



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Organizational Meeting

#HRC60 • 25 August 2025



### OVERVIEW

The sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council (#HRC60) will span through four and a half weeks of interactive dialogues and panel debates held in the historic **Assembly Hall** (AH) of the *Palais des Nations* from Monday, 8 September 2025 until Friday, 3 October 2025. However, the adoption of draft proposals will take place in the newly refurbished **Room XVI** from 6 to 8 October 2025. An **additional overflow room** will also be made available in **Room XII** (Italian Room) for the Council from 6 to 8 October 2025, while stressing that the arrangements for the last few days of the session are far from ideal. In this regard, UNOG stresses this is the only possibility in terms of room availability due to other activities of importance that are taking place at the same time, among them the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

### NOMINATION OF ASIA-PACIFIC VICE-PRESIDENT

On 12 August 2025, H.E. Mr. Jürg LAUBER, President of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) received a letter from H.E. Mr. Tareq Md. Ariful ISLAM, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, informing that he will **step down as Vice-President** of the UNHRC. On behalf of the Bureau, the President seizes the opportunity to extend their gratitude



for his valuable contribution and his collaboration to the work of the Council. As a result, in line with article 13 of the Rules of Procedure, the Council must appoint a new Vice-President from the group of Asia-Pacific countries for the remaining mandate.

In the verbal note of August 2025, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, acting as Regional Coordinator for the group of Asia-Pacific countries, expressed interest in electing **H.E. Ms. Salma RASHEED**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Maldives at the United Nations Office in Geneva, as Vice-President of the Council for the rest of the mandate, concluding on 31 December 2025. A copy of the verbal note was published on the extranet. In the absence of other nominations or any objections, the President approves the Council's wishes to elect H.E. Ms. Salma RASHEED as Vice-President and congratulates her on her election.

### PROGRAMME OF WORK

After emphasizing that the [Programme of Work](#) is a living document subject to regular updates, the President explains that the upcoming 60th session is marked by a heavy-loaded programme spanning through four and a half weeks, including one lunchtime meeting scheduled for 23 September. On that day, the Council will be held from 9 am to 6 pm without interruptions.

The **opening** of the sixtieth regular session of the Council (#HRC60) will take place on Monday, 8 September at 9:00 am with the **oral presentation of the report** of High Commissioner Volker Türk. All along this session, the Council will hold:

- 26 interactive dialogues with mandate holders as part of the special procedures, expert mechanisms, and investigative bodies;
- 9 interactive dialogues with the High Commissioner and his Office;
- 5 enhanced interactive dialogues;
- 1 interactive dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

Towards the end of the session, the Council will **nominate a mandate holder** as part of the special procedures, namely the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic. In this regard, the President's letter containing the name of the candidate proposed has been circulated and was published on the extranet on Friday, 22 August. The nomination of the mandate holder will be carried out with the reservation that the mandate will indeed be extended on the basis of a decision by the Council during the very same session.

### SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DRC

In the current draft Programme of Work, the Council should be reviewing the **situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** as part of two agenda items, namely agenda item 2 and agenda 10, in line with UNHRC resolutions [57/34](#) and [S-37/1](#). Those resolutions request the submission of three reports, one report of the High Commissioner on human rights following the fact-finding mission established in line with the resolution [S-37/1](#) that will be presented during a strengthened interactive dialogue under agenda item 2, and two other reports under agenda item 10 in line with UNHRC resolution [57/34](#) that will be presented during the second enhanced interactive dialogue by the High Commissioner and the international team of experts on the DRC. On 7 August 2025, Bureau discussed this question, recalling the continued impact of the serious liquidity and financial crisis of the UN on the work of the Council and the



need to further rationalise its work. In light of this, the Bureau decided to propose to the Council that one enhanced interactive dialogue be organised on the DRC during #HRC60 with the participation of relevant stakeholders as specified in the two resolutions. In the absence of any remarks and objections, the Council approves the proposal advanced by the Bureau to **combine the two enhanced interactive dialogues on the DRC** during #HRC60 in line with UNHRC resolutions 57/34 and resolution S-37/1, and to hold **only one session of interactive dialogue under agenda items 2 and 10**.

