

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 57th SESSION

Overview of Week 3 (23 - 27 September 2024)

*During the third week of the UN Human Rights Council, the Council will continue discussion on thematic reports under **Agenda Item 4**¹. In particular, it will consider the **human rights situations in Ukraine, Russian Federation, and Myanmar**. Additionally, the Council will discuss relevant topics under **Agenda Item 5**². In conclusion, the Council will start analyzing the Universal Periodic Review of selected countries, including **New Zealand, Afghanistan, Chile, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Yemen, Vanuatu, North Macedonia, Comoros, Slovakia, Eritrea, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, and Cambodia**. During the third week, the Council will hold **two panel discussions on the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members; and on the rights of Indigenous Peoples: "Laws, policies, judicial decisions and other measures taken by States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"**.*



Panel discussion



25 September: Panel discussion on the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members.

25 September: Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples: "Laws, policies, judicial decisions and other measures taken by States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention



23 September: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in **Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression (oral update).**

23 September: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the **situation of human rights in Myanmar.**

A/HRC/57/56³: The report presented **findings** based on OHCHR monitoring and verification of the overall **situation of human rights in Myanmar regarding alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law**, since 1 April 2023. Given the growing number of individuals impacted across the country, the report also briefly presented concerns related to mental health services, including their critical importance to the resolution of the current crisis. It analyzed available data and emphasized the magnitude of the mental health needs and opportunities for improvement of the

¹ Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

² Item 5: Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms

³ As of 22 September, only the English Advanced Unedited Version is available.

situation. The human rights situation documented in this report indicated the gravity and pervasiveness of the human rights crisis created by the military's actions in Myanmar. Fear of arrest, torture, and death permeates Myanmar's society, as anyone can be at risk of arbitrary arrest by the military without any legal protection. The lack of any form of accountability for perpetrators is an enabler for the repetition of crimes, violations, and abuses. **The report concluded with recommendations to the military, armed groups, and the international community**, including to ensure accountability, cease immediately all violence and attacks directed against civilians, including the Rohingya, and civilian objects, and improve conditions of detention by, inter alia, ensuring adequate hygienic conditions, food, healthcare, family visitations, and access of independent monitors to places of deprivation of liberty; among others.

24 September: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **situation of human rights in the Russian Federation**, [Mariana Katzarova](#).

A/HRC/57/59⁴: **The SR reported the human rights situation in the Russian Federation.** She noted with concerns the State's structural, and systematic human rights violations legalized by new or revised legislation utilized to suppress civil society, dissenting views, and political opposition. An environment of absolute **impunity** has been created, coupled with a lack of independent institutions to safeguard the rule of law and access to justice. **Public anti-war expression or dissent of any kind is criminalized**, the use of violence by law enforcement is condoned and arbitrary arrests and detentions are widespread. The persecution and incarceration rate of human rights defenders, journalists, and political figures in the Russian Federation has increased sharply, with worsening conditions, including solitary confinement, enforced disappearance and death in custody. The risk of severe punishment for any form of public dissent is very high, particularly for individuals and **groups vulnerable to discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, political opinion, religion, Indigenous status, or minority background.** The **right to privacy** is severely jeopardized by the Government's control of online information and its use of digital surveillance tools to suppress dissent through the monitoring and censorship of the Internet and prosecution. In conclusion, **the SR recommended the Russian authorities** undertake fundamental reforms, including constitutional, legislative, and administrative, to establish an effective system of accountability; ensure the prompt and impartial investigation of all allegations of torture and death in custody consistent with international standards, immediately end the use of torture and other ill-treatment; and prevent and combat hate speech and hate crimes, including against migrants, by ensuring that those committing or espousing them are held accountable; among others.

[Agenda Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms](#)



25 September: Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the **Rights of Indigenous Peoples** on its annual report.

[A/HRC/57/62](#): The report contained an **analysis of constitutions, laws, legislation, policies, judicial decisions and other mechanisms** through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The study included examples of **recent initiatives, measures and developments through which States have taken legislative and other steps, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, to achieve the ends of the Declaration**, including any challenges and barriers that were faced in the process. It also included a review of policy decisions concerning Indigenous Peoples, in order to determine the progress made on Indigenous rights at the national level, and identification of good practices, models, or approaches adopted by Member States to consult and cooperate with Indigenous Peoples to achieve the ends of the Declaration. The study concluded with the Expert Mechanism Advice N.17 (2024) on

⁴ As of 22 September, only the English Advanced Unedited Version is available.

how States should take such measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration within the context of their human rights obligations and responsibilities.

[A/HRC/57/64](#): The annual report provided an overview of the seventeenth session, held in July 2023 by the Expert Mechanism. During that session, the Expert Mechanism adopted its study on constitutions, laws, legislation, policies, judicial decisions, and other mechanisms through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

25-26 September: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **rights of indigenous peoples**, [José Francisco Calí Tzay](#).

