



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Organizational Meeting

#HRC59 • 2 June 2025



OVERVIEW

The fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council (#HRC59) will be held in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilization Room (Room XX) at the United Nations Office at Geneva from **Monday, 16 June 2024 until Wednesday, 9 July 2024**, for a total of three weeks and a half according to the amended Programme of Work as approved during the first part of the Organizational Meeting.

EXTRAORDINARY COST- AND TIME-SAVING MEASURES

As part of the organisation-wide cash conservation measures, the United Nations Office at Geneva requested all regular budget-funded bodies holding 10 or more annual meetings to reduce their meeting time by at least 10% below their budgetary allotment. For the Human Rights Council, which is entitled to 160 meetings per year or 16 weeks, this corresponds to a **required reduction of 16 meetings for the remainder of 2025**, therefore affecting both the 59th and 60th regular sessions of the Council (#HRC59 and #HRC60).

Several meetings were held over the past weeks with the members and observers States as well as with the Bureau in order to come up with a package of extraordinary cost- and time-saving measures that would lead to the required reduction of 16 meetings. After careful consideration



of all possible options, on 16 May 2025 the Bureau agreed to propose to the Council a package of extraordinary measures for its consideration. Subsequently, taking into account all of the views, comments and questions provided by delegations during the **informal consultations held on 27 May 2025**, the Bureau agreed to propose a revised package of measures which was circulated. Consultations with delegations were pursued during which many expressed the importance of preserving the exercise of the right of reply as it is.

Having heard the concerns raised and reviewed different options, the Bureau decided to **maintain the exercise of the right of reply** as per previous practise. As a consequence, the only difference from the Bureau's package proposal of 27 May 2025 is the removal of the extraordinary measure relating to the right of reply. **Speaking time in general debates** held during #HRC60 will be reduced to 1 minute and 30 seconds for all. The **length of interactive and enhanced interactive dialogues** during #HRC59, except for the interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on his Annual Report, and #HRC60 will be capped at 1 hour and 30 minutes, with 15 minutes allocated for mandate holders, 1 hour for States, 15 minutes for NGOs.

The **intersessional panel discussion on the intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic violence** as mandated by HRC Resolution 57/18 will be scheduled in 2026 before #HRC61. The **intersessional meetings on Venezuela and Ukraine**, if mandated at #HRC59, will be consolidated into one single meeting, with each interactive dialogue capped at 1 hour and 30 minutes. Finally, the timetable of the **50th session of the UPR Working Group**, scheduled to take place from 3 to 14 November 2025, will be adjusted so as to hold all adoptions of the recommendation section of each report during a single meeting in the afternoon on the final day of the Working Group session.

These measures, along with the reduction of one meeting from the expert workshop on the role of the family that was held last week pursuant to UNHRC Resolution 54/17, will result in the **reduction of a total of approximately 15 meetings** in the Council's Programme of Work for the remainder of 2025, which is below the 16 meetings that UNOG has requested us to reduce. In order to achieve the 16-meeting reduction target, all delegations are requested to exercise restraint during the session. Otherwise, it will be needed to explore further reductions of one meeting during the intersessional period. The President stresses that these measures constitute a set of **extraordinary measures** applicable only for the remainder of 2025, in light of the urgency of the current financial situation. The co-facilitators on **rationalisation and efficiency**, together with the Presidency and the Bureau, will continue their work with a view to developing a more sustainable approach for 2026 and beyond.

STATES' REMARKS ON EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

Belgium expresses its consent to the extraordinary measures proposed while noting that preserving the right of replies in its entirety does regrettably not allow the Council to reach the 16 meeting savings that are needed. Further discussions and further cuts will be required. Belgium emphasized that the capping of the time for interactive dialogues to one hour and 30 minutes only will limit discussion and participation on important topics. It represents a significant cut to engagement and dialogue with Special Procedures holders. The latter should be given the time to be adequately heard during Council's sessions. No further reduction can be envisaged. Belgium further stresses that time and space for civil society have already suffered cuts and



reductions over the recent years, and Belgium believes they are at a bare minimum in the current conditions. Civil society participation in debates has always been central to the work of the Council. They bring the voices of those who are directly concerned by the issues at stake, and they add an invaluable perspective to our debates. Their space must be preserved.

China states that multilateralism is facing ‘*monolateralism*’ and hegemony. The United States is refusing to shoulder its responsibilities duly incumbent upon it as a member State. Due to the US refusal to pay its contributions, the UNHRC and other bodies are obliged to cut the number of meetings held. Regretting this, China hopes that this type of conduct, which affects all countries, will cease and everyone must shoulder the impact of this. China is constant supporter of multilateralism and the United Nations system as a whole based on the framework and principles of the UN Charter. On the extraordinary measures, China underscores that all speakers are equal in line with the UN Charter and must have the right to take the floor. The right to reply must remain untouched and there should be no change to the intergovernmental nature of the Council. Voicing its solidarity with and support of the work of the Council, China stresses that these measures are temporary, extraordinary and do not constitute a precedent.

