assessed the situation in the country and its efforts, good practices, and achievements, but also some improvements to be made and challenges to be overcome, with regard to maintaining peace and security through regional and international cooperation, the country's enabling environment to promote the economic and social protection system, the efforts made to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, the situation of migrant workers, the topic of public participation and good governance, in particular for women, young people and other traditionally marginalized groups, and, lastly, the country's efforts in tackling the effects of climate change. The IE called upon the Government of Maldives to adopt a more comprehensive approach that prioritizes human rights, sustainable development and international cooperation, to ensure that economic growth is inclusive, resilient, sustainable and equitable for all citizens. In particular, the Government received recommendations in relation to climate change, civic space, persons with disabilities, public participation and good governance, migrant workers, social protection and poverty reduction, the economy, and to maintain peace and security.

*16 September*: Interactive dialogue with the **Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**.

[A/HRC/57/54](#): In the report, the WG stressed the importance of acknowledging that **enforced disappearance remains a global phenomenon and of tackling it by adopting effective measures to address and overcome the root causes**, thus creating the conditions for victims to pursue truth, justice and reparation, and to prevent further cases. It expressed its serious concern at the ongoing influx of reports concerning enforced disappearances in the context of armed conflicts. In certain countries, the number of reports received is suggestive of the existence of a systematic practice of enforced disappearance, which may reach the threshold of a crime against humanity. The WG was also concerned at the treatment of disappeared persons, as they are reportedly subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In conclusion, the Working Group called on all States concerned to ratify or accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to provide the necessary support to families of disappeared persons through adequate psychological, legal, administrative and financial means.

[A/HRC/57/54/Add.1](#): **visit to the African Union's judicial and human rights organs and other subregional bodies from 21 to 26 October 2023.** The report does not cover all situations in which enforced disappearances may occur in the African context but rather provides a general overview based on the information gathered during the visit and the submissions received. The WG considered such visits important

because enforced disappearances in the African continent remain invisible, although they are persistently practiced in various contexts and approximately 60 percent of the States in the African region have not acceded to or ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. There is an urgent need to recognize and address the practice of enforced disappearance in the African continent. The visit was encouraged by the great effort of victims, family members and civil society organizations to fight for justice and raise awareness about enforced disappearances. The WG recommended judicial and human rights organs, as well as African Union member states to ensure sufficient financial, political and technical resources to carry out their mandate independently and effectively, among others. It also recalled that all States have an obligation to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearance and to provide redress to all victims of enforced disappearance.

[A/HRC/57/54/Add.2](#): **visit to Kyrgyzstan from 25 to 30 June 2019**. The follow-up report aims to facilitate the identification of the concrete steps taken in response to the specific recommendations and to reflect the information gathered from different stakeholders involved in the process, on the basis of which the Working Group formulates its observations on the level of implementation of its recommendations. Based on the information provided, the Working Group finds that while Kyrgyzstan has taken steps to implement the recommendations made in the report after its visit to the country, they have been insufficient to produce any significant changes.

[A/HRC/57/54/Add.3](#): **visit to Tajikistan from 1 to 5 July 2019**. The follow-up report aims to facilitate the identification of the concrete steps taken in response to the specific recommendations of the Working Group and to reflect the information gathered from different actors involved in the process, on the basis of which the Working Group formulates its observations on the level of implementation of its recommendations. Based on the information provided, the Working Group finds that Tajikistan has not taken any significant steps to ensure the enjoyment of the right to know the truth and to ensure accountability for enforced disappearances that began during the civil war. No steps have seemingly been taken either to grant measures of reparation for the harm suffered by victims of gross human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, perpetrated during the civil war.

[A/HRC/57/54/Add.4](#): The report examined the **interrelation between enforced disappearances and elections**. It analysed the key features, including patterns, profiles of the victims, specificities, such as the prevalence of the so-called “short-term” enforced disappearances and the lack of available data, as well as the overall impact of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances on the electoral process. The Working Group also examined the accountability challenges and the preventive measures that can be taken to address this phenomenon, concluding with recommendations. The consequences of enforced disappearances in the electoral context not only cause direct harm to the disappeared and their relatives and communities but also create an environment of fear and disengagement among the population. Moreover, such acts undermine the electoral process and therefore democracy, influencing the prospects of new generations. In particular, the WG recommended States to adopt risk management tools and processes that assess and analyse the likelihood and the impact of enforced disappearances in the context of elections in order to protect those at risk; and to establish inter-institutional coordination mechanisms together with political parties specifically designed to promptly document and address violence around elections. Similarly, the electoral bodies should consider whether the existing electoral legal and institutional frameworks are sufficient to effectively deal with enforced disappearances in the context of elections, and initiate reforms as needed; as well as train either directly or through other State or non-State institutions, election monitors on human rights violations, including enforced disappearance.

