



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Organizational Session

#HRC58 • 10 February 2025



OVERVIEW

The fifth-eighth session of the Human Rights Council (#HRC58) will be held in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilization Room (Room XX) from **24 February 2024 until 4 April 2024**, for a total of six weeks. This is due to the rise in mandatory activities, the restrictions imposed on meetings during lunchtime and the official holiday falling during the session.

To ensure completion of work in the timeframe, a collective effort will be needed. **The President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Amb. Jürg Lauber of Switzerland**, thanks all participants in advance for their commitment to keeping to speaking times. He also encourages the main authors of resolutions to explore alternative approaches that could allow implementation of their goals while reducing the work of the Council.

MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION

For **State** delegations, the online system for the inscription on the list of speakers for **all general debates, interactive dialogues and discussions** will open on Monday, 17 February at 4:00 pm. After the closure, delegations can still sign up or withdraw by contacting the Secretariat in Room XX or sending an email to OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org. The list of speakers will be closed



approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate. Delegations are warmly invited to respect the timeframe by courtesy towards other speakers and the Secretariat.

The online inscription on the list of speakers for the **adoption of the UPR outcomes** will open on Monday, 10 March at 9:00 am and close on Thursday, 3 March at 6:00 pm. In this case, no inscription will be accepted after the closure.

Interested states are invited to **classify the discussions by order of preference** and timeframes will be granted by the system dependent on preference. If the number of states giving highest priority to a particular discussion goes beyond the maximum possible speaking time, slots will be granted on the principle of first come, first served. The speaking time for discussions is limited to 1 minute and 30 seconds.

For **National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs**, the online system for the inscription on the list of speakers for **all debates** during the session will be available starting from Tuesday, 18 February at 2:00 pm. Signing up on the list of speakers for discussions will be the same as during previous sessions.

States and Other Observers, NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, as well as National Human Rights Institutions with A-Status, will have the opportunity to present their **statements in person or through pre-recorded video statements**. In order to reconcile the importance of inclusiveness with what is achievable in terms of time and resources, the list of speakers for NGOs during each general debate will be based on the average number of NGOs that participated in each general debate during the previous three March sessions (49th, 52nd, and 55th).

REPRESENTATION OF MYANMAR

On 10 January 2025, the Bureau examined the question of the **representation of the Union of Myanmar** within the Human Rights Council and noted that the situation remained unchanged since 2021. In line with the practise observed during the last four years, the Bureau took note of the fact that the situation relating to the representation of Myanmar at the Human Rights Council remained unchanged. Consequently, it was noted that, pending the decision of the UN General Assembly on this matter, the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council could not address requests for participation by anybody belonging to the delegation of Myanmar within the Council in 2025.

In line with the previous decisions of the Council, the Bureau proposed to the Council that the **two interactive dialogues on Myanmar** planned at the fifty-eight session, namely the interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on Myanmar and the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, should be held as planned **without the participation** of the country concerned. This is proposed on the basis that this exceptional circumstance does not constitute a precedent for the future. In the absence of any objection to the Bureau's proposal, the Council decides to proceed with the two interactive dialogues on Myanmar as planned without the participation of the country concerned.

DOCUMENTATION

The President shares some important technical information with regard to documents relating to the fifty-eight session. **45 of the 93 reports** prepared for the session are already available in all the official UN languages and published on the Council's website. The others will be available in



the coming weeks. The President acknowledges that the Secretariat, including Conference Services, are doing their best to ensure that necessary documentation is available in all the official languages of the United Nations in time for their discussions.

All participants are requested to upload the **electronic versions of oral statements** via the online system or to send them to the relevant email addresses. The President further reminds delegations that **all oral statements must be submitted electronically** to the interpreters at least one hour before their presentation. This is essential for the quality of the interpretation. In addition, the submission of transcripts is mandatory for all video statements. Let me also stress the importance of video statements recorded with appropriate sound quality using the adequate equipment.

WORKING HOURS

At the request of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC and as approved by the Council without any objection, during the holy month of **Ramadan**, the timetable for the fifty-eight session will be adjusted in the same manner as at the fifty-fifth session held in March 2024. Therefore, the meetings will be held from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

OPENING SESSION AND HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

The **opening** of the fifty-eight session will take place on 24 February at 9:00 am with statements delivered 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.