Cuba joins the consensus on the package of extraordinary measures and takes note with satisfaction that there has been no inclusion in the measures of any amendment to the right of reply. Cuba believes that the rationalisation of the work of the Council cannot be focused solely on conference management. The Council’s work will be seriously affected by continuously reducing the necessary space and time for dialogues and debates. Further reductions in speaking time will make it impossible for a large majority of countries to participate in exchanges and discussions. This will harm the necessary inclusivity, balance and integrity of the work of the Council. While conference management measures that are being applied to save around \$200,000 have a negative impact on the functioning of the Council, the latter is spending over US\$40 million every year solely on punitive inquiry mechanisms that are Geneva-based and that have no real impact on the ground. It would suffice to reduce such mechanisms by 1% to save over \$400,000 a year – which is more than twice what is required. That would be achieved without affecting in any way whatsoever the functioning of the Council or the rights of states. Cuba stresses that the temporary, extraordinary and exceptional nature of the measures adopted today are designed solely to address the complex financial situation for 2025 and they must remain duly reflected in writing and verbatim in the report of #HRC59, so as to avoid legal gaps in the future and to preserve the historic memory of this Council.

MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION

For **State** delegations, the online system for the inscription on the list of speakers for **all interactive dialogues and panel discussions** will open on Wednesday, 11 June at 10:00 am and will close 24 hours before the meeting in which the debate is scheduled to start. After the online inscription system has closed, delegations may still inscribe or withdraw by sending an email to OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org.

With regard to the inscriptions to the lists of speakers for **interactive and enhanced interactive dialogues**, delegations will need to indicate their preference on the online system of inscriptions, similar to what is done for the lists of speakers for panel discussions. Interested States will be asked to rank dialogues in order of their priorities. Speaking slots will be allocated by the system,



taking into account their priorities. If the number of States indicating the highest priority for a particular dialogue exceeds the maximum number of available speaking slots, the slots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Delegations inscribed on the list of speakers who cannot take the floor due to time constraints will be able to upload their statements to the online system in order to be posted on the Extranet. The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate.

Interested States will be asked to **rank panels by order of priority**. Speaking slots will be allocated by the system taking into account their priorities. If the number of states indicating the highest priority for a particular panel exceeds the maximum number of available speaking slots, the slots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The online system for the list of speakers for the **adoption of UPR outcomes** will open on Monday 16 June at 9 am and close on Thursday 19 June at 6 pm. No inscriptions will be possible after the deadline.

For **NHRIs and NGOs**, the lists of speakers for all debates during the session will open online on Tuesday 10 June at 2 pm. The procedure for registration for the list of speakers for panel discussions will be the same as for previous sessions.

For the meetings of #HRC59, the members and observers of the Council, including NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and NHRIs with A status, will continue to have the possibility to deliver their **statements in person or via pre-recorded video** messages. The **submission of transcripts is mandatory** for all video statements. Video statements must be recorded with appropriate sound quality using proper equipment.

REPRESENTATION OF MYANMAR

The President notes that the current draft Programme of Work includes the oral update of the **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar** and the presentation of the **report of the High Commissioner**, which will be considered during an enhanced interactive dialogue on 27 June.

The President recalls that 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. Pending the decision of the UN General Assembly on this matter, the Secretariat of the UNHRC could not address requests for participation by anybody belonging to the delegation of Myanmar within the Council in 2025.

Consequently, Myanmar will not be represented at #HRC59. In this regard, and in line with the previous decisions of the Council since 2021, the Bureau agreed on 27 May 2025 to propose to the Council that the enhanced interactive dialogue on Myanmar mandated to take place during #HRC59 proceed as scheduled **without the participation of the concerned country**. 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 as planned without the participation of the country concerned.



According to the calendar of UPR reviews for the fourth cycle, the fourth cycle UPR of Myanmar is scheduled to take place during the 51st Working Group's session in January 2026. I wish to also recall that the third cycle review of Myanmar took place on 25 January 2021, just days before the coup d'état in the country on 1 February 2021. The Council thereafter decided on several occasions to postpone the consideration and adoption of the outcome of the third cycle review of Myanmar, pending a decision by the General Assembly on its representation.

UPR OF MYANMAR

At #HRC50, as the third UPR cycle was coming to a close, the Council took the decision to postpone the consideration and adoption of its report until the UN General Assembly made a decision on the representation of Myanmar. In this regard, as indicated in the minutes of its meeting of 27 May 2025, the Bureau recognised that the third cycle review process for Myanmar has not yet been completed due to the unresolved question of the representation of Myanmar. The Bureau further noted that, if the General Assembly were to decide on the representation of Myanmar in December 2025, based on the report of its credentials committee, the earliest time that the Council could consider and adopt the outcome report of the third cycle review of Myanmar would be at #HRC61 in March 2026. Therefore, the Bureau agreed to propose to the Council that the fourth cycle UPR review of Myanmar be **postponed to the last Working Group session of the fourth cycle**, which is scheduled to take place in January-February 2027, while maintaining the possibility for it to be scheduled on an earlier date if the UN General Assembly were to decide on the representation of Myanmar and following the Council's adoption of the outcome of the third cycle review of Myanmar.

DOCUMENTATION

The President shares some important technical information with regard to documents relating to the fifty-eight session. **57% of the 105 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.

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. The latter must be recorded with appropriate sound quality using the adequate equipment.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The **opening** of the fifty-ninth session will take place on Monday, 16 March at 9:00 am with the presentation of the **Annual Report** of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on his Annual Report will begin in the morning of Tuesday, 17 June.

In line with President's Statement OS/18/1, adopted on 9 December 2024, **no general debates will be held** during #HRC59. Consequently, the reports and oral updates presented during this session and do not have an interactive dialogue attached to them will be considered during the



relevant general debates at #HRC60. However, the countries concerned will be given the opportunity to make a statement immediately after their presentation.