*17 September*: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on **the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes**, **Marcos Orellana**. Pollution information portals: strengthening access to information on releases of hazardous substances.

[A/HRC/57/52](#): The Special Rapporteur examined pollution information portals in the annual thematic report. These portals provide **direct and contextual information on emissions and wastes to the public, businesses, regulators, and other users**. They are key to good environmental governance, corporate accountability, and the implementation of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. Despite their potential, a number of States have not established them. Also, a critical assessment reveals shortcomings of certain existing models, including insufficient pollution prevention mandates, the limited scope of the pollutants and



activities covered, voluntary instead of mandatory reporting, and lack of integration with other environmental information systems. The SR recommended that States establish and/or strengthen pollution information portals, ensuring that are aligned with national and international goals regarding pollution prevention and improvement of environmental standards.

[A/HRC/57/52/Add.1](#): **Visit to South Africa, from 31 July to 11 August 2023.** The objective of the visit was to identify good practices and assess the country's efforts to prevent and address the negative impacts of toxic substances on human rights. The legacy of the discriminatory policies and environmental racism of apartheid continues to hinder the development of South Africa. Black communities and other marginalized groups bear the brunt of the negative socioeconomic, health and environmental impacts of polluting industries and the Government's shortcomings in the provision of basic services. The rights to information, public participation and an effective remedy are embedded in the laws and environmental policies of South Africa. The recommendations listed by the SR concerned governance and accountability, the hazardous substances, air pollution and just transition, mining, pesticides, and waste management.

[A/HRC/57/52/Add.2](#): **Visit to Australia from 28 August to 8 September 2023.** The aim of the visit was to identify good practices and assess the Government's efforts to prevent and address the adverse impacts of toxics on human rights, with a view to offering recommendations. The visit focused on: (a) coal mining and coal-fired power plants; (b) uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing; (c) waste management; (d) highly hazardous pesticides; (e) perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); and (f) oil, gas and petrochemicals. Whereas the authorities prioritize efforts towards stronger regulations to address the risks of chemicals and pollution, communities and civil society denounce State actions for the benefit of mining, oil, gas, agrochemical and other corporate interests. This disconnect appears particularly acute between Indigenous Peoples and the Government. Indigenous Peoples have suffered grave maltreatment from radiation exposure due to nuclear testing, spraying of highly hazardous pesticides, uranium and other mining, and industrial activities with toxic impacts. The SR, in conclusion, offered his technical assistance and recommendations in the fields of legal framework and environmental governance, radioactive waste and the legacy of nuclear testing, air pollution and just transition, mining, waste, agrochemicals, and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

#### 17 September: Interactive dialogue with the [Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](#).

[A/HRC/57/44](#): In the report, the Working Group examined the thematic issue of arbitrary detention and mandatory sentencing. The WG noted with concern that the majority of cases brought before it involve the detention of political opponents, dissidents, and other individuals exercising their civil and political rights. It recalled that when detention arises from the active exercise of these rights, there is a strong presumption that such detention constitutes a violation of international law, particularly on the grounds of discrimination based on political or other views. **In its recommendations**, the Working Group reiterated its call to States to continue to increase their cooperation as regards their responses to regular communications, and by providing positive responses to requests for country visits. It also exhorted States to end the use of detention as a tool against political opponents, dissidents, and other individuals exercising their civil and political rights. The Working Group further called on Member States to provide adequate and predictable human resources in order to allow it to fulfil its mandate in an effective and sustainable manner.

[A/HRC/57/44/Add.1](#): **Visit to Mexico, from 18 to 29 September 2023.** The Working Group identified positive developments and several challenges within the criminal justice system that place accused persons at risk of arbitrary detention. In particular, arbitrary detention continues to be a widespread practice in Mexico and there are shortcomings in the criminal justice system which violate the right to liberty and increase human rights violations. Arbitrary detention particularly affects members of Indigenous Peoples. Regarding juvenile justice, the WG noted cases of violence during arrests and a lack of qualified legal assistance. Concerning migration, the Working Group was concerned with the frequent use of detention. It was also seriously concerned about the de facto detention of migrant children. Lastly, it observed the absence of procedural safeguards for persons with psychosocial disabilities. Among its recommendations, the Working Group encouraged Mexico to undertake reforms to eliminate the use of preventive custody and mandatory pretrial detention and to adopt specific practices that provide greater protection against arbitrary detention.