This opening meeting will be followed by the **High-Level Segment**. To date, **104 dignitaries** are announced to participate in the High-Level Segment. The provisional list of dignitaries is available on the **extranet** and regularly updated. The speaking time is 7 minutes for Heads of State and Government, and 5 minutes for all other participants within 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 Specialised Institutions, Programmes and International Organisations.

The closure of the High-Level Segment concludes on Wednesday, 26 February, will be immediately followed by the **General Segment**, during which delegations that were not represented by a dignitary during the High-Level Segment can take the floor. For the General Segment, the speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes for Member States of the Council and 2 minutes for Observer States and other observers.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

On Monday, 3 March, the Council will hear the **Global Update** from the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The general debate on the Global Update will be held following the presentation by the High Commissioner of several country-specific reports and mandated updates under Item 2 of the agenda. During the session, the Council will hold **31 interactive dialogues** with the High Commissioner, the Bureau, designated experts, mandate holders, and two the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General. The Council will also hold **five enhanced**



interactive debates, one high-level debate and nine general debates. The council will also adopt the UPR outcome documents of Norway, Albania, the DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Portugal, Bhutan, Dominica, the DPRK, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Qatar and Nicaragua, examined at the forty-eight session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Towards the end of the fifty-eight session, the Council will proceed to the **appointment of three mandate holders** for expert mechanisms. The President's list of proposed candidates will be disseminated and published on the extranet.

PANEL DEBATES AND COMMEMORATIONS

During the fifty-eight session, the Human Rights Council will hold **nine** panel discussions.

- Annual high-level panel discussion on **human rights mainstreaming** dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (24 February).
- Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the **death penalty** dedicated to the contribution of the judiciary to the advancement of human rights and the question of the death penalty (25 February).
- Panel discussion on **early warning and genocide prevention** (5 March).
- Panel discussion on the realization of human rights in sustaining and increasing the gains made in the **HIV response** and leaving no one behind (6 March).
- Panel discussion on the realization of the **rights to work and to social security** in the informal economy (7 March).
- Annual interactive debate on the rights of **persons with disabilities** dedicated to digital and assistive technologies, countering cyberbullying, and digital inclusion (10 March).
- Annual full-day meeting on the **rights of the child**, marked by two panels dedicated respectively to the priorities to advance a child rights-based approach to early childhood development, and early childhood development in emergencies.
- Commemoration of the International Day for the **Elimination of Racial Discrimination** dedicated to the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (27 March).

DRAFT PROPOSALS

The **deadline** for submitting draft proposals for the fifty-eight session will be Thursday, 21 March at 1:00 pm. Any request for an extension will only be approved by the Commission in exceptional circumstances for a maximum of 24 hours by the Council. In this regard, all delegations are warmly invited to submit their draft proposals on time. The eDeleGATE platform will continue to be used for the submission and sponsorship of draft resolutions, and States are encouraged to check in advance that they have access to eDeleGATE. The **2025-2027 Programme of Work** was last updated on 3 January 2025 and was published on the extranet. The main sponsors of draft resolutions are reminded that they are encouraged to take into account the multi-year programme of work when **proposing new initiatives**.

Under UNHRC resolution 5/1, delegations are invited to **conduct informal consultations of an open nature** in order to ensure the widest possible support of their initiatives. At least one open-ended informal consultation should take place on each draft resolution and or decision before it is submitted to the Council for consideration. Consultations should, to the extent possible, be



timely, transparent and inclusive, taking into account the constraints faced by delegations, especially smaller ones. This will help to create a constructive working atmosphere based on transparency, dialogue and cooperation.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The **European Union** will present three country specific resolutions on:

- **Belarus**, aimed 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. The EU remains concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus with repression of independent and dissenting voices, arbitrary detentions, widespread torture, the denial of due process and the right to a fair trial, and systematic impunity. As documented by the UN, some of the violations may amount to crimes against humanity.
- The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**, presented jointly with Australia. The situation in the DPRK continues to raise concerns over the human rights and humanitarian issues. The co-sponsors express continued support for the work on accountability and the need to address the findings of the Commission of Enquiry from 2014. The resolution will renew 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
- **Myanmar**. Given the concerning and continuously deteriorating human rights situation in the country, the draft resolution aims to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and expresses continued support for accountability processes, including the independent investigative mechanism on Myanmar.

Ghana as part of the African group will present two country-specific resolutions on:

- The mandate renewal for the technical assistance and capacity-building for **Mali**.
- The mandate renewal for technical assistance and capacity-building for **South Sudan**.