### REPRESENTATION OF MYANMAR

The President notes that the current draft Programme of Work provides for an enhanced interactive dialogue with the **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)** scheduled for 8 September 2025. 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. Pending the decision of the UN General Assembly on this matter, the Secretariat of the UNHRC could not address requests for participation by anyone as part of a delegation of Myanmar in the work of the Council in 2025. On 7 August 2025, the Bureau reviewed this issue once again in line with previous decisions taken by the Council. In the absence of any decision taken by the UN General Assembly on the representation of Myanmar in the United Nations, the Council approves without objection the Bureau's proposal to hold the enhanced interactive dialogue on Myanmar during the 60th session as planned **without the participation of the concerned country**.

### UPR OF NICARAGUA

The President draws the Council's attention to the fact that the current draft Programme of Work includes the adoption of a final document on the UPR of Nicaragua. Referring to the minutes of the Bureau from the 3, 14, and 19 March 2025, the Bureau recalled UNGA resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 jointly with UNHRC resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and agreed to encourage Nicaragua to continue its commitment to the UPR process in order to conclude the fourth cycle of the UPR. However, the circumstances did not make it possible for the Council to move forward in the **adoption of the UPR outcome document** on Nicaragua.

As a result, on 26 March 2025, the Council decided to call upon Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with the UPR mechanism and requested the President of the UNHRC to take all appropriate measures in line with the mandate to urge Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with the UPR mechanism, and to inform the Council of the results of the President's efforts during the 59th and, if necessary, during the 60th regular session, and postpone the consideration of the adoption of the outcome document on the UPR of Nicaragua to the 60th session, while reserving the possibility to schedule such a review at a different date, if indeed Nicaragua resumes its cooperation with the Council.

On 2 July 2025, during the 26th meeting of the 59th session, the President informed the Council about its efforts aimed at encouraging Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with the UPR mechanism. As President of the Council and with the support of delegations or friends, he took different steps to encourage Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with the Council and that those **efforts did not lead to any specific results**. Nevertheless, the President stresses its full committed to this issue and will continue to use his good offices with the hope of finding a



solution. With his commitment remaining fully in force, the President **reiterates his appeal to Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with the UPR mechanism**, and reaffirms his availability to carry out a constructive dialogue with the delegation of the country.

As a result, during the 60th regular session, the Council will be examining and, if possible, adopting the outcome document on the UPR of Nicaragua **under the condition that Nicaragua resumes its cooperation and clarifies its position** on the set of the 279 recommendations it received. In the opposite case, the Council will continue to monitor the situation and will be providing information on the steps to be taken.

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

During #HRC60, the Council will hold the following **five panel discussions**.

- Biennia panel discussion on **unilateral coercive measures and human rights**, held in line with UNHRC resolutions 27/21 and 58/3, will consider the effects of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) and their excessive impact on the right to food and food security. Speaking on behalf on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), **Uganda** appreciates the holding of this panel despite the fact that the absence of reporting coverage. The panel discussion will be held on **Friday, 12 September 2025** from 3 to 5 pm, and will be chaired by H.E. Ms. Claudia Fuentes (Chile), Vice-President of the UNHRC. High Commissioner Volker Türk will deliver opening remarks, and distinguished experts in the field of unilateral coercive measures will be part and parcel of the panel. This important panel discussion will allow to grasp the impact of the UCMs on the right to food. The NAM strongly believes in a convergence of views at the Council, and in even if the states will not agree on everything, the current unilateralism calls for the importance of this panel.
- Panel discussion on **combating discrimination, violence, and harmful practises against intersex people**, held in line with UNHRC resolution 55/14 and accessible to persons with disabilities. On behalf of the cross-regional core group of Australia, Chile, South Africa, **Finland** as co-initiator announces the first ever panel discussion focussing on discriminatory laws and policies, acts of violence, and harmful practises against persons with innate variations in sex characteristics in all regions of the world, and their root causes, including misconceptions and inaccurate information, and also examining best practises, especially when addressing the realisation of their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. To be held on **Monday, 15 September** from 10 to 12 am, the panel will provide a platform to increase awareness and understanding of the human rights situation of persons with innate variations in sex characteristics, also known as intersex persons, and the impact of discriminatory laws, policies, acts of violence, and harmful practises they face. The panel also aims to foster dialogue between states, NHRIs, UN agencies, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders on effective rights-based approaches to eliminating discrimination and ensuring dignity, autonomy, and equality for persons with innate variations in sex characteristics. The panel will also highlight and discuss good practises in legal, policy, and institutional responses that promote the equal human rights and well-being of intersex persons, with particular focus on the realisation of their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The panel discussion will be