[A/HRC/57/44/Add.2](#): **Visit to the Bahamas, from 27 November to 8 December 2023.** The Working Group commending the positive changes made by the Country; noted challenges in the criminal justice system that place defendants at risk of arbitrary detention. For example: the time period for presenting those deprived of liberty before a judicial authority often surpasses the 48-hour limit. This violates the right to be brought

promptly before a judge. The right to legal assistance is severely limited, and individuals who cannot afford a lawyer are left without legal assistance at the initial stages of proceedings. Conditions of detention do not meet international standards, and pretrial detainees are often held together with sentenced prisoners in similar conditions. Migrants face barriers in access to legal representation, interpretation and information about the right to legal assistance and consular assistance and to seek asylum. In conclusion, **the WG recommended the Government adopt measures to address arbitrary deprivation of liberty for all, including migrants and persons with psychosocial disability.** It should ensure that all individuals deprived of their liberty have the right to effective legal assistance by counsel of their choice at any time during their detention, including immediately after apprehension and during interviews, and promptly inform them of that right.

17 September: Interactive dialogue with the [Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development](#).

[A/HRC/57/39](#): **Annual report of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.**

The report contains the summary of the eighth and ninth sessions and outlines additional activities and contributions. At its *eighth session*, held in Geneva, the Expert Mechanism held four focused thematic discussions and interactive dialogues to deliberate on challenges, opportunities and potential pathways toward the realization of the right to development. The topics included: “Responsibilities and climate justice”; “Access to technology and the right to development”; “Women’s participation in development. Promoting gender equality: good practices, opportunities, and challenges”; and “United Nations system and opportunities for mainstreaming and promoting the right to development”. At its *ninth session*, held in New York, the Expert Mechanism held three focused thematic discussions on: “Global agreements: from political commitments to contractual or legal obligations and their impact on the right to development”; “Realizing the right to development through North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation as well as other sui generis forms of international cooperation: exploring complementarities and good practices”; and “Development and climate financing: innovative tools and nature solutions to help realize the right to development”. It also convened a round table on cross-cutting issues with key stakeholders.

[A/HRC/57/40](#): **Individual and collective dimensions of the right to development.**

**In the thematic study, the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development elaborated on the nature, scope and content of the right to development as both an individual right of all human beings and a collective right of all peoples and explores the relationship between the two.** The right to development facilitates the achievement of all other human rights because of three distinct attributes. The first is the holistic approach that it brings to human rights in affirming development as encompassing not only economic, social and cultural rights but also civil and political rights. The second is the balance that it strikes between individual and collective rights, reinforcing the interdependence of the two. The third is the affirmation of the three levels of obligations of States, namely, internal, extraterritorial and collective. These attributes of the right to development reflect the interconnectedness and indivisibility of rights and the essential role of both national actions and international cooperation in achieving equitable development and human rights for all.

17 September: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **right to development, Surya Deva**, on the right to development of children and future generations.

[A/HRC/57/43](#): The report focused on realizing the **right to development of children and future generations.**

**Children are often referred to as the future of society.** However, they are part of the present generation of rights holders and should not be confused or conflated with future generations. **The focus on children and future generations is underpinned by three factors.** First, the right to development from the perspective of children has, to date, received inadequate attention. Second, many current challenges to the realization of human rights such as environmental pollution, climate change, conflicts, food insecurity, disruptive new technologies, and the debt crisis will have more impact on these two categories of bearers of the right to development. Third, children have started to take leadership on issues and decisions affecting their rights and those of future generations. The Special Rapporteur highlighted the value of applying a right-to-development lens to standards relating to children’s rights and child development. Despite increasing awareness about and

evolution of standards on children's human rights and child development, millions of children in all world regions continue to lack a dignified life and an environment to realize their capabilities.

**States and other actors should apply a right-to-development lens to realize all human rights of children holistically. The SR outlined five action pillars** to overcome ongoing challenges in realizing the right to development of children. In conclusion, **the SR recommended that States** allocate the maximum possible resources to realize the right to development of children; take effective measures to eliminate child labour, forced labour, child marriage, human trafficking and domestic and/or sexual violence involving children; and ensure active, free and meaningful participation of children and representatives of future generations in all policymaking and execution decisions, among others.