Iceland jointly with Germany, Moldova, North Macedonia, and the United Kingdom, will present a draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**.

Pakistan as part of the OIC group will present four country-specific resolutions on:

- The human rights situation in the **occupied Palestinian territory**, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice.
- The right of the Palestinian people to **self-determination**.
- **Israeli settlements** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan.
- Human rights in the **occupied Syrian Golan**.

Ukraine will present a draft resolution on the human rights situation in Ukraine, with a view to extending the mandate of the **Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine** 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. Ensuring justice for all victims of this war of aggression is a top priority for Ukraine. Ukraine will continue working to hold Russia



accountable for its crimes and to support all mechanisms that document and investigate these violations.

The **United Kingdom** as the coordinator of the respective core groups will present two country-specific resolutions on:

- Advancing human rights in **South Sudan**. The main purpose of this resolution is to extend the mandate of the Commission of Human Rights in South Sudan and to reflect ongoing developments in the country. The UK and the core group welcome the continued engagement of South Sudan's Government with the Commission and note the progress that has been made. However, further work is needed to support the recently extended Revitalised Peace Agreement, including to continue to collect evidence on human rights violations to contribute to accountability, transitional justice, and long-term peace.
- The renewal of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on the **Syrian Arab Republic** to ensure that its vital work in documenting violations and abuses in Syria can continue. With the fall of the Assad regime, the revelations of the horrors faced by the Syrian people have been laid bare. Their aspirations for a future Syria grounded in human rights, freedom, and justice deserve this Council's full support. The UK and the core group welcome the engagement between the Interim Authorities and OHCHR, the Commission of Inquiry, the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism, and the Independent Institution on Missing Persons. They very much hope that such positive engagement continues in order to facilitate an eventual Syrian-led transitional justice process.

THEMATIC DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Algeria will present, 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 focusses on the impact of the use of antipersonnel mines on human rights and fundamental freedoms. Antipersonnel mines affect principally civilians, especially in post-conflict war zones, that they lead to serious injuries and permanent disabilities and they deprive local communities of access to essential resources like land, water and basic infrastructure that is a violation of the right to life, security and human dignity.

Cuba will present three thematic draft resolutions on:

- The renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the **right to food**, 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.
- The consequences of **foreign debt** and other related financial international obligations of states and the full enjoyment of human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights, with the objective to ensure that the impact of foreign debt on human rights, including the right to development, remains visible. It will focus on the urgent need to reform the unjust and anti-democratic international financial system.



- The promotion and the enjoyment of **cultural rights** for all and respect for cultural diversity aimed at highlighting the importance to respect national specific features, as well as historical, cultural and religious diversities between and amongst states.

Cyprus as part of a cross-regional core group comprised of Argentina, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland, and Serbia, will present the triennial resolution on **cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage**. The HRC plays a vital role in calling upon all states to respect, promote, and protect the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, including the ability to access and enjoy cultural heritage. The draft will be updated to reflect developments since its previous iteration, while maintaining its human-based rights approach to cultural heritage protection. The resolution will ask OHCHR to convene a one-day workshop on the issue of digital heritage with a view to discuss and exchange good practises as well as challenges encountered in the digitisation of cultural heritage.

The **European Union** will present a draft resolution 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. All human beings, whether they live, should be guaranteed the right to have or not to have, to choose, change or leave, to practise and to manifest their religion or belief without fear of violence, persecution or discrimination.

Ghana as part of the African group will present the biannual resolution on the negative impact of the **non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin** on the enjoyment of human rights.

Greece as part of a cross-regional core group consisting of Chile, Singapore, Switzerland, will present a draft resolution on **neurotechnology** and human rights. Neurotechnology is at the cutting edge of scientific and technological innovation, offering unprecedented possibilities in fields as wide-ranging as healthcare, communication, accessibility and cognitive enhancement. It has the potential to significantly improve human well-being and promote human rights, particularly by advancing medical treatments for neurological disorders, enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities and enabling new forms of human-computer interaction. As it evolves rapidly, it is needed to be alert to the ethical, legal and societal concerns associated with its use.

The **Maldives** as part of the core group composed of Costa Rica, Morocco, Slovenia, and Switzerland will present the draft resolution on the right to a **clean, healthy and sustainable environment**. The text will be based on HRC resolution 52/23, adopted by consensus at the UNHRC's 52nd session. This time, its thematic focus will be on the oceans and human rights.

