

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 57th SESSION

### Item 3<sup>1</sup>: General debate

(19 – 20 September 2024)

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**This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 3** that took place 19–20 September 2024, during the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report includes the statements made by the Member States of the Human Rights Councils, Observer States, and other Observers. The statements are presented in the order of speaking and are not exhaustive.

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

## Opening remarks

**H.E. Ambassador Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development**, shared three main thematic issues of the Working Group. It notably considered the interrelationship between the right to development and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the interrelationship between the right to development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; and the contribution of the right to development towards combating racial discrimination. Further, he reported several recommendations to address divergent views through interactive dialogues and inter-sessional meetings.

**H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC**, briefed the Council on 2024's High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) outcomes. The forum recognized *poverty* as one of the greatest global challenges and called for addressing its root causes and ensuring access to essential services like health, education, and social protection based on human rights principles. Participants highlighted the importance of inclusive growth and prioritizing economic sectors that create decent jobs and invest in human capital, particularly for marginalized communities. They recognized the need to reform the international financial architecture and called for debt alleviation to enable more public spending for sustainable development. The forum discussed the links between climate action and human rights, with many participants advocating for a just transition to carbon neutrality while ensuring that climate finance commitments were met and scaled up to meet the growing costs of adaptation and mitigation. They also supported nature-based solutions and ecosystem protection. Strengthening efforts to develop and implement gender-responsive programs and policies, combat gender-based violence and human trafficking, and eliminate discriminatory laws was another key focus. The promotion of meaningful and equitable youth participation at all levels, coupled with targeted actions to address the specific needs of children and marginalized communities was also highlighted.

**Mr. Dimiter Chalev, Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch** provided the summaries of the reports of the secretary general and the High Commissioner on a range of thematic issues under item 3 and item 8.

1. **The high commissioner on the right to development, A/HRC/57/24.** It contained the analysis of efforts undertaken to promote and realize the right to development in the context of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and of the reform of the international financial architecture. The report recommended Member States and other relevant stakeholders take specific steps towards reforming the international financial architecture to make it more resilient, equitable, and accessible to all and to support the realization of human rights better. All stakeholders including young people should be able to participate actively, freely and meaningfully.
2. **Report of the High Commissioner on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.** The report contained an account of the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples based on recent developments in human rights bodies and mechanisms. Challenges observed include obstacles faced by Indigenous Peoples in accessing economic, social, and cultural rights, violations of their right to free prior and informed consent, limited enjoyment of land rights and violations of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment amongst others. Attacks and reprisals against Indigenous Human Rights

defenders have continued. Discrimination against Indigenous women and girls and limited access to education, healthcare, employment, justice and sexual and reproductive health and rights were also highlighted as a matter of concern. The report recommended states to support the participation of Indigenous People representatives in the work of the United Nations, including through the process and enhancing their participation in the work of this council.

3. **OHCHR's report on procedures for the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations highlighted existing gaps and good practices, A/HRC/57/35.** The report took stock and compiled existing procedures on Indigenous Peoples' participation in the United Nations. The report identified gaps and good practices on the matter. The report concluded that Indigenous Peoples' participation in the United Nations enhances global decision-making by incorporating their unique knowledge and experiences, contributing to efforts to find solutions for global crises such as climate change. Member States are encouraged to consider establishing an accreditation mechanism to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation, increase funding, prevent intimidation and facilitate visa processes.
4. **Secretary General's report on capital punishment and the implementation of safeguards guaranteeing protection on the rights of those facing the debt penalty, A/HRC/57/26.** It included information on the human rights of children, of parents sentenced to the debt penalty or executed. The report recognized the general trend towards universal abolition of the debt penalty and highlighted initiatives limiting its use and implementing safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing this penalty. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that states should impose the debt penalty only for the most serious crimes. The report concluded with a series of additional recommendations to states to accelerate progress towards universal abolition and on other subjects including the need to ensure a protective environment for the children of parents sentenced to debt or executed including preventing discrimination, stigmatization and distress and to provide them with assistance based on the principle of the best interest of the child.
5. A study prepared by the OHCHR on the **role of the rule of law and accountability on the national and international levels in the prevention of human rights violations and abuses, A/HRC/57/27.** The rule of law and accountability play crucial roles in the prevention of human rights violations and abuses. The rule of law is central to strengthening the capacity of the state to respect and protect human rights and accountability. It is essential to prevent impunity and the recurrence of violations and abuses. The report examined and issued recommendations concerning five elements of the rule of law at the national level. First, limiting the arbitrary exercise of public power. Second, requiring accountability for the exercise of public power. Third, ensuring transparency of public institutions. Fourth, promoting participation in public decision making and five, ensuring access to justice. Concerning accountability, the report noted the diversification of venues in which criminal accountability for human rights crimes may be pursued and examines the issues and issues recommendations related to the investigation, prosecution and punishment of international crimes by states, including third states exercising universal jurisdiction. Importantly, it recognizes the crucial role that civil society plays in all accountability efforts.
6. **The High Commissioner's study on solutions to promote digital education for young people and to ensure their protection from online threats, A/HRC/57/28.** The report addressed this topic focusing particularly on those facing intersecting forms of discrimination and in vulnerable situations. It highlighted systemic and structural barriers states face in meeting their human rights obligations and ensuring youth can access digital education

and realize their human rights online in a safe, inclusive and empowering manner. The report identified barriers limiting access to digital education. This includes a lack of equal access to computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones, reliable and affordable electricity as well as Internet coverage and connectivity and a lack of digital media information literacy skills as well as cultural and linguistic barriers. These barriers exacerbate existing educational and social inequalities and limit the ability of young people to realize their rights such as the rights to education, participation, freedom of expression, information, livelihood, privacy and not discrimination. Digital space poses threats to young people's safety and well-being. The study emphasized that the youth rights-based approach is essential to realize youth rights online in a safe, empowering and inclusive manner.