During the session, the Council will hold **29 interactive dialogues** with the High Commissioner, designated experts and mandate holders, and one Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General. The Council will also hold **two enhanced interactive dialogues** including the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan and the recently established Fact-Finding Mission on Eastern DRC. The Council will also adopt the UPR outcome documents of Angola, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, the Gambia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, San Marino, and Slovenia, examined at the forty-eighth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

Towards the end of the fifty-ninth session, the Council is expected to **appoint two mandate holders** for the Expert Mechanism on the right to development and the Working Group on arbitrary detention. The latter is due to the resignation of the mandate holder.

PANEL DEBATES AND COMMEMORATIONS

During #HRC59, the Council will hold the following **five panel discussions**, all accessible to persons with disabilities.

- Annual full day discussion on **women's rights**, held in line with UNHRC Resolutions 6/30, 53/27 and 58/15, articulated in two panel discussions focussing respectively on:
 - **Gender-based violence against women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings** (24 June). The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In the context of this anniversary, this panel will discuss the prevalence, causes and consequences of gender-based violence in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings, the links between the human rights of women and girls and the peace and security agenda, as well as the need to ensure justice and reparations for victims and survivors. The panel will be moderated by H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, President of the UNHRC, and High Commissioner Volker Türk will deliver opening remarks. Panellists will include Ms. Pramila Patton, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Nahla Haider, Chair of the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Ms. Grace Akan, Co-Founder of the Women's Advocacy Network Uganda and Survivor of Gender-Based Violence, and Ms. Clara Sandoval, Director of Programmes at the Global Survivors Fund, amongst others.
 - The **Commemoration of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy**, focussing on overcoming barriers to women's leadership in peace processes (24 June). Established under Resolution 58/15 and adopted by consensus through the support of a transregional group of countries, this panel is also organised under UNHRC Resolution 6/30, which establishes this day of debate as a space for consideration of the progress, challenges and opportunities on gender equality from the human rights perspective. Focussed on overcoming barriers to women's leadership in peace processes, this commemoration is the first official celebration of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy within the UNHRC. Its goal is to give visibility to women's



leadership and contributions in diplomacy and peace, and to review structural barriers that persist and limit their full, egalitarian, significant and safe participation. The discussion will focus on the challenges facing women in having access to and leading in spaces for decision-making related to peace and security, and make it possible to identify an inspiring experience in state diplomacy and basic diplomacy. With a focus on good practise and a human rights-based approach, women who negotiated on peace processes count among the panellists, also including State representatives, experts, diplomats and human rights defenders from different regions.

- Panel discussion on the realisation of the **human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**, held in line with UNHRC Resolution 57/13, with a focus on implementation (26 June). The panel will have high-level components and will contribute to bringing a human rights-based perspective in large multilateral processes such as the UN Conference on Water in 2026. It will also provide a valuable platform to share good practises, address challenges and barriers facing these human rights to drinking water and sanitation, thereby looking at ways to improve social participation in the forthcoming Water Conference.
- Annual panel discussion on **the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights**, held in line with UNHRC Resolution 50/9 and 56/8, will focus on facilitating just transitions (30 June). The aggravating impacts of climate change and extreme weather events are resulting in horrific situations and disturbing accounts of violations of human rights and human sufferings. According to the 2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement, a total of 20.1 million internal displacements occurred globally by conflict and violence, whereas 45.8 million internal displacements are reported due to disasters and climate change across the globe in 2024. Reinvigorated global climate action is no more a choice, rather an urgent mandatory task for upholding human rights for all. Just transition is an imperative to achieve, limiting the long-term global warming to around 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. According to UNCTAD, the estimated annual economic cost of loss and damage in developing countries in 2020 was at least US\$435 billion, which is expected to rise to at least US\$580 billion by 2030, excluding non-economic losses and damages like loss of lives, anxiety, trauma, mental stress, human trafficking and sexual violence. Developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, cannot combat against adverse impacts of climate change by themselves, and they are the least contributor to the incremental global warming. It is high time to enhance international cooperation and assistance by scaling up action and support, in particular in financing the transfer of technology and capacity-building, for facilitating just transitions through mitigation and adaptation measures, and to assist developing countries in averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. High Commissioner Volker Türk will deliver opening remarks at the panel. Further participants include the Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, the Director of the Priority Action Programme on Just Transitions Towards



Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and a Government representative.

- Annual thematic panel discussion on **technical cooperation and capacity-building**, held in line with UNHRC Resolutions 18/18 and 57/32 (4 July). The panel will focus on the role of technical cooperation and capacity-building in strengthening national structures which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, particularly national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRFs). The panel will serve as a platform for enhanced understanding on how states and OHCHR can use technical cooperation and capacity building to ensure that human rights are adequately protected and safeguarded using NHRIs and NMIRFs. The discussion will also focus on strengthening these institutions through technical cooperation with a view to promoting synergies between the two cornerstones of the national human rights systems.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

According to the amended Programme of Work, the **consideration of draft proposals** is expected to start in the afternoon of Friday, 4 July. The **deadline** for submitting draft proposals for the fifty-ninth session will be on Friday, 27 June at 1:00 pm and that for written revisions and written amendments will be on Wednesday, 2 July at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm respectively. Any requests for extension would be approved by the Council only under exceptional circumstances and for a maximum of 24 hours. All delegations are kindly requested to submit their draft proposals on time to help other delegations as well as the Secretariat. The **eDeleGATE** platform will continue to be used for the submission and sponsorship of draft resolutions. States are encouraged to check in advance that they have access to eDeleGATE.