Mexico will present a draft resolution related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the **fight against terrorism**, with the objective to renew the mandate for a period of three additional years.

Morocco as part of a cross-regional group of countries comprising, among others, the Maldives, Spain, and Slovenia, will present a draft resolution on **women, diplomacy, and human rights**. As strong advocates of gender equality and committed to the fair representation of women in diplomacy and multilateralism, these countries present this initiative that builds upon UNGA Resolution 76/269 institutionalising the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.



Norway will present a draft resolution on **new and emerging technologies and human rights defenders (HRDs)**. Conceived as a triannual, substantive resolution, the resolution intends to capture both positive and negative aspects of how new technologies and digital spaces affect defenders. In other words, how technology can be an enabler, but also how it creates a new set of challenges, vulnerabilities and threats.

Pakistan as part of the OIC group, will present a draft resolution on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, and stigmatisation of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on **religion or belief**.

Portugal will present a draft resolution on the realisation in all countries of **economic, social and cultural rights**, which is a 30-year-old consensual resolution dating back to the Human Rights Commission gathering support from all regional groups. For years, Portugal has been one of the main advocates of economic, social and cultural rights, back in the day the idea of the existence of a hierarchy of rights still prevailed, a misconception that time came to demystify. Today, Portugal is glad to notice that there is a broad consensus on the understanding that economic, social and cultural must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis as civil and political rights, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. However, much remains to be done globally for the fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights.

Romania as part of a cross-regional group of states comprising Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, and Tunisia, will present a draft resolution on **human rights, democracy, and the rule of law**. This is a biannual resolution which continues on the path set up by the previous iterations. One of its main objectives is to establish a theme for the 6th Forum on Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, to be organised in 2026. This year's iteration of the resolution will focus 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.

Spain jointly with OHCHR will host a side event dedicated to the promotion and respect of the human rights of **caretakes**.

Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement will present a draft resolution on the **negative impact of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs)** on the enjoyment of human rights, which disproportionately affects people, notably the poor in developing and less developed countries.

SIDE EVENTS

Albania jointly with the EU Delegation in Geneva, UNICEF, and the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children will hold a side event on addressing violence and social exclusion of children, prioritising access to services for all children and leveraging the Child Guarantee Framework. This side event will take place on 10 March at 1 pm.

Algeria jointly with, the ICRC and the International Campaign to Ban Antipersonnel Landmines will hold a side event dedicated the impact of antipersonnel mines on the enjoyment of human rights. Marked by the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, this side event will take place on 11 March at 11 am.



Bolivia jointly with a group of countries will hold a side event on the role of women peasants in the realisation of the right to food, in light of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Agricultural Workers in Rural Areas. This side event will take place on the 7 March at 1 pm.

Colombia will host three thematic side events on:

- Human rights defenders in rural areas, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights defenders as part of her preparation of the future report on HRSs in rural areas and other contexts.
- The implementation and follow-up to international recommendations, organized jointly with the Dominican Republic.
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights, organized jointly with other states and non-governmental organisations.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** will hold a side event on access to education for girls which will take place on 6 March at 1 pm.

The **Dominican Republic** jointly with Paraguay, Colombia, and Costa Rica will hold a side event dedicated to strengthening human rights - national implementation, reporting and follow-up mechanisms in Latin America. The side event will take place on 11 March at 2 pm. Furthermore, the Dominican Republic jointly with Belgium, Lithuania, UNOG and Down Syndrome International will host the World Down Syndrome Day 2025 event dedicated to strengthening support systems. This event will take place on 21 March.

Greece jointly with Chile, Singapore, Switzerland, will hold a side event aiming to foster awareness and contribute to the multidisciplinary dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of neurotechnology and human rights. This side event will take place on 5 March at 2 pm.

Iceland jointly with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) will hold a side event dedicated to the launch of the first ISO Guidelines on Child Protection and Standardisation. This side event will take place on 12 March at 1 pm.

Indonesia as part of the core states consisting of the Bahamas, Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, and Morocco, jointly with the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI), will host a side event dedicated to state-to-state cooperation on the fight against torture and highlight the relevance of CTI's work based in bilateral and multilateral engagement. This side event will take place on 5 March at 12 pm.