7. The report of the **High Commissioner on Terrorism and Human Rights, A/HRC/57/29**. Terrorism remains a substantial threat to international peace and security and studies the growing trend among states to employ administrative measures outside the confines of the criminal justice process to address terrorism such as detention without trial, travel restriction and deprivation of nationality. The report recognized that such measures are aimed at enhancing security while raising concerns about those approaches and how they are implemented. States must ensure that any administrative measures that resemble criminal sanctions are subject to rigorous procedural guarantees, transparency and independent judicial oversight tantamount to those applicable to criminal measures.
8. **The report of the High Commissioner on challenges and best practices in regularly assessing civic space trends and recommendations to enhance information gathering on civic space, A/HRC/57/31**. Recognizing that compelling data on civic space trends is key for effective human rights interventions, the report gives an overview of the three overarching approaches to assessing civic space that are often used in combination. First, assessing the legal and policy framework and distilling trends from there. Second, focusing on events relevant to civic space such as specific incidents and restrictions in relation to the freedoms of expression, association and assembly. And third, surveying the perceptions of the public or experts of civic space trends. In conclusion, the report emphasized that collecting timely and disaggregated data is vital not only for human rights but also for peace and development.
9. A compilation of best practices in the contribution of **development to the promotion and protection of all human rights in the context of recovery from the coronavirus disease pandemic, A/HRC/57/33**. The report noted that countries continue to experience the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate-vulnerable countries are particularly hard hit by the poly crisis that the world is facing. Recognizing that development and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, the report explored promising practices to tackle rising poverty and inequalities and to leave no one behind. It also discussed the role of essential tools of governance such as national development plans, public finance, and debt management frameworks.
10. **OHCHR's report on the plan of action for the fifth phase of the world program for human rights education, A/HRC/57/34**, focusing on human rights education for children and youth with special emphasis on three thematic areas, human rights, and digital technologies, the environment and climate change and gender equality. The plan of action provides related guidance to develop a comprehensive human rights education strategy for children and youth at the national level in formal and nonformal education involving four components. The plan of action highlights specific competencies that human rights education should foster in the three highlighted thematic areas named earlier.

11. **OHCHR's report on the impact of climate change on the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, A/HRC/57/37.** The report's analysis focuses on 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. The main findings of the reports are: First, in the context of climate change, challenges faced by girls in the enjoyment of the right to education often result from multiple factors such as early and forced marriages, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, the lack of essential facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of girls and young women, security, gender-stereotypes affecting the representation of girls in science, technology, engineering, and maths. And finally, the representation of women and girls in political decision-making processes. Second, education can help girls to identify climate change risks and hazards and enhance their resilience against those risks. Education can also empower girls with skills, knowledge, competencies, and behaviors to respond to the causes of climate change and environmental degradation. Third, international cooperation is critical. Developing countries need greater financial resources to prevent, minimize, and address adverse climate impacts on girls' education in discharging their obligation towards the rights to education and to establishing adaptation measures for and mitigating the effects of climate change. States should also be guided by the principles of equity and their common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities in light of different national circumstances.
12. The report of the **Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, A/HRC/57/65.** It discussed the collaboration between NHRIs and the international human rights system.
13. The report of the **Secretary-General on activities of the global alliance of national human rights institutions in accrediting national institutions, A/HRC/57/66.** It highlighted key developments and improvements in the accreditation process since 2022 including the number of accredited NHRIs and the extension of the subcommittee on accreditation's working hours from one to two weeks to enhance efficiency.
14. The summary report on the **intersessional panel on avenues to prevent and address human rights violations and abuses against migrants in transit including through monitoring at international borders, A/HRC/57/32.** The panel discussion held on 15th May 2024 emphasized the importance of addressing migration within the agenda of the Human Rights Council and recalled the vital role played by the council and its mechanisms in preventing human rights violations and ensuring accountability for violations and abuses that migrants face in transit and on arrival. Participants recommended reviewing security-driven and deterrence-based migration governance that places migrants in transit at greater risk and countering harmful and dehumanizing narratives that contribute to the acceptance of human harm along migration routes. They also recommended expanding pathways for safe and regular migration including regularization as a means of preventing and addressing situations of vulnerability across migratory routes. The summary report **on the expert meeting on the human rights obligations of states regarding violence against and abuse and neglect of older people in all settings.** During the meeting, the experts highlighted ageism as the root cause of violence, abuse and neglect of older persons. They discussed the harmful effects of social exclusion and the digital divide, and the specific challenges older persons face in various care and support settings. The OHCHR's report on the intersessional panel discussion on the **impact of drug-related challenges on the enjoyment of human rights.** The panel was held on 5th February 2024. It provided an overview of 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. Participants highlighted the importance of placing human rights at the center of all policies that tackle the world drug problem and recommended infusing a human rights dimension into all forums

where these issues were addressed. They recommended implementing gender-sensitive drug policies that responded to the specific needs of women and specific programs for children who are particularly vulnerable to the negative health and social consequences of substance and drug use.

