

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 58th SESSION

### Organizational Meeting

10 February 2025

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Council of Human Rights, Ambassador Jürg Lauber. The regular session is scheduled to last for five weeks from **24 February to 4 April 2025**. In this session, no lunchtime meetings will be held.

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

During its 58th session, the Council will hold 6-panel debates:

- **Panel on the implementation of human rights in continuing and strengthening progress made in response to HIV and the need to leave no one behind** to be held in Resolution 56/20 of the Council will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Presented by Brazil.
- **Panel on rapid alert and responsibility and prevention of genocides**, to explore international tools for early warning and prevention of genocide emphasizing collective efforts to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms and warning signs looking at international legal instruments, responsibility and combating impunity. Presented by Armenia (5 March).
- **Panel on the implementation of the right to work and the right to social security in the informal sector**, in the context of sustainable and inclusive economies with an emphasis on the importance of international cooperation and partnerships in this regard. Presented by Egypt. (7 March)
- **Annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities to be held under resolutions 7/9, 55/8 and 57.6 of the council** under the topic of rights of persons with disabilities, digital technologies and assistance technologies, combating cyber bullying and digital inclusivity. Presented by Mexico. (10 March)
- **Annual day on the rights of the child to be held under resolution 7/29 and 55.29 of the council has the topic development of early childhood**. The discussion will have two panels: The first will analyze priorities in promoting a focus on a child rights-based focus on development of early childhood and the second on early childhood development in situations of emergency giving priority to the rights of the child. Presented by Uruguay. (13 March)
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held under the Resolution 79/161 of the General Assembly will be based on the topic 60th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**. Presented by Ghana. (27 March)

## Overview of the Programme of Work

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

That meeting will be followed by the high-level segment. 104 dignitaries have signed up to participate in the high-level segment. The high-level segment is reserved to heads of state, heads of government, deputy heads of state, deputy heads of government, ministers, vice ministers and heads of specialized institutions, programs and international organizations.

On 3rd March, Monday, the Council will hear an oral update from the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Council will hold 31 Interactive Dialogues with the High Commissioner, the bureau and the designated experts, special procedures mandate holders and mandate holders of the investigation mechanisms and the special representatives of the Secretary General. The Council will hold 5 extended interactive debates, and 9 general debates.

**3 mandate holders for Expert Mechanisms** are expected to be appointed by the Council.

### **Deadlines:**

- **States:** the online system for inscription in the list of speakers for all Interactive Dialogues and Panel Discussions will open on Monday, **17 February 2025. Video messages will be accepted until 24 hours before the start of the meeting.**
- The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate.
- **NGOs:** the list of speakers for all debates will open online on Tuesday, 18 February 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- List of speakers for **Panel Discussions:** states will be asked to rank panels in order of priority when inscribing on the list of speakers. Slots will be allocated by the system taking these priorities into account.
- The deadline for submitting draft proposals for the 58th session will be Thursday, 21 March at 1:00 p.m.

## Information Sharing on Initiatives

- **Algeria:** as part of the **core group including South Africa, Croatia, Mozambique, the United Kingdom, Peru and Vanuatu**, a **draft resolution** on the impact of antipersonnel mines on the enjoyment of human rights. This initiative aims to focus on the impact of the use of antipersonnel mines on human rights and fundamental freedoms. An **event** on the theme of the resolution (**11 March, from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.**). The objective is to assess the impact of antipersonnel mines on human rights during and after conflicts.
- **Pakistan:** the OIC group intends to present the **4 resolutions** under items 2 and 7 in response to the continuous tragedy in the Middle East. 1) the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice; 2) the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; 3) Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan; and 4) human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan. + the **resolution** on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief under item 9.
- **Netherlands:** the **high-level event** on journalists under fire, how to protect journalists and civilians right to access to information in times of conflict (**26 February, 9 – 10 am**). The event will showcase the power of journalism in conflict settings and demonstrate how journalists and other media workers function as a lifeline for civilians.
- **Mexico:** a **draft resolution** related to the mandate of the special operator on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism. This has its objective to renew the mandate of the special operator for a period of three additional years.
- **Cuba: 3 resolutions:** 1) on the right to food renewing the mandate of the special rapporteur whose work helped deal with food insecurity, hunger and extreme poverty and provide support to

developing countries in the production of agricultural products, imports, strengthening food, sustainable food systems, and productive development of national industry; 2) on the consequences of foreign debt and other related financial international obligations of states in the full enjoyment of human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights; and 3) on the promotion of the enjoyment of cultural rights of all and respect for cultural diversity, highlighting the importance to respect national specific features as well as historical, cultural and religious diversities between and amongst states that develop their own economic and social systems.