moderated by H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, President of the UNHRC, and will feature opening remarks by Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, followed by panellists representing UN mechanisms, civil society organisations, states, and regional mechanisms.

- Biennial panel discussion on **youth and human rights**, held in line with UNHRC Resolution 51/17 and 50/30 and accessible to persons with disabilities. On behalf of the core group of the resolution on youth and human rights composed of Armenia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, the Philippines, Portugal, Moldova, Romania, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, **El Salvador** as co-initiator announces the holding of this biennial panel discussion **Tuesday, 16 September** from 9 to 11 am. The panel will be dedicated to the role of youth in fostering peaceful societies and creating an able environment for the enjoyment of human rights by all. The core group commends the role of the OHCHR for the inclusive and youth-centred process undertaken in the preparation of this panel, including the consultation with youth and youth-led organisations. The core group further encourages all member states and observers to actively attend and participate in the panel and to listen directly to the voices and experience of youth people. As acknowledged in UNHRC resolution 57/30, youth and young people are not only entitled to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but they also play a crucial role as agents of changes in building inclusive, just, and peaceful societies. Likewise, UNHRC resolution 57/30 highlights their positive contribution to the promotion of human rights and peace-building initiatives. This panel discussion is a vital opportunity to deepen the Council's understanding and current challenges and to advise concrete measures to promote more effective and equitable youth participation. The core group remains committed to advancing all human rights for youth and supporting their full and meaningful participation in the UNHRC.
- Annual panel discussion on the **rights of Indigenous peoples**, held in line with UNHRC Resolutions 18/8 and 57/15 and accessible to persons with disabilities. Jointly with Guatemala, **Mexico** announces the holding of this panel discussion on Wednesday, 24 September. On that occasion, the roundtable will be devoted to the rights of Indigenous peoples in the context of just transition towards sustainable energy systems, especially with regard to critical minerals. The panel discussion will strive to consider the possibilities of creating policies that will integrate Indigenous peoples in projects that affect their lands and territories. The discussion will further analyse the impact of the development of renewable energy as part of the value chains, including practises related to the protection and respect of the rights of Indigenous peoples, thereby illustrating examples of successful alliances between Indigenous peoples and those who develop renewable energies. The panel discussion will feature the participation of three experts coming from different regions of the world representing Indigenous peoples.
- Annual debate on the **integration of a general perspective in the work of the UNHRC and its mechanisms**, held in line with UNHRC resolution 6/30 and in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action (BDPA). In line with the UNSC resolution of 1325, **Chile** announces the holding of this annual debate on



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**Tuesday, 8 September** from 9 to 11 am, dedicated to strengthening the gender perspective in the process of transitional justice, with a focus on processes towards building more inclusive and just societies. With this in mind, it is essential to recognise that inequalities do not disappear at the end of conflict. Women and girls continue to suffer exclusion due to lack of resources as well as violations of their rights. In its very essence, transitional justice is an act of justice, memory, and reparation. However, it should also be a commitment to the future to transform the structures that lead to violence. Victims should be placed at the heart of this work, recognising their dignity and humanity. This can lead to sustainable peace. The gender perspective is a senior condition for transitional justice and truly is committed to the process of truth, reconciliation, and no repetition.