[A/HRC/57/43/Add.1](#): **Visit to Viet Nam, from 6 to 15 November 2023.** The main objective of the visit was to assess the realization of the right to development in the country and to identify remaining challenges, intending to formulate recommendations for the Government and other stakeholders who are working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the report, the Special Rapporteur set out his observations about legal, policy, and institutional frameworks concerning selected aspects of the right to development, identified issues of concern, and provided recommendations to ensure inclusive, participatory and sustainable development. Among others, the SR recommended taking proactive measures to address the double burden faced by women and try to promote the progressive inclusion of women engaged in the informal economy in the pension and social benefits schemes; taking effective measures to address the inequalities and lack of access to public services experienced by members of ethnic minority groups; offering incentives to both companies and individuals to produce and/or use renewable energy; and taking additional measures to promote equal participation in public and political affairs across ethnic groups, including the adoption of further special measures to guarantee proportionate representation at all levels of government.

*18 September:* Interactive dialogue with the **Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.**

[A/HRC/57/51<sup>3</sup>](#): In the report, the Working Group provided a brief analysis of the **situation of peasants and other people working in rural areas and a historical overview relating to the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.** The WG has the **mandate** to promote the effective and comprehensive dissemination and implementation of the Declaration while identifying challenges and gaps in its implementation at the national, regional and international levels; identify, exchange and promote good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Declaration; and facilitate and contribute to the exchange of technical assistance, capacity-building, transfer of technologies and international cooperation in support of national efforts, actions and measures to better implement the Declaration.

*18 September:* **Presentation of reports and oral updates.**

[A/HRC/57/26](#): **Question of the death penalty.**

The report analyzed the general trend toward universal abolition of the death penalty and highlighted initiatives limiting its use and implementing safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing this penalty. It included information on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed. Under international human rights law, the death penalty may be imposed only for the "most serious crimes". States must therefore refrain from using the death penalty for crimes not involving intentional killing, such as drug-related offences. Pending abolition, the Secretary-General encouraged States to ensure that legal guarantees and safeguards are effectively put in place and implemented, including the right to seek pardon and commutation through procedures that offer certain essential guarantees. States that still use the death penalty should urgently ensure a protective environment for the children of parents sentenced to death or executed, preventing discrimination, stigmatization and distress, and providing them with assistance based on the principle of the best interests of the child.

<sup>3</sup> As of 16 September, only the English Edited Version is available.



[A/HRC/57/33](#): The report described promising **practices, policies, and interventions that highlight the contribution of development to the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic**. In particular, the report described the role that national development plans, public finance and debt management frameworks, debt sustainability assessments and other relevant areas of economic policy can play in advancing human rights. States should remain committed to mobilizing the maximum available resources both domestically and internationally to reduce poverty and inequalities. States should integrate social protection systems into their national development plans to provide comprehensive and sustainable buffers to tackle poverty and inequalities.

[A/HRC/57/38](#): The report contained a **summary of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its twenty-fifth session**. The mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development is to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analyzing obstacles to its full enjoyment. The Working Group welcomed the combined efforts of States to mitigate challenges to the realization of the right to development. It was emphasized that international cooperation was necessary to achieve the objectives of the right to development and to ensure fair distribution of the benefits of development. The WG concluded by recommending the HC and OHCHR take the measures necessary to ensure a balanced and visible allocation of resources and pay due attention to the visibility and effective implementation and mainstreaming of the right to development by systematically identifying and undertaking tangible projects dedicated to that right.

[A/HRC/57/25](#): The report contained an account of challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples, drawing on developments in the human rights mechanisms and on activities and initiatives undertaken by OHCHR at the country, regional, and global levels that showcase the achievements and the contributions made to the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples continue to face obstacles to the full enjoyment of their rights. The challenges concern their right to freedom, their land, territories, and resources. Indigenous human rights defenders continue to be subject to attacks and reprisals. The High Commissioner recommended Member States adopt and implement adequate frameworks and agile processes to ensure the legal recognition of Indigenous People's land rights and enhance the ability of Indigenous Peoples to meaningfully participate in all decision-making affecting them, particularly in decision-making regarding environmental issues at the national, regional and international levels as well as in the design and implementation of national and local environmental laws, policies and projects that could affect their rights.