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Member States: Joint Statements	
1. <b>Republic of Korea (on behalf of a group of countries)</b> <sup>2</sup>	Highlighted the presence of large numbers of <b>actors and processes in digitalization</b> that can lead to overlapping outcomes and a diffuse approach. The inconsistencies and contradictions could arise when existing work is not adequately taken into account and the need to ensure that the recommendations of the human rights system are not just issued but also coherently implemented on the ground as appropriate.
2. <b>Iraq (on behalf of a group of countries)</b>	Concerned by the <b>adverse impact of climate change, desertification, water scarcity, and increased food insecurity and related economic activities</b> . Climate change is already leading to internal displacement and putting additional pressure on host communities. The vulnerability of displaced persons often increases when their host communities are also affected by environmental disasters. Addressing the profound challenges posed by climate change and its impact on displaced persons requires a united global effort to ensure that every person has the opportunity to live safely in their home.
3. <b>Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC))</b>	In order to realize all <b>human rights</b> of people living under foreign occupation it reiterated a call for peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes under international law. The denial of the singular right to self-determination results in the denial of various other interconnected rights. The only viable solution for safeguarding the economic, social, and cultural rights of Palestinians is putting an end to the illegal Israeli occupation and instituting effective accountability for the crimes committed against them with brazen impunity.
4. <b>Algeria (on behalf of a group of countries)</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Antipersonnel mines</b> blatantly violate human rights beyond the right to life which is inviolable. They undermine the right to health and education and prevent communities from accessing essential resources such as food and water. <b>Women and children are particularly at risk in mines-affected areas.</b> Implored the international community to intensify its effort to eliminate antipersonnel mines and ensure support and full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims.
5. <b>Venezuela (on behalf of a group of countries)</b> <sup>4</sup>	Stressed that the right to development is especially important as we see <b>inequalities</b> grow between the countries of the global south and global north. Gaps between developing and developed countries are a result of the unjust exploitation of the vast natural resources of the countries of the south. Reiterated the importance and urgency to remove all UCMs in order to guarantee among other things both realization of the right to development as well as the full implementation of the SDGs.

<sup>2</sup> The core group of the resolution on new and emerging digital technologies and human rights: Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Singapore and Republic of Korea.

<sup>3</sup> Cambodia, Colombia, Denmark, Peru, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, Zambia and Algeria.

<sup>4</sup> Group of the Friends in defense of the UN Charter.

<p><b>6. United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Group of Arab States)</b></p>	<p>Focused on the <b>Israeli aggression against a violation against the Palestinian people</b> including depriving the Palestinians of their basic rights by targeting thousands of innocent civilians and besieging the Gaza Strip while targeting schools, universities, churches and mosques, and infrastructure. It called for an immediate end to the illegal occupation of the state of Palestine according to the ICJ advisory opinion, as well as for opening humanitarian delivery. Called for more flexibility to invest in the sector of education, particularly when it comes to climate change, and we also reaffirm that consideration must be given to the new developments, particularly digital technology and climate change.</p>
<p><b>7. Uganda (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM))</b></p>	<p>Reaffirmed that all <b>human rights including the right to development are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated</b> and stressed the HRC should provide equal treatment to both civil and political rights as well as to economic, social, and cultural rights. Called upon States to ensure that human rights are not used for political purposes and as a pretext for interference in internal affairs but rather for the promotion and protection of human rights for all.</p>
<p><b>8. Timor-Leste (on behalf of a group of countries)</b></p>	<p>Affirmed that <b>States are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including increasingly frequent and extreme weather phenomena, tropical cyclones, hurricanes, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels.</b> Sea level rise and profound human rights dimensions as it affects the enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, housing, food, health, and cultural identity and heritage.</p>
<p><b>9. Qatar (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>5</sup></b></p>	<p>Affirmed that <b>women and children suffer disproportionately during and after armed conflict</b>, bearing the brunt of violence and displacement. Called for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially hospitals and schools, and the provision of funding for strengthening protection capacities on the ground.</p>
<p><b>10. Croatia (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>6</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Land mines and explosive elements of war have immediate and long-lasting negative implications for a range of human rights including the rights to life, health, education, work, and freedom of movement.</b> Mines impact the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, undermine climate resilience, and threaten humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel. The legacy of land mines is particularly acute in developing countries including LDCs.</p>
<p><b>11. European Union<sup>7</sup></b></p>	<p><b>It reaffirmed its unequivocal opposition to the death penalty.</b> Affirmed that a human rights-based approach is key to addressing the impact of climate change, underlining the contributions of and challenges for Indigenous peoples, and stressing the importance of their full participation in all relevant UN bodies. <b>Climate change and natural disasters have adverse impacts on the enjoyment of the right to education, especially for girls.</b> Stressed commitment to respect, protect, and fulfill all economic, social, and cultural rights calling on all states to prioritize gender equality.</p>
<p><b>12. Qatar (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC))</b></p>	<p>Noted that investment in <b>education</b> is the most successful preventive measure to increase the resilience of education. Concerned over violence and neglect against older persons and stressed that their protection and their welfare should be an utmost priority through comprehensive legal frameworks to ensure their rights and dignity. Strongly condemned the ongoing aggression and the targeting of civilians, their forced displacement, and attacks on the West Bank. Called on the</p>

<sup>5</sup> 134 States.