In line with 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

Colombia will propose a new country-specific draft resolution, updating the content of the resolutions adopted by the Council in 2023 and 2024. The objective is to strengthen the ongoing **cooperation work and technical assistance to support Colombia's efforts** to implement the recommendations of the Truth Commission and other key aspects related to fulfilment of the peace agreement concluded in 2016. At the same time, Colombia reiterates the support of the Council to the work of the Government and Civil Society in Colombia with technical assistance provided by OHCHR to overcome the challenges that persist in human rights.

The **European Union (EU)** will present a draft resolution on the **situation of human rights in Eritrea** to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for Eritrea. While having noted some signs of increased cooperation by Eritrea, the EU regrets that Eritrea has continued not to engage



with the Special Rapporteur. The EU remains deeply concerned about the dire human rights situation in Eritrea with many continuing human rights violations including enforced disappearances and continuing impunity.

Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will introduce a draft resolution, by iteration, on the situation of **human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar**. Last year, this resolution was adopted by the Council at #HRC56. The situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar remains a matter of deep concern for OIC Member States. The recent surge in violence in particular against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar demands that this Council's attention is brought back to the plight of the Rohingyas. Rohingya Muslims continue to be victims of systemic discrimination and repression resulting in violations of human rights including denial of citizenship, deprivation of basic services, arbitrary detention, forced displacement and severe restrictions on their movement within the country. Similarly, repatriation of the Rohingya Muslims from Bangladesh and other countries to Myanmar remains a persistent challenge due to lack of commitment from Myanmar authorities and absence of conducive environment within Myanmar.

Ukraine will present a draft resolution on the renewal of **OHCHR's cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights**. As the Russian Federation continues to escalate its aggression against Ukraine, the latter remains steadfast in drawing international attention to Russia's gross and systematic violations of all human rights, rights to which every individual in Ukraine and around the world is entitled. Russia's deliberate and massive drone attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure have caused devastating destruction with far-reaching consequences for health, the environment and the economy. Rights of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians in detention continue to be seriously affected. In this context, Ukraine welcomes the upcoming interactive dialogue on Ukraine, which will be based on the latest reports of the OHCHR and the interim report of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied territories, including Crimea. This dialogue will provide an important opportunity to keep the Council informed about the scale and persistence of Russia's violations and abuses on the ground.

THEMATIC DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The **African Group** will introduce a draft resolution on **female genital mutilation** (FGM). Seeking its renewal, this draft resolution will be considered under Agenda Item 3. The persistence of FGM despite tangible progress recorded in several countries, highlights the need for sustained action and international cooperation to protect the rights and well-being of women and girls. The African Group, therefore, remains committed to continuing our efforts to aggressively tackle female genital mutilation through diverse interventions, including leveraging digital technologies.

Austria will present two thematic draft resolutions on the following:

- The renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the **human rights of internally displaced persons** (IDPs). The mandate has substantially contributed to protecting and assisting IDPs, improving their access to durable solutions and preventing displacement over the past decades. All mandate holders have carried out their work in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, thereby helping governments to strengthen the protection of the human rights of IDPs. With a record high of over 65.8 million IDPs globally, this



mandate is also crucial for ensuring that the human rights of IDPs are mainstreamed across various branches of the UN system in charge of addressing the needs of IDPs.

- The **safety of journalists** jointly with Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia. With this iteration of the resolution, the co-sponsors aim to address the new and growing threats to the safety of journalists and media freedom, building on recent reports by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, OHCHR and UNESCO, as well as on workshops on the subject matter, which have taken place in the last two and a half years, such as on the legal and economic threats to the safety of journalists, including strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

Bangladesh will introduce, on behalf of the core group on human rights and climate change resolution comprising Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam, a draft resolution on themes highlighting different aspects of **global climate funding**. Climate finance is not only a tool for addressing climate change, but also essential for fulfilling international human rights obligations, as enshrined in many international instruments. There are significant gaps in climate financing remained in responding to the increased scale and frequency of loss and damage and associated economic and non-economic losses caused by the adverse impact of climate change. Allocation of subsidy and resources for comprehensive adaptation and risk reduction strategies to reduce exposure and vulnerability to climatic events and accounting for displacement and integrating durable solutions from the early stages of extreme weather events to build resilience and to minimise the losses caused by climate change. Mobilisation, management and disbursement of climate finance should be guided by the relevant human rights obligations and international law, including the principles of solidarity, climate justice, equity, polluter pays and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Brazil will introduce, on behalf of the core group also including China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Thailand, a draft resolution on **access to medicines, vaccines and other health products** in light of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. This initiative builds upon the Council's long-standing commitment to the right to health and addresses persistent inequalities in access to essential health technologies, particularly in developing countries and among populations in vulnerable situations. The resolution is presented on a triennial basis, having first been tabled in 2019 and subsequently in 2022. It has consistently received broad support through co-sponsorships and has been adopted by consensus. The text underscores the need to overcome structural barriers to equitable, timely and affordable access to medicines, vaccines and other health products, which is indispensable for the full realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. In its current iteration, the core group seeks to reflect recent developments in global health governance, in particular the successful conclusion of negotiations on the pandemic agreement under the auspices of the World Health Organisation.