[A/HRC/57/35](#): The report focused on the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, highlighting existing gaps and good practices. **Indigenous Peoples' participation at the United Nations benefits all stakeholders**; it allows for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' unique knowledge, lived experiences and cultural practices in discussions on solutions to current global crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The participation of Indigenous Peoples helps to foster global partnerships and sustainable development. **Significant progress in the area of the Indigenous Peoples' rights has been made** thanks to their participation at the United Nations, including the adoption of relevant international legal instruments, in particular the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the establishment of mechanisms specific to Indigenous Peoples. **A number of gaps in the ability of Indigenous Peoples to participate at the United Nations remain. Member States are encouraged** to take measures to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, establishing an accreditation mechanism to allow for enhanced participation; as well as consider increasing contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

[A/HRC/57/28](#): In the report, the High Commissioner examined **solutions to promote digital education for young people and to ensure their protection from online threats**. He highlighted the systemic and structural barriers young people face to digital education and in realizing their human rights online in a safe, inclusive and empowering manner. **Digital devices, connectivity and skills contribute to the right to education**. The

focus today is on determining how it is used in line with the aims of education and in a way that empowers young people and the realization of their rights. The potential benefits can include improving access to and the quality of education, implementing inclusive learning methodologies, enhancing learning experiences and opening lifelong learning opportunities for all through both formal and non-formal education. **However, the digital divide remains a reality.** Recognizing the potential of digital technologies to empower young people and support them in developing to their full potential and the importance of ensuring a human rights-based approach to the use of digital technologies, the HC **provided several recommendations** to Member States and other relevant actors.

[A/HRC/57/32](#): The report summarized the **half-day intersessional panel discussion on avenues to prevent and address human rights violations and abuses against migrants in transit and to ensure access to justice for victims and their family members**, including through monitoring at international borders, highlighting best practices and challenges in this regard, to ensure the meaningful participation of migrants and their family members.

[A/HRC/57/36](#): The report summarized the **expert meeting on the human rights obligations of States regarding violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons in all settings**. The experts highlighted ageism as the root cause of violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons and discussed structural violence and issues such as social inclusion, the data gap, intersectionality and abuse in different settings. Experts shared experiences, practices and challenges at the national and regional levels and made recommendations to Member States related to their human rights obligations. States should adopt a comprehensive, legally binding international instrument on the human rights of older persons. The instrument must specifically address violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons, filling the existing gaps in definitions and protections related to ageism and age discrimination. It should ensure adequate protection in all contexts, including political, environmental and financial crises. In addition, in addressing violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons, States should establish mechanisms for the comprehensive collection, analysis and dissemination of data on violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons, paying special attention to the specific needs and rights of older women, LGBTQI+ persons, indigenous older persons and other minority groups.

[A/HRC/57/37](#): The report examined how climate change can have an impact on the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, identified the main challenges girls face and the efforts to overcome those challenges and obstacles. Education is instrumental in protecting children's rights, in realizing other rights and in increasing children's awareness and preparedness for climate change. At the same time, the right to education is highly vulnerable to the impact of the environmental harm caused by climate change, as it can result in school closures and disruptions, school dropout and the destruction of schools and places to play. The report presented the three dimensions of the right to education: the right of access to education; rights within education; and how the enjoyment of human rights can be achieved through education. In conclusion, the High Commissioner **recommended strategies for the protection and promotion of girls' enjoyment of the right to education in the context of climate change**. In particular, educational institutions, national human rights institutions, civil society, international organizations, children and youth groups, and other stakeholders should take a holistic approach to the impacts of environmental harm and climate change on girls' education; address the current gaps in data; allocate adequate resources and budgets; ensure that girls have equal access to training and skills development programmes on climate change, so that girls and women can fully participate in climate action initiatives; and ensure that women and girls have equal access to information, including in relation to scientific research, and education regarding climate change; among others.

[A/HRC/57/29](#): The report addressed the use of administrative measures to counter terrorism, focusing on the extent to which such measures adhere to international human rights law. It highlighted certain measures, such as administrative detention, terrorist proscription, movement restrictions, and deprivation of



nationality. The Council reaffirms its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. It stresses the responsibility of States to protect persons in their territory and subject to their jurisdiction against acts of terrorism, in full compliance with their obligations under international law. In conclusion, the report recommended a series of legislative, institutional, and policy measures to ensure that such administrative measures are fully human rights-compliant in meeting their stated objectives of countering terrorism. In particular, States should ensure that the legal basis for imposing administrative measures is accessible, transparent, and clear, and that the relevant definition of terrorism and associated acts complies with international standards, including the principles of legality and legal certainty.