<sup>6</sup> Albania, Azerbaijan, Chile, Mozambique, Panama, Croatia and across regional group of 65 countries.

<sup>7</sup> EU Countries + North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Armenia.

	international community to pressure Israel to stop its aggression immediately and comply with international law in order to allow the Palestinian people to fully enjoy their legitimate rights, notably the right to self-determination.
<b>13. Viet Nam (on behalf of a group of countries)</b>	<b>Immunization</b> remains a critical part of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, a key component of primary healthcare, and essential to achieving universal health coverage and SDG 3.8. Vaccination represents one of the most successful and cost-effective health investments. <b>HRC has a central role in promoting and advancing the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for all, especially children and persons in vulnerable situations.</b> Asked to straighten efforts in closing immunization gaps.
<b>14. Costa Rica (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Focused on A/HRC/56/30</b> on legal and policy frameworks to uphold human rights in the context of conscientious objection to military service.
<b>15. Dominican Republic (on behalf of a group of countries)</b>	<b>LDCs and SIDS face disproportionately and simultaneously the severe adverse effects of climate change, persistent situations of drought, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, ocean acidification, and sea level rise.</b> Considered it necessary to study and analyze in depth the impacts of sea level rise on the full enjoyment of human rights so that the results of such analysis can be taken into account to inform and strengthen future actions by the Council.
<b>16. Qatar (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>9</sup></b>	Stressed the 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the declaration and the program of action on a culture of peace. <b>The conflicts, and political and geopolitical tensions today are a reminder of the urgent need for peace in our world.</b> Highlighted the crucial role that mediation plays in our efforts to achieve peace.
<b>17. Chile (on behalf of a group of countries)</b>	The fight against <b>transnational organized crime</b> must be a priority for the international community given its direct and devastating impact on human rights. A state must protect individuals from violations committed by private persons and entities including those linked to organized crime. Concerned by organized crimes, including the war on drugs have led to mass incarceration, arbitrary detention, and escalation of lethal force which may even descend into extrajudicial killings disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. Urged the council to play a more active role in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating transnational organized crime including by the adoption of recommendations that will allow breaching the gap between transnational organized crime and international human rights law.
<b>18. Saudi Arabia (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>The utilization of space has brought immense benefits to humanity, enhancing global communication, weather forecasting, and disaster management.</b> However, space device poses significant risks to the infrastructure that facilitates these operations potentially impeding our ability to protect and promote human rights. Awareness of the sustainability of outer space is a crucial step toward ensuring that the benefits of space technology continue to enhance the well-being or welfare of all humanity.
<b>19. Finland (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>11</sup></b>	Millions of <b>persons with disabilities</b> continue to face significant barriers to their access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. These obstacles include discrimination, stigma and stereotypes, restrictive legislation, and lack of disability-appropriate information and access to services. Women and girls with disabilities have the same rights as all other persons

<sup>8</sup> The core group presenting the resolution on conscientious objection to military service, namely Croatia, Poland, and Costa Rica.

<sup>9</sup> On behalf of members of states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and 137 states.

<sup>10</sup> 123 Countries.

<sup>11</sup> On behalf of Malawi and 50 Countries.



	including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Invited States to remove barriers and practices that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing quality sexual and reproductive health information and services.
<b>20. Dominican Republic (on behalf of a group of countries)</b>	Focused on the <b>vulnerable situation faced by the elderly, including discrimination, neglect, violence, abuse, and exploitation.</b>
<b>21. Mongolia (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>12</sup></b>	Welcoming the ratification of <b>Cote d'Ivoire to the ICCPR's</b> optional protocol on the death penalty, informed that up to date 91 states have ratified the optional protocol while some 170 states have either abolished the death penalty, introduced moratorium or have ceased execution for more than 10 years. Regretted the global trend reported by the SG and the considerable increase in the execution for drug-related offenses.
<b>22. Colombia (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>13</sup></b>	Stressed the <b>key role played by the HRC</b> to guide the entire United Nations system as well as the Member States in applying a human rights and public health-oriented perspective, signing and implementing drug policies.
<b>Statements made by Member States</b>	
<b>1. Lithuania</b>	Focused on <b>national priorities, including the rights of the child, climate change, and rights of persons with disabilities.</b> Remained alarming to witness that <b>girls and young women are exposed to oppression, gender-based discrimination, and sexual violence.</b> The protection of human rights defenders should be at the core of the international community's policies and allow them to continue to work without fear of reprisal.
<b>2. Costa Rica</b>	Affirmed that the application of <b>death penalty</b> restrictions on freedom of assembly and peaceful protest, the promulgation of laws that arbitrarily limit the freedom of expression, the arbitrary cancellation of nationality, the closing of NGOs, and reprisals against human rights defenders are just a few examples on how agenda item 3 can shed light.
<b>3. France</b>	Focused on the <b>promotion, of economic, social, and cultural rights in the face of multiple crises, environmental, climatic, health crises, and economic crises</b> that require action because this objective realization of rights requires transition strategies in the area of environment and also related to the digital situation, the access to safe drinking water, to food, health and social development should be made available to everyone without any discrimination.
<b>4. Algeria</b>	Called for stepping up our work on economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development on equal footing with other rights on <b>basic principles of impartiality, and non-selectivity.</b> Focused on the rights of persons who are suffering from occupation and their rights are seriously undermined. Expressed its concerns related to the repeated aggressions against <b>Lebanon by Israel</b> , especially the cyber attack that took place yesterday and led to a large number of victims.
<b>5. Kuwait</b>	Focused on its commitment to the <b>sovereignty and primacy of the rule of law</b> and the values of justice and equality.