- **Spain: side event** together with the **Office of the High Commission and other members of groups that supported Resolution 54/6** on the recognition of the rights of caretakers and who provides support. + part of a group of countries that have been promoting a **resolution** related to the role of women in diplomacy, promoting gender equality in multilateralism as a fundamental element to ensure peace and security and sustainable development and human rights of everyone.
- **Bolivia: side event** on the role of the UN declaration on the rights of peasants and other agricultural workers in rural areas in the realization of the right to food, the role of women peasants (7 March, 1:00 p.m.). **Third session of the Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and other workers in rural areas (24 – 28 February).**
- **Cyprus (on behalf of a cross-regional core group comprised of Argentina, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland, Serbia, and Cyprus): triennial resolution** on cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage.
- **Colombia: side event** with the participation of the special operator on the protection of human rights defenders as part of her preparation of the future report on human rights defenders in rural areas and other contexts; **event** together with the **Dominican Republic** on mechanisms related to implementation and follow-up to international recommendations and an event on sexual and reproductive health organized with other states and not governmental organizations.
- **Ghana: 3 resolutions:** 1) binary resolution on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin on the enjoyment of human rights; 2) resolution on mandate renewal for the technical assistance and capacity building formally in the field of human rights; and 3) resolution to renew the mandate for technical assistance and capacity building for South Sudan.
- **Iceland (on behalf of Germany, Moldova, North Macedonia, United Kingdom, Iceland): resolution** on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. **The side event**, together with the **International Organization for Standardization**, titled Launch of the First ISO Guidelines on Child Protection and Standardization of the Rights of the Child (12 March, 1:00 to 2:00 pm).
- **Indonesia (on behalf of Bahamas, Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana and Morocco, Indonesia): side event** on Convention Against Torture Initiative (5 March, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.).
- **Armenia and Estonia on behalf of the Transregional Group: Joint Declaration** on Digital Technologies and the Rights of Women and Girls. It is aimed at strengthening international cooperation in order to ensure gender equality in the digital domain.
- **Switzerland: side event** devoted to the question of the death penalty as in abolitionist, de facto abolitionist states and will provide additional information on that; **enhanced interactive dialogue** with the High Commission on the Human Rights on transitional justice that will lay to the report related to lessons learned and best practices related to transitional justice in the context of peacekeeping and sustainable development and SDG No. 16 (5 March); and the **multicultural National Dress Day** will take place on 27 February in the Serpent Bar starting at 6:00 p.m.
- **Morocco: draft resolution** about women diplomacy and human rights + high-level side event on the International Network of NMRIFs strengthening cooperation promoting membership and disseminating the Marrakech Guidance Framework (27 February, 2pm).
- **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of a core group of countries): resolution** under item 2, advancing human rights in South Sudan; **draft resolution** renewing the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry to ensure that its vital work in documenting violations and abuses in Syria can continue.
- **Norway: new resolution** on human rights defenders during the upcoming session. This is a triannual substantive resolution. It will focus on new and emerging technologies and human rights defenders,

to capture both positive and negative aspects of how new technologies and digital spaces affect defenders. The resolution builds on previous human rights defender resolutions as well as other relevant resolutions including new and emerging technologies aiming to develop and consolidate the best practice in this field.

- **Ukraine:** updated [resolution](#) on the human rights situation in Ukraine extending the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry for another year. This commission plays a critical role in gathering evidence that will serve as a foundation for accountability in future international legal proceedings.
- **The Philippines:** [high-level side event](#) to present the fourth Philippine Human Rights Plan ([25 February, 1:00-2:00 pm](#)). The event aims to initiate discussions with partners on potential cooperation in the implementation of the plan as well as to share our experience, including lessons learned in forging a multistakeholder consensus in a viable comprehensive plan of action for human rights promotion and protection. **(With Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand)** [side event](#) on the transformative power of human rights education in achieving gender equality in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ([14 March, 1:00-2:00 pm](#)). This is to celebrate the launch of the fifth phase of the World Programme on Human Rights Education in January 2025 and International Women's Day.
- **China** will work and contribute together with other members of the relevant group to ensure the success of the annual high-level panel, Beijing Plus 30.
- **Holy See:** co-organizing a [high-level side event](#) with UNCTAD on the sidelines of the high-level segment of the 50th session on depth forgiveness ([25 February, 1:00 pm](#)).
- **Maldives (on behalf of the core group: Costa Rica, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland, and Maldives):** [resolution](#) entitled to the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment at the upcoming session of the Human Rights Council, under the theme of oceans and human rights. **With Costa Rica, Morocco and Slovenia,** will host a [side event](#) on advancing the universal right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment that will focus on actionable strategies and the next steps to operationalize HRC Resolution 52/23 with a particular emphasis on the critical link between the ocean and human rights ([24 February](#)).
- **Italy:** an [exhibition of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) through the eyes of young people with the participation of the Italian Minister for Disabilities and among other speakers the Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, as well as the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights ([26 February, 1:00 pm](#)). Copromote **3 side events:** 1) on is the world and inclusive and equitable future, the protection of children in armed conflict, emerging technologies, and women peace security principles in arms control ([10 March, 1:00 pm](#)); 2) on local and regional governments as key actors in advancing human rights and sustainable development goals ([17 March, 1:00 pm](#)); 3) on gender decision making, the contribution by CEDAW general recommendation 40 to the implementation of the women peace security agenda ([19 March, 1:00 pm](#)).
- **Romania (with the cross-regional group of Staes: Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia and Romania):** [resolution](#) on human rights democracy and the rule of law, focusing on the importance of education in empowering rights holders to successfully shape the future of societies by effectively promoting human rights democracy and the rule of law principles.
- **Dominican Republic (with Paraguay, Colombia and Costa Rica):** [side event](#) on strengthening human rights, national implementation, and reporting and follow-up mechanisms in Latin America ([11 March, 2:00 pm](#)). + **(with Belgium and Lithuania)** [side event](#) on strengthening support systems during World Down Syndrome Day 2025 ([21 March](#)).
- **Slovenia:** [side event](#) entitled implementing foreign policy goals with a Human Rights Lens, advancing equality through Multilateralism ([25 February, 2:00 pm](#)).
- **European Union:** **4 resolutions** and all of them are renewals: 1) on *Belarus* to renew both the investigative mandate of the group of independent experts as well as the mandate of the special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus; 2) on the *Democratic People's Republic of Korea* to renewal for one year the mandate of the special rapporteur and for two years the capacity of the



