



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Organizational Meeting

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### IMPLICATIONS OF THE LIQUIDITY AND BUDGETARY CRISIS

On 16 June 2025, the High Commissioner for Human rights addressed a letter to all Permanent Missions in order to brief them of some **activities scheduled for 2025 and 2026** that the Bureau thought were not possible due to the liquidity and budgetary crisis affecting the United Nations. Following that letter, the Council adopted decision 59/115, by virtue of which it invited the High Commissioner to provide, during the Organisational Meeting of the 60th session of the Human Rights Council on 25 August 2025 and during the Organisational Meeting of the Council on 8 December 2025, an updated and thorough assessment of the feasibility of the implementation of these activities, as well as any other activities scheduled for the Council for 2025-2026 that could also be affected by the liquidity and budgetary crisis - in light of the financial resources available in order to allow states to take well-informed decisions.

**H.E. Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF**, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, provides and will provide again in December, an updated and comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of implementing the activities listed in Annex 1 of the High Commissioner's Letter of 16 June, as well as any other activities mandated by the Council in the period 2025-2026 that might be affected by the liquidity and the budgetary crisis. In this letter, the High Commissioner also referenced the request by the UN Secretary-General to all United Nations Secretariat entities to **reduce their**



**submission to the regular budget for 2026 by 20%**, and urged the UNHRC to also take this into account when creating future mandates or renewing existing ones.

Subsequent to that letter, OHCHR representatives engaged with delegations on several occasions and provided them with additional information and clarifications as requested. On 4 July 2025, the Deputy High Commissioner circulated an information note with further details on the mandated activities that cannot be delivered in 2025 and 2026 in the context of a **severely reduced allotment, namely 73%**, that OHCHR (the Office) received of its total regular budget entitlement.

The Office has **spared no effort towards securing an additional regular budget allotment** that would allow the Office to increase the level of implementation of the entrusted mandates, and it will continue to do so. Regrettably, New York has confirmed that so far no additional resources are forthcoming. The Controller also briefed the President of the Human Rights Council last month, thereby reiterating that the level of assessed contributions collected is currently at its lowest in seven years, and is falling significantly behind the expected schedule. Additionally, external factors such as the weakening of the United States dollar are exacerbating the situation by further straining the cash flow and affecting overall financial stability.

As the Office's budgetary situation has not changed, **OHCHR remains unable to implement the mandated activities listed in Annex 1** to the High Commissioner's Letter of 16 June. Despite this, the **Biannual Panel Discussion on Unilateral Coercive Measures** and Human Rights will be held during the Council's upcoming 60th session due to procedural considerations - given the impact on the Council's Programme of Work resulting from the absence of a formal decision to either cancel or postpone this panel discussion to a later session. However, OHCHR will need to reduce travel costs and the number of panellists, and we will not be able to produce a summary of the discussion.

Regarding the **Commission of Inquiry on the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, OHCHR remains unable to proceed pending receipt of the required funding that was budgeted at approximately \$4 million as per the Programme Budget Implications (PBI). However, OHCHR, through its Human Rights Inquiries Branch, will continue to receive and store relevant information to be handed over to the Commission of Inquiry once it is established. Additionally, the Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC will continue its mandate of monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in those provinces. The Office is also supporting the President's selection and appointment of the Commission's members in anticipation of the start-up. Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF reiterates that the **Commission of Inquiry will not be operational** until OHCHR receives the necessary resources to support it, thereby suggesting that the Commission of Inquiry's reporting timelines may have to be revisited by the Council.

Regarding **all other mandates** listed in Annex 1 to the High Commissioner's letter, a decision by the Council to either **cancel or postpone** will be needed, bearing in mind that some of these mandates will have an impact on the Council's Programme of Work during its regular sessions as well as in the intersessional period. Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF further informs the Council that OHCHR will not be able to implement two additional **activities which were not included in Annex 1** of the High Commissioner's letter due to the continued impact of the liquidity crisis.