<sup>12</sup> On behalf of the core group on the question of the penalty, namely Belgium, Benin, Costa Rica, France, Mexico, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova and Switzerland.

<sup>13</sup> On behalf of Albania, Guatemala, Greece, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Uruguay, Switzerland and Colombia.

6. Belgium	Was in favor of a <b>dynamic civic space free of any reprisals</b> including online due to its civic nature, civic space is the first pillar of the society that is closed under pressure or in the context of political and economic crises or conflict despite the numerous threats faced by human rights defenders and by civil society.
7. Honduras	Welcomed recommendations referred to the need to adopt <b>transparent and equitable fiscal policies</b> to guarantee the effective mobilization of internal resources and adequate social and public investments. Need to strengthen multilaterally but we also need specific steps that are based on evidence that deals with the root <b>causes of inequalities</b> that are affecting more vulnerable groups, women, migrant workers, Indigenous people, and people of African descent.
8. Luxembourg	<b>Human rights represent an answer to the numerous crises throughout the world.</b> They offer sustainable and durable inclusive solutions to protect all human rights. Recognized the work of independent organizations, and civil society, that even though the space is going smaller and smaller, they continue to remind us of our obligations to realize political, economic, social, and cultural rights, the right to development, and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable promotion and protection of human rights as well as building an architecture of international human rights is an effort that the international community should all be involved in.
9. United States of America	Worked with countries around the world to support their <b>development priorities</b> and help them fulfill their commitment to the progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living, including food and safe drinking water and sanitation.
10. South Africa	Affirmed that the recognition of the <b>universality, intervisibility, interdependence, and interrelatedness of human rights</b> without the full recognition of the right to development and justiciability of ESC rights runs counter to the spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action and continues to perpetuate the notion of the hierarchy of rights. Welcomed the considerable progress made towards the abolition of the <b>death penalty</b> .
11. Cuba	Reiterated unswerving position of principle in favor of the <b>right of Palestinian people to life, peace, and development and to build an independent state exercising the right to self-determination</b> within borders before 1967 and East Jerusalem as capital. For more than six decades the Country suffered from an illegal economic trade and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States that runs completely against this agenda and flagrantly violates the rights of the Cuban people.
12. Netherlands	Stated that as <b>digital technologies</b> are present in every aspect of our daily lives it is important to pay due attention to the impact they have on the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of all human rights, both the positive and negative impact. The use of digital technologies drives growth and social progress. Must close all digital divides. Digital technologies have already opened up new opportunities for many. However, it also poses threats.
13. Maldives	Continued to implement democratic measures that safeguard human rights inclusion and <b>promote peace and security</b> . The gender equality action plan focuses on economic empowerment, combating gender-based violence, governance, access to justice, and mainstreaming gender within institutions. <b>Climate change poses an existential threat:</b> the government is investing beyond its capacity to climate proofing of our critical infrastructure building coastal defenses of our islands and increasing early warning capacities to save lives and reduce the losses from extreme events.
14. Indonesia	Reaffirmed its commitment to the <b>indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, civil and political rights, and economic, social, and cultural rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing</b> . Climate change has caused significant

	loss and damage disrupting economies and livelihoods, widening inequality, and contributing to social instability that often results in forced displacement. Was concerned by the 707 attacks on healthcare facilities recorded by the WHO, as well as deaths and injuries of patients and healthcare workers in the OPT.
<b>15. Albania</b>	Affirmed that the <b>COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the enjoyment of human rights</b> worldwide, particularly the rights to health and healthcare, the rights to education, economic and social rights, freedom of movement, and privacy rights. The COVID pandemic has affected more vulnerable groups and increased domestic and gender-based violence. National measures, policies, and programs to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights.
<b>16. Ghana</b>	Committed to upholding the human rights of all individuals regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, sex, religion, economic or social status. <b>Human rights are the heart of sustainable development and are indivisible, interconnected, and interdependent.</b> Worried that <b>women, children, minorities, the aged, and persons with disabilities</b> are those segments of our population that continue to be disproportionately impacted by climate change, health emergencies, terrorism, disinformation, the digital divide, and democratic backsliding. Called for enhanced international cooperation in promoting development in the global south which has long been disadvantaged and kept on the periphery of inclusive growth.
<b>17. Bangladesh</b>	The government is committed to <b>ending discrimination in society and upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms</b> including freedom of expression and association, freedom of press and media. Civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights including the right to development should be treated in a fair and equal manner on the same footing and with the same emphasis. <b>Climate change</b> is one of the greatest threats to the enjoyment of human rights. Climate justice for those countries that hardly had any contribution to climate change deserves to be discussed in a meaningful manner. Urged all to <b>eliminate all forms of discrimination against migrants</b> as well as negative stereotyping and misleading narratives on migration and migrants.
<b>18. Georgia</b>	Stressed that climate change is among the most significant recent challenges to the effective enjoyment of a wide range of human rights. Georgia is currently developing its <b>new nationally determined contribution</b> which will feature more ambitious targets for climate action. <b>Russia's</b> occupation and effective control over Georgia's regions leave the people on the other side of the occupation behind this positive development.
<b>19. United Arab Emirates</b>	The constitution ensures <b>socioeconomic rights, the main pillar of the social system. Education and housing</b> are the main constitutional rights. Emirati legislation protects people from discrimination and ensures the right to life and the right to freedom of religion and belief. Stressed the importance of providing high-quality education to girls, especially vulnerable girls. Terrorism and extremism are among the most serious challenges threatening peaceful coexistence and our stability and political and economic and social systems.
<b>20. Malaysia</b>	Recognized the link between economic, social, cultural, and political rights. Addressing fundamental needs such as education, health, and living standards fostered meaningful civic engagement and ensured full participation in society. The <b>Human Rights Commission of Malaysia plays a crucial role in safeguarding human rights and addressing injustices by monitoring, investigating, and tackling violations to ensure accountability.</b> Called for an end to violations of humanitarian law and emphasize the imperative of upholding international humanitarian law to safeguard civilians as free women and children.