OHCHR including its field-based structure in Seoul; 3) on *Myanmar* addressing the concerning and continuously deteriorating human rights situation in the country and renewing the mandate of the special rapporteur; and 4) on *freedom of religion or belief* in order to underline the council's commitment to the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

- **Uganda: resolution** on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.
- **United Arab Emirates: side event** during the 50th session on the rights of persons with disabilities and artificial intelligence (17 March, 2:00 pm).
- **Greece (on behalf of a cross-regional core group consisting of Chile, Singapore, Switzerland and Greece): resolution** on neurotechnology and human rights (first time during the 51st session). As neurotechnology evolves rapidly we also need to be alert to the ethical legal and societal concerns associated with its use. The core group also plans to organize a side event aiming to foster awareness and to contribute to the multidisciplinary dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of neurotechnology and human rights.
- **Republic of Korea: side event** titled Persistent Human Rights Violation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a Pathways to Accountability (19 March, 12:00 pm). This side event will provide an opportunity to shed light on the ongoing and systematic human rights violations in the DPRK including forced labor, arbitrary detention, and torture while exploring ways to strengthen accountability mechanisms. A **side event** on the new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo: side event** on access to education for girls.
- **Portugal: resolution** on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, addressing the topic of financing for development.
- **Qatar: high-level side event** under the title "to make it possible for girls to benefit from her rights through sports.", focusing on the opportunities provided by sports to girls, especially through the elimination of discrimination (12 March). Side event on the fourth anniversary of the International Day of Lawyers on the 27th of February (10 March).
- **Sierra Leone (with Luxembourg, the Dominican Republic and members of the Core Group on the right to Education): side event** titled strengthening the right to free education to transform millions of lives (10 March, 2:00 pm).
- **Albania (with EU, UNICEF, and the office of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on violence against children): side event** on addressing violence and social inclusion of children, exclusion of prioritizing access to service for all children, and leveraging the child guarantee framework. This event will highlight the European child guarantee role in ensuring access to essential services for all children and families and addressing social exclusion (10 March, 1:00 pm).

#### Other matters:

The 3-year program of work for 2025-2027 is being updated and will be posted on the Extranet. The voluntary yearly calendar for thematic resolutions is being updated and will be circulated before the start of the session.

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

#### **Modalities:**

- The 58th session will be held in Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and on an online platform (Zoom). State delegations can participate in person, via pre-recorded video statements, or via Zoom. The capacity of Room XX is no longer restricted. Point of order can be raised via Zoom by using the raise hand function. The delegations can exercise their right of reply remotely in the

same manner as during the past regular session, by sending an email to: [OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org](mailto:OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org)

- Working hours of the session during Ramadan be adjusted in the same manner as at the 55th session in March last year. Namely, meetings from **28 February to 28 March 2025 are held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.**
- Special Procedures mandate holders, Investigative Mechanisms and Panelists unable to travel to Geneva are able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
- **NGOs with ECOSOC status and NHRIs with “A” status** have the possibility of delivering their statements in person from Room XX or via pre-recorded video statements. The list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates will be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous sessions.
- All oral statements should be electronically submitted to the interpreters at least 1h00 prior the estimated time of delivery, to ensure the quality of the interpretation. Submission of transcript is mandatory for all online statements.

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

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

**Documentation:** 45 out of 93 reports for the 58th session are already available in all UN languages.

Watch the full recording here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1q2u7j4ig>