

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 58th SESSION

Overview of Week 1 (24-28 February 2025)

During its first week of work, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) will begin the 58th regular session with the annual High-Level Segment (HLS), during which more than 120 Dignitaries¹ will address the Council. In the remaining days, the human rights situation in five countries and regions will be addressed under **Agenda Item 2², including Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel**. Additionally, the Council will hold a panel discussion on Annual High-Level Mainstreaming, and a Biennial High-Level Panel on Death Penalty.



Opening of the session: 24 February 2025, 9:00 am (CET): The session will be opened by the President of the Human Rights Council, the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland as host country.

High-Level Segment

List of dignitaries (Presidents, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs...) by Regional Group:

African Group: Lesotho, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Algeria, Morocco, Cameroon, Gambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Gabon, Nigeria, Kenya, Mali, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Rwanda, Tunisia, Egypt, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Angola, Sudan, Burundi, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania.

Asia and the Pacific Group: Jordan, Viet Nam, Maldives, Iran, Indonesia, China, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Bahrain, India, Honduras, Syrian Arab Republic, Qatar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kuwait, Mauritius, Pakistan, Yemen, Malaysia, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, Timor-Leste, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands, Bangladesh.

Eastern European Group: Serbia, Slovenia, Georgia, Albania, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Estonia, Armenia, Romania, Montenegro, Türkiye, Latvia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Poland, Belarus, Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation.

Latin American and Caribbean States Group: Colombia, Paraguay, Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil, Guatemala, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, Paraguay, Argentina, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Nepal, Peru, Mexico.

Western European and Others Group: Luxemburg, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Austria, Malta, France, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Andorra, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Canada, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sovereign Order of Malta, Greece, Cyprus, New Zealand, Australia, Holy See, Italy.

Also taking the floor during the HLS: ICRC; European Union; African Union; UNCTAD; IDLO; Commonwealth; Council of Europe; Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; OIC; OAS; CPLP.

The High-level segment will be followed by the General segment.

¹ As inscribed in the List of dignitaries of 20 February 2025.

² Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

Panel discussions



24 February: **Annual high-level Mainstreaming Panel.** Theme: *Thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.*

25 February: **Biennial High-Level Panel on Death Penalty.** Theme: *Contribution of the judiciary to the advancement of human rights and the question of the death penalty.*

Agenda Item 2³: Presentation of Reports and Interactive Dialogues



27 February: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Report on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice.

A/HRC/58/28⁴: The report provided an overview of the implementation of the resolution and developments relevant to the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has deteriorated alarmingly since 7 October 2023, with **gross violations of rights and disregard for obligations under international law escalating to unprecedented levels**. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued to hold hostages and to fire inherently indiscriminate projectiles toward Israel. Israeli forces and Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups have committed violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza, in many cases amounting to war crimes and other gross violations and abuses of international human rights law. In conclusion, the **High Commissioner called upon all parties to the conflict in Gaza to implement an immediate ceasefire and to ensure full respect for international law and accountability for violations and abuses**. In particular, **Israel** should immediately and effectively ensure the unhindered provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza, including through the removal of all practical barriers; and immediately take steps to ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law in the conduct of hostilities; among others. **Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza** should immediately and unconditionally release all hostages and ensure their humane treatment, including freedom from any form of abuse; and cease firing indiscriminate projectiles, refrain from co-locating military objectives and civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially when the intent is to prevent the targeting of military objectives, and comply fully with all other applicable obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

27 February: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **situation of human rights in Eritrea**, **Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker**.

27 February: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Report on the **situation of human rights in Sudan**, with the assistance of the **Designated Expert (Radhouane Nouicer)**.

A/HRC/58/29: The report outlined **key human rights challenges encountered in Sudan** from 16 December 2023 to 15 November 2024 and includes recommendations for addressing them. The parties to the conflict continued to show utter disregard for international law and for the protection of civilians. They committed **gross violations and abuses of international human rights law as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law**, including possible war crimes. Further investigations would be

³ Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

⁴ English Advanced Edited Version, 21 February 2025.

needed to establish whether other serious crimes under international law have been committed. Entrenched impunity was one of the drivers of the conflict and has been fuelling it ever since. Accountability, regardless of the rank and affiliation of the perpetrators, is critical to breaking the recurring cycles of violence and impunity in Sudan and preventing further violations and abuses. There are concerns that the conflict has been building on past discrimination and inequalities, often along ethnic and tribal lines. In conclusion, the **HC called upon the parties to the conflict** to engage in negotiations and mediation efforts in good faith and reach an immediate cessation of hostilities; and end arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, release, immediately and unconditionally, all persons arbitrarily detained and halt all attacks on, threats against and harassment of civil society representatives and members of the media; among others. Additionally, the HC listed several **recommendations to the international community and the Sudanese authorities**.

28 February: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Report on the **situation of human rights in South Sudan**.

28 February: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Report of Group of Human Rights Experts on **promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua**.

28 February: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the **situation of human rights in Afghanistan**, [Richard Bennet](#).

28 February: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on the **situation of human rights in Myanmar**.

General Debate

24-26 February: High-Level Segment.

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