<p><b>21. China</b></p>	<p>Affirmed that now the international situation is marked by tension, recurring conflicts, confrontations, slow economic growth, widening development gap, and challenges in the global human rights governance. The Chinese society turned into a moderately prosperous one and eliminated absolute poverty. Thanks to the whole process of people's democracy and the rule of law, people enjoy extensive, substantial democratic rights as well as an increasing level of employment, education, social security, and quality of the environment. <b>Stressed that UN mechanisms should be guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-politicization, and non-selectivity.</b> More inputs should be made into economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to development to effectively address religious hatred, racial discrimination, and UCMs which are obstacles to human rights. <b>Dialogue and cooperation should be strengthened.</b></p>
<p><b>22. Montenegro</b></p>	<p>It would continue to strongly advocate and support all initiatives towards the <b>abolition of capital punishment.</b> Applauded <b>Equatorial Guinea and Zambia for abolishing the death penalty for all crimes and Ghana for the progress it has made.</b> Also commended the progress made by the US states' governments. The situation in Iran is unacceptable and remains of utmost concern, both from a legal and human perspective. Regretted that Belarus remains the only state in Europe that still applies the death penalty.</p>
<p><b>23. Kazakhstan</b></p>	<p>The government is implementing wide-ranging political reforms while the economy is undergoing structural and institutional transformations. The international community has a great responsibility to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights and freedoms, peace, stability, and security through collective efforts at regional and global levels. The challenges posed by <b>food insecurity</b> posed by ongoing conflicts are causing human suffering around the world, especially among the most vulnerable.</p>
<p><b>24. Brazil</b></p>	<p>Stressed the importance of <b>protecting sexual and reproductive health rights</b> as part of the agenda of development. They also have huge social and economic impacts on the population of the global south.</p>
<p><b>25. India</b></p>	<p>Focused on the <b>multiple crises dealing with the progress towards achievement of SDGs</b> exacerbating inequalities and disproportionately impacting the countries of the global south. All human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent, and mutual and the Human Rights Council should be guided by the <b>principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity to enhance the promotion and protection of all human rights fairly and equitably.</b></p>
<p><b>26. Sudan</b></p>	<p>Insisted on a comprehensive approach that takes into account economic, social, and cultural rights together with political and civil rights in order to better deal with the challenges that the world is facing today, whether this is in the area of <b>environment, ecology, climate change or the resolution of conflicts.</b> <b>Urged the council to condemn</b> such practices that threaten the lives of people and undermine the enjoyment of human rights acts that may be qualified as war crimes.</p>
<p>Statements made by the Observers</p>	
<p><b>1. Vanuatu (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>14</sup></b></p>	<p>Focused on <b>mine and explosive remnants of war ERWs</b> that hold a direct link with the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. <b>Nine Pacific Island countries</b>, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu remain contaminated by explosive remnants from battles fought during World War II and the presence of explosive ordinance around communities constitute a terrifying</p>

<sup>14</sup> On behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, namely Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