Italy will hold three side events as co-sponsor dedicated to:

- Towards an inclusive and equitable future - the protection of children in armed conflict and new and emerging digital technologies, organized jointly with the UN Office of the Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict and the University Network for Children in Armed Conflict. This side event will take place on 10 March at 1 pm.
- Local and regional governments as key actors in advancing human rights and the SDGs, jointly with Paraguay and Geneva Academy. This side event will take place on March 17 at 1 pm.
- The contribution by CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, jointly with Lebanon and OHCHR Treaty Bodies



Division. This side event is dedicated to the interlinkages between the GC No. 40 and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and will take place on March 19 at 1 pm.

The **Holy See** jointly with UNCTAD will host a high-level side event dedicated on debt forgiveness, with the participation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, representatives from OHCHR, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Holy See. This side event will take place on 25 February at 1:00 pm.

The **Maldives** jointly with Costa Rica, Morocco, and Slovenia, will hold a side event dedicated to advancing the universal right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which will focus on will focus on actionable strategies and next steps to operationalise HRC resolution 52/23 with a particular emphasis on the critical link between the ocean and human rights. The side event will take place on 24 February at 2:30 pm.

Morocco jointly with Paraguay, Portugal, and Universal Rights Group, will hold a high-level side event dedicated to the International Network of NMRIFs, strengthening cooperation, promoting membership, and disseminating the Marrakech Guidance Framework. The objectives of this event will be most notably to follow up on the establishment of the International Network of NMRIFs adopted in Asunción, to present the outputs of the 10th Glion Dialogue and presentation of the Marrakech Guidance Framework as a reference document, and to exchange on the way forward. This side event will be held on February 25 at 2 pm.

The **Republic of Korea** will hold one country-specific and one thematic side event dedicated to:

- The persistent human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), a pathway to accountability, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. This side event will take place on 19 March at 12:00 pm.
- New and emerging digital technologies and human rights.

The **Netherlands** will hold a side event dedicated to the protection of journalists' and civilians' rights to access to information in times of conflict. This side event will be hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 26 February at 9 am.

The **Philippines** will hold two side events dedicated to:

- The presentation of the Fourth Philippine Human Rights Plan. Led by Deputy Ministers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, this high-level side event aims to initiate discussions with partners on potential cooperation in the implementation of the plan and share experiences including lessons learned in forging a multi-stakeholder consensus on a viable, comprehensive plan of action for human rights. The event will take place on 25 February at 1pm.
- The transformative power of human rights education in achieving gender equality, jointly with Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand and OHCHR. Celebrating the launch of the fifth phase of the World Programme on Human Rights Education in January 2025 and International Women's Day, this side event aims to engage diverse stakeholders on how we can strengthen human rights education for children and youth on gender equality. It will take place on 14 March at 1 pm.



Qatar will hold a side event dedicated to making it possible for girls to benefit from their rights through sports which will take place on 12 March. Qatar also will hold a side event to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the International Day of Lawyers on 27 February at 1 pm.

Sierra Leone jointly with Luxembourg, the Dominican Republic, and the members of the core group, will hold a side event dedicated to strengthening the right to free education to transform millions of lives. This side event will take place on 10 March at 2 pm.

Slovenia jointly with UN Women will hold a side event dedicated to implementing foreign policy goals with a human rights lens - advancing equality through multilateralism. This side event will be held on 25 February at 2 pm.

Switzerland will present two side events dedicated to:

- The question of the death penalty in de facto abolitionist states, organized jointly with the members of the core group. This side event will take place on 25 February.
- An enhanced dialogue with OHCHR on the HC's report on transitional justice, with a focus on lessons learned and best practises related to transitional justice in the context of peacekeeping and sustainable development and SDG No. 16. This event will take place on 5 March.

The **United Arab Emirates** will hold a side event dedicated to the rights of persons with disabilities and artificial intelligence on 17 March at 2 pm.

JOINT DECLARATIONS

Armenia and Estonia on behalf of a cross-regional group will present a 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. It is part of the global digital compact that was adopted in September of last year to ensure inclusive, sustainable and equitable and safe digital environment.

Mexico jointly with Finland will present a joint declaration to commemorate International Women's Day on 7 March.

The **United Arab Emirates** on behalf of a group of states will present a joint declaration on the rights of persons with disabilities at the dedicated annual panel debate on 10 March.

EXHIBITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Italy will also host an **exhibition** dedicated to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the eyes of young people. The exhibition will be inaugurated on 26 February at 1 pm by the Italian Minister for Disabilities, the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Switzerland shares with the Council that the **National Dress Day** will take place on 27 February at the Serpentine Bar starting from 6 pm.