Canada will introduce the draft resolution on **accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls**, which represents one of the most pervasive and egregious human rights violations, negatively affecting the lives of millions of women and girls worldwide. Crucially, this violence is entirely preventable. All states in all geographic regions, including my own country, Canada, can and must do better. Protecting, promoting, respecting and fulfilling economic, social and cultural rights are foundational to preventing sexual and gender-based



violence. When women and girls enjoy equal access to education, equal opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work, universal health coverage, adequate housing and meaningful participation in cultural lives, their risk of discrimination and violence is significantly reduced. As states, it is our collective responsibility under international human rights law to guarantee the full enjoyment of all human rights for all women and girls, including Indigenous women and girls, women and girls with disabilities, women and girls of African descent, women and girls living in situations of armed conflict and occupation, older women, women working in the informal economy and domestic and care workers, ensuring their lives are free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

Cuba will present two thematic draft resolutions on:

- **Human rights and international solidarity**, which seeks to contribute to revitalising the important role of human rights, solidarity and respectful exchange and coordination. Strengthening solidarity and international cooperation is particularly decisive given the current context in which the multilateral system and its institutions, including the UNHRC, are under direct attack from the United States of America. This draft resolution is submitted in the context of the 20th anniversary of the mandate of the Independent Expert on international solidarity.
- The **renewal of the Social Forum through to 2026** as an open, inclusive forum enriched by the participation and contribution of various stakeholders and will constitute next year a valuable platform for debate and to bring proposals focussing on promotion and protection of all human rights.

Czechia jointly with the members of the core group also comprising Chile, Indonesia, Iceland, Lithuania and the Maldives, will present a draft resolution on the **rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association**. This year's resolution marks the 15th anniversary of the mandate and it will focus on extending the mandate of the special rapporteur. We will provide a technical update to the previous resolution. The rights to peaceful assembly and association are fundamental rights protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. No individual should be deprived of these rights as they are essential for functioning civil society. The core group supports the work of the Special Rapporteur and appreciates the reports she has delivered on global trends, her findings from country visits and her recommendations for promoting and protecting these fundamental rights.

Ecuador jointly with Peru will present a draft resolution on the renewal of the initiative titled '**Repercussions of Arms Transfers on Human Rights**.' Since the adoption of the first resolution on this topic in 2013, the UNHRC has consistently worked in this area by renewing this resolution in 2016, 2019, 2021 and 2023. Since 2019, the initiative has been adopted by consensus, and this is a reflection of the growing support to this issue within the UNHRC. On the basis of UNHRC Resolution 53/15 adopted in July 2023 and bearing in mind the most recent efforts of the OHCHR, the new draft resolution will propose to continue strengthening the substantive content of the resolution. In particular, there will be emphasis placed on state responsibility to protect individuals from the harm caused by third parties, including by other states or private actors, and the institutional legal frameworks and appropriate practises, including due diligence, which should be exercised by companies in the sector related to the arms trade. Bearing in mind the most recent reports by OHCHR, the resolution will seek to focus on practical measures and good



practises, feasibility measures adopted by states to abstain from conducting prohibited arms transfers, particularly legislation, as well as measures adopted by the private sector to respect human rights, in particular through specific policies and effective due diligence processes.

Ireland jointly with a cross-regional core group comprising Chile, Japan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia, will introduce a draft resolution on **civil society space**. Civil society is a crucial stakeholder in our collective efforts to promote and protect human rights at the domestic, regional and international levels, including at the UNHRC. Global efforts are required to create and to maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society to operate freely and to participate in decision-making processes at all levels. The draft resolution will follow on from previous iterations adopted by the UNHRC, most recently UNHRC Resolution 53/13, which was adopted by consensus and focused on the diversity of civil society, the valuable contribution of civil society in decision-making processes and the importance of monitoring trends related to civil society space. On this occasion, the draft resolution will acknowledge both the contribution of civil society to the promotion and protection of human rights and highlight some of the obstacles to its work globally.

Kyrgyzstan will present, as part of the core group including the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, Moldova, and the United Kingdom, a draft resolution on **accelerating efforts to achieve women's economic empowerment**. Women's economic empowerment is not only a matter of gender equality. It is indispensable to sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and the realisation of human rights. Yet, today, persistent structural barriers, discriminatory norms, unequal access to resources and disproportionate burden of unpaid care work continue to limit women's full and meaningful participation in economic life. This draft resolution calls on States to take concrete actions to eliminate discriminatory laws and practises, to promote equal pay for work of equal value, to recognise and redistribute unpaid care work, to ensure women's equal access to financial services, education, leadership and decision-making, and to foster an enabling environment for women's entrepreneurship and digital inclusion. This initiative will make a meaningful contribution to global efforts to advance gender equality and help build more just, inclusive and resilient societies.

Mexico will introduce a draft resolution on the mandate of the **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**, which was created in 2010 and whose mandate was renewed for the last time at #HRC50 in July 2022 through UNHRC Resolution 50/18. This concise draft resolution will have the sole purpose of technically renewing the mandate of the Working Group for a new period of three years.

Morocco will present, on behalf of the core group also comprising Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Indonesia, Poland and the UK, a draft resolution on the **negative impact of corruption on human rights**. This resolution is presented every two years and the goal this year is to mandate a consultative committee to conduct a study into possible guidelines of the state's obligations to promote and protect human rights in the context of the fight against corruption.