These are activities mandated by **UNHRC resolution 55/17 on a culture of peace** – namely for OHCHR to organise two half-day workshops followed by a summary report as well as for the Council to hold an interactive expert panel discussion at its 61st regular session. OHCHR has been in contact with the main sponsor of the resolution and dialogue is ongoing. This is also one of the cases where a decision would be needed by the Council, since it will have an impact on the Programme of Work for the 61st session. The other activity is the summary report of the **Annual Panel Discussion on Climate Change** focussing on just transitions, which was held by the Council during its 59th regular session as mandated by UNHRC resolution 56/8 to be delivered at the Council's 61st session.

Turning to the Independent International **Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory**, including East Jerusalem and Israel, informed the President on 6 August 2025 of its inability to implement the additional mandates assigned to it by UNHRC resolutions **55/32** and **55/28**, which had already been postponed once this year by resolutions **58/28** and **58/2** respectively. Noteworthy to stress that a decision of the Council is needed for those reports that cannot be delivered within the mandated timeline to be submitted at a later session, noting that their production remains contingent on the availability of resources.

Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF recalls that due to the liquidity crisis, all mandated activities in general, both thematic and country-specific, have indeed been **impacted and are being delivered in reduced form**. As OHCHR has informed in the past, intergovernmental working groups, expert mechanisms, and special procedures established by the UNHRC have been significantly impacted, with notable reductions in sessions, meetings, and country visits. Investigative mechanisms are now operating at on average 50 percent of their staffing levels. The sessions of the **Advisory Committee** and the **Working Group on Communications** scheduled for August 2025 in Geneva have been postponed until the requisite resources are received. Resources for advisory and technical cooperation mandates, including for supporting states at the national and regional levels, have also been reduced.

Beyond the Council's mandates, **Human Rights Treaty Bodies** have also cut down their sessions by approximately one-third, from three sessions to two. As previously emphasised in determining the implementation of Council-mandated activities in light of available resources, OHCHR treated all mandates equally. No distinction has been made based on the content or the subject matter of the mandates. The list in Annex I to the High Commissioner's letter of 16 June was based solely on budgetary considerations. Council mandates vary significantly in terms of delivery type, required resources, and staffing needs, as the Deputy High Commissioner clarified and emphasised in her letter of 4 July. She also explained the rationale and the criteria for the non-delivery of the specific 18 mandates listed in the Annex to the High Commissioner's letter.

Once again, Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF reaffirms that the High Commissioner and his Office remain committed to fully implementing Council-mandated activities. However, as much as they strive to deliver on these mandates - and, as a reminder, the vast majority of them are indeed being carried out - the **ongoing liquidity crisis severely limits OHCHR's ability** to do so. Without the timely availability of funds, implementation has become and will continue to be increasingly constrained, and in some cases it will be simply not possible.



Therefore, OHCHR looks forward to decisions regarding the **rationalisation and increased efficiency** of the Council's work. All steps taken by states to streamline, merge, or conclude mandates will meaningfully contribute to enhanced efficiencies, effectiveness, and impact, reducing the strain on overstretched under-resourced capacity. Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF seizes the opportunity to point out that the Council now has a tool to help in this regard, namely the preliminary version of the [HRC Mapper](#), as mandated by the [President's Statement OS18/1](#), which was launched last month and which can provide you with the evidence base needed to assess all Council mandates, mechanisms, and reports, particularly those on the same or similar subjects.

As the UN Secretary-General has stressed, mandates are the business of member states. Therefore, any decision relating to the **creation, review, or discontinuation of mandates lies with states alone**. The Office is, however, always ready to support and advise, for instance, on the channelling of priorities through existing forums, debates, and panels, or the frequency of long-standing recurring activities, or the potential merging of reports on similar topics from two different mandates.

Furthermore, Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF stresses that the challenges faces are real, they are immediate, and they are deeply consequential. The **inability to deliver mandates** is a reflection of a system stretched beyond its financial limits. OHCHR therefore urges member states to submit their regular budget-assessed contributions in full and on time, as well as to reflect seriously on the sustainability of the Council's work. As today's decisions and moving forward will shape the future of human rights implementation, Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF emphasizes **that rationalisation is a responsible recalibration** to ensure that every mandate is meaningful, deliverable, and impactful.

In closing, the Deputy High Commissioner reiterates OHCHR's unwavering dedication to implementing each and every activity mandated by the UNHRC, but it cannot do this alone. OHCHR counts on states' leadership, foresight, and resolve to ensure that the mandates entrusted to the Office are matched by the means to fulfil them.