[A/HRC/57/47](#): **Indigenous persons with disabilities** often experience multiple forms of individual and structural discrimination that create barriers to the full enjoyment of their rights, based on their Indigenous identity and their disability. Intersecting layers of discrimination can limit their access to the justice system, development programs and funds, education, employment, health care, communications, and transportation services. Owing to marginalization, poverty and “invisibility”, Indigenous persons with disabilities are not always able to voice their concerns and exercise their rights. The disproportionately high numbers of persons with disabilities among Indigenous Peoples are driven by multiple factors, including environmental pollution and systemic poverty. Indigenous women with disabilities face unique challenges due to the intersectionality of discrimination based on gender, race and disability. They often face higher rates of violence and limited access to education and healthcare services, which underscores the need for culturally appropriate interventions in full consultation with them. It is also essential to respect the right of Indigenous persons with disabilities to consultation and free, prior, and informed consent, including through their representative organizations, before adopting any legislation, policy or project that may affect them. Indigenous persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the negative consequences of climate change and environmental pollution.

In conclusion, **the SR recommended governments to adopt and implement legislation, policies, and programs, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, that specifically recognize the rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities**; ensure full and fair compensation for environmental damage caused by extractive projects and other activities, including addressing the health impacts of environmental degradation and pollution on Indigenous persons with disabilities; and ensure access to inclusive, culturally appropriate and relevant education for Indigenous children with disabilities, including in Indigenous languages; among others.

[A/HRC/57/47/Add.1](#): **Visit to Colombia, from 5 to 15 March 2024**.

26 September: Interactive dialogue with the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

[A/HRC/57/61](#): The report focused on the **impact, opportunities, and challenges of neurotechnology with regard to the promotion and protection of all human rights**. The rapid progress in neurotechnologies over the past decade is raising high expectations and serious concerns. Promising developments in scientific research demonstrate how those technologies may contribute to advancing applied neurosciences. While more sophisticated surveillance and manipulation tools will be available to Governments and private actors, the broader implications of completely surrendering mental privacy to private companies remain largely unknown. That also raises profound **societal challenges** as new forms of discrimination and exploitation may emerge. The Advisory Committee provided key findings: neurotechnologies uniquely affect human rights, connecting human brains directly to digital networks has significant ethical implications for values underlying the human rights system and may offer tools to alter human essence; integrating a human rights approach into all national and international policies is a priority; and context-tailored human rights standards should be developed and expressly declared in authoritative documents. In this vein, the HRC and the Member States should exercise due diligence in regulating, monitoring, and sanctioning the conduct of actors that develop, commercialize, or require the use of neurotechnologies as a means to prevent the endangerment of the enjoyment of human rights and take measures to remedy their violation; and take an active role and promote a human rights-based approach in ongoing debates on the governance of neurotechnologies and related issues, such as artificial intelligence.

26 September: Interactive dialogue on the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

[A/HRC/57/60](#): In the report, the Secretary-General highlighted activities, policy developments, and good practices within the United Nations system and beyond to address intimidation of and reprisals against those seeking to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights. The Council condemned all acts of intimidation and reprisal committed by Governments and non-state actors against such individuals and groups and invited the Secretary-General to report annually on alleged reprisals, including recommendations on addressing the issue. The report included observations on and recommendations for addressing and preventing intimidation and reprisals, and information on allegations of intimidation and reprisals received during the reporting period of 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024, including follow-up information on cases included in previous reports.

Member States bear the primary responsibility for preventing and addressing reprisals. The SG reiterated his call to States to refrain from, prevent, and ensure accountability for any acts of intimidation and reprisal for cooperation with the United Nations and to share and build upon good practices on how to prevent and address reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations. He called upon the international community to ensure that concerted action is taken to protect, support, and ensure the meaningful and safe engagement of individuals and groups, including women human rights defenders and peacebuilders, with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

[Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review](#)



*26 September – 01 October: Adoption of UPR Outcomes: **New Zealand, Afghanistan, Chile, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Yemen, Vanuatu, North Macedonia, Comoros, Slovakia, Eritrea, Cyprus, Dominican Republic and Cambodia.***

New Zealand: [Report](#) of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (henceforth “Working Group”) lists 259 recommendations received by New Zealand, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Argentina, Bangladesh and Morocco.

Afghanistan: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 243 recommendations received by Afghanistan, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Burundi, India and Netherlands.

Chile: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 329 recommendations received by Chile, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Costa Rica, Gambia and Viet Nam.

Viet Nam: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 320 recommendations received by Viet Nam, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Paraguay.

Uruguay: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 274 recommendations received by Uruguay, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Brazil, Eritrea and Malaysia.

Yemen: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 256 recommendations received by Yemen, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Luxembourg, Maldives and South Africa.

Vanuatu: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 209 recommendations received by Vanuatu, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Lithuania, Sudan and United Arab Emirates.

North Macedonia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 205 recommendations received by North Macedonia, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Albania, Benin and Finland.

Comoros: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 237 recommendations received by Comoros, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: China, Côte d'Ivoire and Honduras.

Slovakia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 242 recommendations received by Slovakia, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Algeria, Kyrgyzstan and the United States of America.

Eritrea: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 293 recommendations received by Eritrea, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Kuwait, Malawi and Romania.

Cyprus: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 236 recommendations received by Cyprus, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Georgia, Qatar and Somalia.

Dominican Republic: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 256 recommendations received by Dominican Republic, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Belgium, Chile and Indonesia.

Cambodia: [Report](#) of the Working Group lists 275 recommendations received by Cambodia, which will provide responses during the 57th session of the Council. Troika of rapporteurs: Ghana, Japan and Montenegro.

General Debate

24 September: General Debate under Agenda Item 4.

26 September: General Debate under Agenda Item 5.

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