Portugal will present, by iteration, the substantive, conceptual draft resolution on the **right to education**. This biennial resolution was last adopted in 2023 by consensus and co-sponsored by almost 90 countries. This year's text is a global update of this important initiative and will build upon the most recent reports and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, namely on the right to academic freedom and artificial intelligence in education. With



only four years to go until 2030, the implementation of SDG 4 is one of the most delayed. This is hampering the implementation of the remaining ones, considering the transformative effect of education on those societies. Lack of investment in education and inequalities are responsible for preventing millions of people from accessing education according to UNESCO. Since Portugal last presented this resolution in the past two years, the increasing armed conflict around the world has left millions of children out of school. The international community cannot be indifferent to the long-lasting effects of the scourge of war in generations to come.

The **Republic of Korea** will introduce, jointly with a cross-regional group of countries also comprising Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, and Singapore, a draft resolution titled '**New and Emerging Digital Technologies and Human Rights**', first adopted in 2019, then renewed in 2021 and 2023. This resolution is the very first UNRHC resolution to address the human rights implications of new and emerging digital technologies in a holistic, inclusive and complete manner. It also highlights the importance of a human rights-based approach to digital technologies and resonates amongst the international community the need for meaningful participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, during the entire lifecycle of digital technologies. The latest consensual resolution allowed for delving into the implications of artificial intelligence on human rights. As the impact of new and emerging digital technologies continues to expand to all aspects of human rights, the Republic of Korea has been emphasising, through various events, the need to establish a new mechanism to advance these discussions. At the same time, the burdens and concerns associated with the creation of a new mechanism must be recognized, particularly in light of the UN budget crisis and ongoing discussions on rationalisation and efficiency of the UNHRC. Taking these considerations into account, the core group has decided to take a realistic yet more effective and efficient approach in the upcoming resolution. This year, the core group plans to focus on addressing the identified gaps and challenges, advancing coherence and synergy among human rights mechanisms and other UN entities, as well as the implementation in the field of new and emerging digital technologies.

Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will table a draft resolution titled '**Enhancement of International Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights**.' The resolution represents the importance that the UNHRC attaches to increasing international cooperation, so necessary in the field of human rights. The resolution will highlight the importance of enhancement of international cooperation on human rights as an essential condition for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations and not as effective and practical contribution to the task of preventing violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Uruguay, on behalf of the group of Latin American States also including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico, will present a draft resolution on the mandate of the independent expert on protection against **violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**. This initiative by the group of Latin American states is presented every three years. The main goal is to renew the mandate created in 2016 for three more years. The group will present a technical renovation and procedural simple text guaranteeing the continuation of the work of the Independent Expert. The resolution will not seek anything additional for the mandate. The goal is to ensure that the current mandate holder can continue work and activities under the existing mandate. In its lifetime, this Special Procedure has



contributed to achieving substantive equality and full respect for human rights of all persons, providing advice and supporting the efforts of states nationally to prevent and address situations of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The resolution seeks only to renew the existing mandate, which has proven to be constructive, respectful and needed to protect a group that has historically been discriminated.

SIDE EVENTS

Albania jointly with the University of Essex will host a side event titled '**Mobilising Human Rights-Centred Mental Stakeholder Action to Combat Hate**'. The side event aims to provide a platform to present the outcomes of the PowerTalk conference connected to the Tirana framework with Geneva-based efforts and strengthen collective capacity to counter hate, promote inclusion, and protect democracy and human rights. The urgent need for collective and human rights-centred action to combat hate and intolerance has never been more evident. Raising hate in both online and offline spaces not only threatens minorities, but also undermines the foundation of democracy and global peace. This issue demands united and proactive multistakeholder engagement. This event aims to present and highlight synergies but also to engage Geneva-based stakeholders and to strengthen collective capacity and to develop and reinforce partnerships among stakeholders and encourage human rights-centred, multidisciplinary approaches to combat hate and intolerance. The side event will be held on 1 July at 1:00 pm in Room XXIV.

Algeria will host a side event titled '**Women in the Judicial System in Africa - The Algerian Experience**.' This event seeks to focus on the major contribution as well as challenges faced by women in the judicial sector, most notably in Africa. This event aims to highlight the participation of female judges in the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa.

Armenia will host a side event jointly with Estonia, France, Costa Rica, Chile, Kenya and Japan, focussing on the role of international cooperation in **reducing the digital divide across genders**. This initiative follows on from the Joint Declaration on Digital Technologies and the Rights of Women and Girls submitted at the previous session on behalf of 70 states. This side event will be held in July and will explore the way in which the UNHRC can promote gender-sensitive digital inclusion by focussing on the importance of international cooperation.

Bolivia will hold two side events on the following:

- **Promoting safe, inclusive workplaces** in line with the Council's commitment to preventing bullying and sexual harassment. Gender equality in the workplace is intrinsically linked. This is a crucial place in transforming social norms and behaviours and harmful stereotypes that undermine gender equality globally. Women are disproportionately affected by sexual harassment in the workplace. This event will be an opportunity to see available resources and best practise in other organisations. Co-sponsored by the ILO, the side event will be held on 18 June at 2:00 pm in Room XXIV.
- The commemoration of the **30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action** on the agenda for Beijing+ 20 and legal and social conditions for women. The Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action transformed things for women globally and laid the foundations for institutions that promote gender equality. In the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women, there was a consensus adoption of an instrument



reaffirming the multilateral commitment to the rights of women. Geneva has an important role to play in driving gender equality. The event will be held in July.