[A/HRC/57/30](#): The report included the identification of **legal and policy frameworks relevant to ensuring effective remedies for loss and damage**, a description of human rights- and equity-based approaches and solutions and a series of recommendations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that climate change is caused primarily by greenhouse gas emissions related to human activities and has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. **Averting and minimizing loss and damage depends on measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, thereby protecting the rights of present and future generations.** In accordance with human rights law, States should ensure that people whose rights have been violated because of loss and damage from climate change have access to justice and effective remedies, which may encompass **reparation, compensation, restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition**. All countries should seek to remedy, including through financing, the climate harms to which they contributed, consistent with their international human rights and other obligations. Businesses responsible for climate change should also contribute to remedies. **States, therefore, should integrate human rights in laws, policies, and assessments** concerning loss and damage; as well as **establish and strengthen universal rights-based social protection systems** to increase people's resilience in responding to loss and damage.

[A/HRC/57/53](#): The report provided progress and conclusions of the **fifth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies.**

[A/HRC/57/85](#): The report contained a summary of the **intersessional panel discussion on human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem**. The intersessional panel discussion was held by the Human Rights Council on 5 February 2024. The objectives of the panel discussion were to discuss the specific human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem and to consider the implementation of key recommendations highlighted in the report.

#### [Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention](#)



**19 September:** Interactive dialogue with the independent international fact-finding mission on the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**.

**19 September:** Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Burundi, Fortuné Gaetan Zongo**.

[A/HRC/57/58](#): The report provided an overview of the human rights situation in Buring over the past 12 months, when the country has seen high internal tensions, which have resulted in a narrowing of civic space

and repression of political opponents, media professionals and human rights defenders. The widespread impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of human rights violations committed in the context of the various crises the country has endured, particularly in 2015, the deteriorating security situation. The population is facing a number of difficulties, including shortages of fuel, water and other commodities and recurring electricity outages. The unfinished national reconciliation process, the climate-related humanitarian crisis and limited institutional capacity to address and resolve the external and internal causes of the crisis have exacerbated vulnerabilities and reduced prospects for the situation to improve. The Special Rapporteur is particularly concerned by a series of events that, in combination, could be warning signs of serious violations of international law and international human rights law during the legislative and municipal elections due to take place in 2025. **Hence, the SR recommended that the Government** ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, prevent enforced disappearances, conduct objective investigations into enforced disappearances and bring the perpetrators to justice; assess the electoral process and ensure full respect for human rights before, during and after elections; and promote greater security of tenure and access to land, especially for vulnerable people, by initiating land reform with the participation of rights holders, including women; among others. **The Special Rapporteur recommended that civil society organizations** establish monitoring networks and advocate a return to the rule of law. **The Special Rapporteur recommended that the international community** strengthen the protection of human rights, particularly in the run-up to the legislative and municipal elections.

*20 September:* Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.

[A/HRC/57/56](#): The report provided information on incidents and developments that occurred in the Syrian Arab Republic since the beginning of 2024. However, the Commission's investigations remained hampered by the denial of access to the country by protection concerns relating to interviewees, and also by the United Nations' regular budget liquidity crisis. Thirteen years on, the Syrian Arab Republic remains fragmented, with predatory forces killing, maiming, detaining, torturing, and looting with impunity. While primary responsibility for violations documented in the present report lies with the parties carrying out attacks or exercising control, including the States supporting them, the international community's failure to fully fund the humanitarian response, and to ensure that sanctions do not negatively impact it, compounds suffering.

**In conclusion, the Commission reiterated several recommendations to the Government, UN Member States and all the parties to the conflict.** In particular, among others, it asked for an immediate cease of all indiscriminate and direct attacks on civilians and civilian objects, take all feasible precautions to minimize harm to the civilian population; and conduct independent, impartial, and credible investigations into incidents entailing civilian deaths and serious injuries in which their forces are implicated; immediate cease torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including sexual and gender-based violence, in all places of detention, and release all arbitrarily detained people; and respect, protect and promote the fundamental freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, association and movement, as well as property rights, including of refugees and internally displaced persons.

*20 September:* Interactive dialogue, mandated in resolution 55/27 on an interim oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in **Belarus** in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath.

## General Debate

*18-19 September: General Debate under Agenda Item 3.*

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