	legacy of the past conflict. <b>Negative implications</b> for a wide range of human rights including the rights to life, physical security, physical and mental health, food, and safe drinking water.
<b>2. Marshall Islands (on behalf of a group of countries)<sup>15</sup></b>	The blue Pacific continent is on the front of the front lines in terms of the <b>impacts of climate change</b> including in relation to the protection and enjoyment of our human rights. <b>Sea level rise</b> driven by a warming climate is a clear and present danger to our infrastructure, prosperity, and our very way of life. Implored all states to stand with us in defense of these principles and our resolute response to a threat that we did not cause but are determined to overcome.
<b>3. Spain</b>	Stressed the importance of strengthening <b>multilateral cooperation and international mechanisms</b> for the protection of human rights especially in the face of the challenges of climate change or digitalization. Affirmed the national promotion of the fight against all forms of discrimination, gender equality, the fight against the death penalty, the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities or the promotion of economic, social, and cultural rights including the human rights to drinking water and sanitation, to a system of care and support and the protection of human rights defenders. Tried to build bridges, foster dialogue, and ensure that human rights are the basis for inclusive and sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda.
<b>4. Ireland</b>	Remained concerned about increasing <b>restrictions on civic space</b> worldwide including restrictions on fundamental freedoms of opinion, expression, assembly, and association. It noted the unacceptable use of domestic criminal law to deter individuals from cooperating with UN bodies and mechanisms including this Council. Promoting inclusive, diverse, and meaningful participation by civil society and creating an open and enabling environment in which civil society and human rights defenders can safely work will continue to be top priorities for Ireland.
<b>5. Israel</b>	Focused on the <b>attacks by Hezbollah</b> , the terrorist group. The Iranian regime and through its proxy Hezbollah use Lebanon as a base to destabilize the region and the security in Israel. Called upon the international community to call upon Hezbollah.
<b>6. Jamaica</b>	It continued to <b>face numerous challenges that obstacles to the overall development</b> . Nevertheless, despite various competing priorities, the government continued to allocate the largest share of its annual budget to education, including digital education for young people.
<b>7. Burkina Faso</b>	Focused on <b>terrorist attacks</b> and shared national measures in order to prevent such attacks and to protect human rights, including civil and political rights. Called upon the international community to put counterterrorism at the top of its agenda.
<b>8. Switzerland</b>	Highlighted the report presented on the <b>death penalty</b> . Remained concerned over the use of the death penalty in some countries. Commended recommendations to improve information collection of civic space. Agreed that measures to combat terrorism and terrorist attacks implemented outside the legal and criminal frameworks can endanger human rights.
<b>9. Afghanistan</b>	Focused on the ongoing <b>violations of ESC and CP rights, and the impunity</b> in the country.

<sup>15</sup> On behalf of a group of Pacific Islands, four member countries with permanent missions in Geneva, namely Australia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Marshall Islands.

10. State of Palestine	Reported the <b>situation in Gaza</b> , including data and figures on children killed. These acts of terrorism must be condemned. Condemned terrorism bombing in Lebanon.
11. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Stressed that the full realization of the <b>right to development</b> is crucial for the achievement of sustainable development of Nations. There are many challenges, including the imposition of UCMs, and the misuse of digital technologies.
12. Egypt	Affirmed that human rights are interdependent and indivisible, and the international community needs to deal with human rights equitably and globally. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms needs to be without discrimination. The international community is trying to combat <b>xenophobia, racial discrimination, and hate speech</b> , however, incidents are occurring against innocent people of African descent. <b>Islamophobia</b> in the EU countries.
13. Nigeria	Recognized <b>States' responsibility</b> in ensuring sustainable development, providing a safe environment, and family policies to promote economic, social, and cultural rights to the people. Remained committed to <b>global peace and security</b> , respecting human rights, good governance, democracy, and the rule of law, as well as a vibrant and prosperous society.
14. Philippines	Focused on the upcoming new pact to reinvigorate multilateralism. National multistakeholder consultative process to craft a <b>human rights plan</b> . The plan aims to create accountable mechanisms for empowering those in vulnerable situations such as women, children, older persons, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities, among others.
15. Pakistan	Upholding the <b>universality and indivisibility of human rights</b> , including the right to development, is one of the high missions of the Council. Remained concerns about climate change, conflicts, public health crisis, and socioeconomic inequality. Operationalise the right to development. The Council can promote and protect all human rights. Focused on the illegal occupation of OPT and Jammu Kashmir.
16. Russian Federation	Raised attention to the oppression of the Russian language population in the Baltic States, driven by Russophobia. No education in the Russian language. <b>Gross violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as the European Convention</b> . Blatant discriminations.
17. Belarus	Focused on the report on the promotion of digital education for young people: contemporary digital technology significantly expands access to education, but the online risks of people using digital technology are significant. Commercial and criminal interests, drugs dealing. <b>Digital education should be part of States' policies</b> . Stressed the <b>importance of transferring knowledge to developing countries</b> .
18. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Focused on the imposition of UCMs and the impacts on the enjoyment of human rights. Urged the OHCHR to properly assess the negative impacts of UCMs. Agreed with the SR on the right to development about the need to source for the causes of inequalities.
19. Ethiopia	Promotion and protection of <b>human rights, CP and ESC Rights are inseparable and mutually reinforced</b> . Shared national policies and measures in advancing the right to development. Development must be people-centered, inclusive, and sustainable. Called for a reform of the international financial structure to address the systematic barriers in the developing nations from achieving their full potential. Called for a <b>more inclusive, just, and equitable global financial system</b> . Climate justice. The full realization of human rights and the right to development are essential to achieving peace, security, and prosperity for all.