Burkina Faso will host a side event dedicated to synergies of stakeholders in efforts towards the elimination of **female genital mutilation in the context of security and humanitarian challenges**. Organised with the support of the Permanent Mission of Ghana as Coordinator of the Africa Group and in collaboration with UNFPA, this event will benefit from the participation of eminent panellists, national and international experts, who will share their in-depth knowledge of the topic and their respective experiences. The side event will be held on 24 June at 2:00 pm in Room XXIV.

Canada will co-sponsor a side event with OHCHR and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) to discuss OHCHR's recent report on gender-based violence against women and girls in criminal justice detention, as well as the Association for the Prevention of Torture's latest global report on women in prison. It will also be an opportunity to renew the commitment to strengthen the implementation of the Bangkok rules, reflect on best practises in addressing sexual and gender-based violence in detention and explore non-custodial alternatives and social reintegration pathways. The side event will take place at 1:00 pm in Room XXVII.

Colombia jointly with the Central Group on Drugs Policy and Human Rights, will host a side event focussing on the importance of **drug policies**, including programmes for adequate use from a human rights perspective, guaranteeing access by victims to necessary services to enjoy the right to health in this context. The side event will be held on 27 June on the occasion of the International Day Against Illicit Drug Trafficking.

The **Council of Europe** jointly with Luxembourg, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, and the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe, will convene a side event on **protecting lawyers and preserving access to justice**. The legal profession plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law, ensuring access to justice, and safeguarding human rights. However, lawyers worldwide continue to face threats, harassment, and undue interference in their work. This also impacts the citizens' right to a fair trial. In response to these challenges, the Council of Europe adopted in Luxembourg the first International Convention dedicated to the protection of the profession of lawyer, which is open to non-member States. The side event will take place on the 27th of June at 1:00 pm in Room XXV.

Cuba will host a side event on the input and the **contribution of international solidarity to achieving the right to health**. This event will be a timely opportunity to share good practises and positive experiences and to explore innovative forms of cooperation, South-South cooperation, particularly in the sphere of health.

The **Dominican Republic** will co-organize three side events dedicated to the following:

- **Global solutions to prevent and redress femicide**, jointly with Panama, Belgium, Cyprus, OHCHR and UN Women. The goal of this side event is to raise awareness of the structural causes of femicide and to share good practise like the Latin American Model Protocol promoting coordinated action for justice and prevention. It points to regional progress and calls for a global response to this extreme form of gender-based violence. The side event will be held on 26 June at 2:00 pm in Room XXI.



- **Climate-induced sea-level rise and safeguarding human rights**, jointly with Malta, whose objective is to continue the Dominican Republic's leadership on this topic since #HRC57.
- **Protecting the integrity of information and its impact on the rights of women**, jointly with the Netherlands. This event will address the effects of disinformation against women and girls, promote digital empowerment and defend freedom of expression as a pillar of inclusive democracy.

Estonia, jointly with Colombia and New Zealand, will host a side event dedicated to **reducing preventable maternal mortality and morbidity**. The latest WHO report shows a 40% global decline in maternal deaths between 2000 and 2023. Still, the report reveals that the pace of improvement has slowed significantly since 2016, and that an estimated 260,000 women died in 2023 as a result of complications from pregnancy and childbirth, roughly equivalent to one maternal death every two minutes. Preventing maternal mortality and morbidity is an important issue in all parts of the world. The side event will focus on the preventable aspects of maternal mortality and it will pave the way to the resolution to be presented not in this session but in the autumn session. The side event will take place on 23 June at 2:00 pm.

The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**, in partnership with the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Ministers of Social Affairs of the GCC, will convene a side event titled '**Towards Safe and Dignified Ageing - Protecting Older Persons amidst Demographic and Social Transformations**'. The event will take place on 26 June at 1:00 pm in Room XXIV.

Italy jointly with Heritage Foundation and with Cyprus, Mexico, Iraq, OHCHR, and the Special Rapporteur on cultural rights as co-sponsors, will host a side event on the **cultural rights of persons with disabilities**. This will be an opportunity to follow up on the UNHRC Resolution on cultural rights and cultural heritage adopted at #HRC58, and will also allow us to explore the progress and challenges arising from new technologies to the cultural rights of persons with disabilities. Subsequently, Italy will present a **virtual museum on cultural heritage** within the exhibition to be held in September-October at the Palais des Nations. The event will also allow us to present the guidelines on accessibility for persons with disabilities, psychosocial disabilities, adopted by Heritage International Institute, which is the Italian Cultural Institute for Heritage, alongside the Italian Research Institute and the Italian Foreign Ministry. This side event will take place on 20 June at 3:00 pm in Room XXIV. Within the context of Italy's candidacy for the Human Rights Council 2026-2028, other events will be organized subsequently.

Kuwait will host a side event dedicated to **humanitarian access and personnel protection** as a pillar in promoting human rights in conflict settings. Building on the momentum of the joint statement delivered by the state of Kuwait during #HRC57 on behalf of more than 130 countries, this side event aims to continue shedding light on the urgent need to protect humanitarian personnel and ensure safe and sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access, particularly in conflict zones. The event will bring together humanitarian and human rights experts to explore how humanitarian access and the safety of humanitarian personnel are closely linked to the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in times of crisis, when access to food, healthcare and essential services becomes a matter of survival. This initiative reflects Kuwait's long-standing humanitarian commitment and its belief in the importance of multilateral



cooperation to uphold international law and safeguard human dignity, especially in times of crisis. This side event will take place on 26 June.