20. Mongolia	Stressed that <b>women's empowerment and gender equality</b> are essential to building a fair, inclusive, progressive, and peaceful society. National Constitution.
21. Tunisia	Stressed the <b>interdependency, equality, and indivisibility of human rights</b> , as well as the importance of the right to development and other social rights. National plans. Promoted international cooperation and solidarity, as well as development financial in order to ease the technology transition of developing countries, including the LDS.
22. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	<b>Global crisis impacts negatively on human rights.</b> Unfair international order disproportional impact vulnerable groups. Violation of human rights and international humanitarian law devastating effect on the Palestinian people in Gaza. <b>Digital divide, food insecurity, and violence against women and girls.</b> Need to protect human rights, without forgetting ESC rights, including the right to development. Rejected any attempts to medal to constitutional order.
23. Uganda	Highlighted the <b>universality and indivisibility of all human rights</b> . Issues must be addressed globally, with a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized, non-selective dialogue-based approach. The national democratic structure focuses on the right to development of all the people.
24. Botswana	<b>Intergovernmental Working Group</b> on regulator framework on regulation, monitoring, and oversight activities of primary military and security companies. The mandate of the Working Group has been renewed.
25. Azerbaijan	<b>ESC Rights of Azerbaijani violated by Armenia.</b> Right of refugees to return.
26. Armenia	<b>Armenia's civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights were violated by Azerbaijan.</b>
27. Cabo Verde	Rejected the <b>death penalty</b> in any circumstances. Called for the abolition.
28. Mozambique	Focused on the critical issue of addressing <b>human rights implications of land mines</b> . Land mines and cluster munition are direct violations of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, freedom of movement, and access to resources and services (land, health, and economic opportunities). Challenges peruse from different angles.
29. Ukraine	Stated that the <b>brutal and unjust war of aggression is the greatest threat to human rights and fundamental freedoms</b> . Russian war against Ukraine has inflicted severe humanitarian, economic, and environmental harm. Energy infrastructures targeted + nurse houses for elderly people. Iran and DPRK are complicit to the Russian's crimes.
30. Iraq	Focused on the <b>terrorism's effect in every country</b> . Must be taken into account the situation of each country in preserving its sovereignty. Every country needs to adopt appropriate laws regarding the death penalty.
31. Lebanon	Highlighted that the occupied power dehumanized the population. <b>Israel</b> targets and detonates telecommunication. It kills children and civilians. <b>Called for condemnation and accountability of the perpetrators.</b>
32. Rwanda	Shared concerns about a <b>private military company</b> . The increased use of modern technology and artificial intelligence by such companies poses severe human rights violations, to vulnerable populations. Legal binging framework to secure military and security companies accountable for any violations of humanitarian law.

List of NGOs that took the floor (87):

*National Human Rights Commission of Korea, Soka Gakkai International, Khiam Rehabilitation Center For Victims Of Torture, Instituto De Desenvolvimento E Direitos Humanos – Iddh, Center For International Environmental Law (Ciel), Women's International League For Peace And Freedom, International Network For The Prevention Of Elder Abuse, Christian Solidarity International (Csi), Centre Europe - Tiers Monde, Beijing Ngo Association For International Exchanges, Réseau Africain Pour Le Développement, La Gouvernance Et Les Droits Humains (Radheg), Arab European Forum For Dialogue And Human Rights, Chinese Association For International, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, Association Ma'onah For Human Rights And Immigration, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice Delle Salesiane Di Don Bosco, Organization For Defending Victims Of Violence, Africa Culture Internationale, Integrated Youth Empowerment - Common Initiative Group (I.Y.E. – C.I.G.), Family Health Association Of Iran, Advocates For Human Rights, Make Mothers Matter, Association Of Iranian Short Statured Adults, World Barua Organization (Wbo), Al Baraem Association For Charitable Work, War Resisters International, Harm Reduction International, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnaty Va Salamat Iranian, Citoyens En Action Pour La Démocratie Et Le Développement, China Foundation For Human Rights Development, Association Miman, Asociacion Cubana De Las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association), International Organization For The Right To Education And Freedom Of Education (Oidel), International Muslim Women's Union, Jssor Youth Organization, Iraqi Development Organization, Bachehaye Asemane Kamran Rehabilitation Institute, Conscience And Peace Tax International (Cpti), Partners For Transparency, Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation, Cirid (Centre Independent De Recherches Et D'initiatives Pour Le Dialogue), Americans For Democracy & Human Rights In Bahrain Inc, Institute For Reporters' Freedom And Safety, World Muslim Congress, Sikh Human Rights Group, British Humanist Association, Réseau De Formation Et De Recherche Sur Les Migrations Africaines (Reformaf), Asia Pacific Forum On Women, Law And Development, International Federation Of Acat (Action By Christians For The Abolition Of Torture), China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, Association Internationale Pour L'égalité Des Femmes, Indigenous People Of Africa Coordinating Committee, International Career Support Association, Edmund Rice International, Centre Du Commerce International Pour Le Développement, Inhr, Association De Défense Et De Promotion Des Droits De L'homme (Adeage), Institute For Human Rights, Ngo, International Association Of Jewish Lawyers And Jurists, Association Culture Femmes, Friends World Committee For Consultation, United Nations Watch, Action Canada For Population And Development, Centre D'encadrement Et Développement Des Anciens Combattants, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni Xxiii, Human Rights Research League, Civicus - World Alliance For Citizen Participation, Interfaith International, Amnesty International, International Bar Association, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Franciscans International, Network Of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations In The Islamic Republic Of Iran, United Towns Agency For North-South Cooperation, Il Cenacolo, Coordination Des Associations Et Des Particuliers Pour La Liberté De Conscience, The International Humanitarian Society For Development Without Borders, Iran Autism Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, Global Institute For Water, Environment And Health, Centre For Human Rights And Peace Advocacy, "Eco-Fawn" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation For Afforestation Wild Animals And Nature), Medical Support Association For Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Réseau Unité Pour Le Développement De Mauritanie, United For Human Rights, Ocaproce Internationale, Prahar, Arc.*

**Recording of the General Debate on Item 3 is available on the UN WebTV: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#).**