Malta will host, jointly with the Dominican Republic, a side event titled ‘**Climate-Induced Sea Level Rise - Safeguarding Human Rights**.’ This side event will take place on 1 July at 2:00 pm Room XXIV with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on climate change. This is an issue of particular importance to all states, in particular small island states in all regions.

Morocco will host a side event to present the **conclusions and recommendations of the first Arab-African Forum on Business and Human Rights** which will be held on 24-25 June 2025 in Marrakech and will enable us to share experience across the region vis-à-vis the state’s role to protect businesses from corruption. The side event will be held on 1 July at 2:00 pm.

The **Philippines** will host a side event titled ‘**No One Left Adrift - Seafarers at the Cross-Currents of Commerce, Conflict and Change**’ on 19 June at 2:00 pm in Room XXVII. The main objective is to introduce the International Conference on Seafarers’ Human Rights, Safety and Well-Being, which the Philippines will host on 1-3 September 2025. This is the Philippines’ response to the Council’s call to ensure that those who toil at sea are covered by the protective mantle of universal human rights. Leading up to this conference, the Philippines envisions a robust discussion at the margins of #HRC59 among delegations, industry stakeholders, civil society, Special Procedures and academics on the key themes that will be tackled in the conference and the planned outcome document. This includes upholding human rights at sea for all and at all times, protecting seafarers in crisis situations, promoting gender equality and inclusivity in the maritime industry and seafarers in just transition in the maritime industry.

Qatar will host a side event jointly with Austria on the **role of the media in strengthening human rights**. The side event will examine the multilateral role of the media in strengthening human rights and combating the constraints facing journalists and their work with civil society. The side event will be held on 19 June at 1:00 pm in Room XXIV.

The **South Centre** will host a side event on **upholding health equity, access to medical products, and reproductive rights**. This event aims to identify challenges and opportunities for advancing health equity, focussing on strategies for equitable access to essential medical products, especially in health emergencies, considering the recently adopted WHO pandemic agreement, and access to sexual and reproductive information and services. It will also explore avenues to strengthen international cooperation for the right to health, particularly for developing countries and vulnerable populations, and foster dialogue to identify shared priorities and catalyse opportunities for tangible progress on health equity. The side event will take place on 23 June 2025 at 12:00 pm in Room XXVII.

The **Sovereign Order of Malta** jointly with Sierra Leone and with Mission 89 will convene a side on **mobilising against human trafficking in sports, women’s safeguarding**, and the global thematic report. This side event will take place on 19 June at 12:00 pm in Room XXIV.

Switzerland will co-sponsor two side events dedicated to the following themes:

- The **use of digital technologies in the context of peaceful demonstrations and related risks**, jointly with Costa Rica and the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom, peaceful



assembly and association. The event will address disinformation and the use of the model protocol for law enforcement on the promotional protection of human rights in peaceful assembly. The side event will take place on 20 June.

- **Disabled migrants from Africa**, organized jointly with the Gambia, OHCHR, ICRC, and IOM among others. 2024 was the worst year for people on the move with over 9,000 deaths, emphasising the growing risks facing these migrants worldwide. Over half of the deaths took place in African territorial borders, with at least 32,000 deaths since 2014. The Mediterranean is the sea with the greatest fatalities. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants will also participate in this event in order to discuss the recommendations of the report and the existing political frameworks. This side event will take place on 27 June.

Thailand jointly with Norway and Japan will host a side event on **ensuring the right to health in conflict situations** on 24 June at 1:00 pm. The right to health is increasingly under threat in today's conflicts. Health systems are often among the first casualties, with facilities destroyed, services disrupted and health personnel placed at grave risk. Civilian populations, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, women and elderly, persons with disabilities and displaced persons are disproportionately affected. This event aims to foster dialogue on health concerns in conflict situations and to highlight how international human rights law, the international community and other stakeholders can help safeguard health and well-being. It will explore ways to ensure functioning of an access to health system, protect health personnel and maintain the delivery of emergency care and essential services, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Ukraine will host a side event titled '**Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression - Delivering Justice and Protecting Human Rights in the Context of Russia's War against Ukraine**.' This discussion will highlight recent developments towards the establishment of the Special Tribunal and underscore its critical role in upholding international law, securing accountability and protecting human rights. Ukraine's particular focus will be on the protection of women and girls from conflict-related violence. Efforts focus on ensuring access to support services and justice for survivors while also promoting participation of women in peacebuilding and recovery as part of the comprehensive response to the ongoing Russia's war against Ukraine.

EXHIBITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Armenia will host a cultural event and a chess tournament dedicated to the **International Day of Chess**, which was set up in 2019 at the initiative of Armenia. This cultural event will be an opportunity to celebrate the values of mutual respect, dialogue, cooperation and friendship within the diplomatic community in Geneva while contributing to the cultural aspect of the United Nations. The event will take place on 3 July.

Costa Rica jointly with **International Gender Champions** will celebrate the 10th anniversary of this initiative which was founded ten years ago with a simple but audacious vision linked to international decision-makers seeking to overcome barriers to gender equality. Ten years on from this transformative collective action, in a key year for gender equality, the initiators are proud of the impact of this initiative. The celebration will be held on 3 July at 1:30 pm at the Serpentine bar.

Estonia will host an exhibition featuring **Estonian art from the Venice Art Museum**. The exhibition will be located in front of the Room XX. Invitations will be shared shortly.