



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Organizational Meeting

#HRC60 • 25 August 2025



### STATE-SPONSORED SIDE EVENTS

**Bolivia** will host two thematic side events:

- A high-level event dedicated to the '**Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Programme and Platform of Action - Follow-up to the Beijing+ 30 Agenda**' jointly with OHCHR, the focal points on gender issues and UN Women. During the 30 decades since the adoption of the declaration, considerable advances have been achieved, but challenges remain. Thus, it is important to promote the implementation of the Agenda. Based on review of 159 national reports, the Beijing+30 Agenda has identified six priority areas to ensure the effective promotion of women and girl children with a cross-cutting approach on youth to ensure that future generations can benefit from this. The Commission on the Legal Status of Women adopted a political declaration by consensus that reaffirms the commitment of member states with the DDPA focussing on collective action to foster gender equality. This commemoration event intends to ensure follow-up to the Declaration, and it will take place on 8 September in Room XVI.



- A side event on the promotion of the **rights of peasants in rural areas and food sovereignty**, with the view of exploring challenges and best practises in Latin America. This event is promoted by civil society organisations such as the representation of *Via Campesina* and *Centre Europe-Tiers Monde* (CETIM). Bolivia joins this side event as a co-sponsor, whose objective is to create a space for dialogue with the Chairperson and Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Peasants and other speakers who work in rural areas will participate in the event to strengthen the promotion and realisation of the rights of peasants.

**Chile** will host three side events dedicated to the following thematic issues:

- On 17 September, China will host, jointly with Mr. Marcos Orellana, Special Rapporteur on toxic substances and human rights, a side event titled '**Protecting human rights in light of the contamination of the oceans - A future free from toxics.**' Marine contamination by plastics and toxic substances is an affront to fundamental values and particularly affects coastal and indigenous communities that face significant barriers in having access to justice. The side event seeks to put a spotlight on these gaps and look at the conclusions of the Third United Nations Conference on Oceans of June 2025 and the more recent negotiations on plastic pollution held in Geneva.
- On 26 September, China will host a side event titled '**Recommendations of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding in Chile - Progresses and the Challenges in the Implementation Process.**' This activity seeks to raise awareness about the historic challenges and the progress made in order to institutionally channel the request of the Mapuche people and build a new relationship between the State and Indigenous people.
- On 1 October, China jointly with OHCHR will hold a side event titled '**Promising practises in the adoption of a human rights-based approach to drafting budgets.**' The event seeks to highlight national experiences in using a human rights-based approach in planning national public budgets geared to a more fair resource allocation in essential areas such as health, education, security, among others.

**China** recalls the Council's unanimous adoption in October 2024 of UNHRC resolution 57/16 on promoting accessibility for the full enjoyment of all human rights for all. This resolution provides for better safeguards for people with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups to equally participate in social life and enjoy human rights. To further enhance the implementation of this resolution, China will host a side event dedicated to the **promotion of greater international awareness and attention to accessibility issues.**

**Colombia** will co-sponsor a side event on **guidelines on drug policies and human rights** on 18 September organised by OHCHR jointly with the International Centre for Human Rights and Drug Policy.

**Cuba** will host a side event on **unilateral coercive measures** with the aim of having an exchange of views and identifying specific new actions that can be taken by the Council to document UCMs; illustrate the unjust, inhuman, and illegal nature of such measures and show that their impact on human rights is incompatible with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) will host two side events:

- A high-level event dedicated to ‘**Thirty years of armed conflict in the DRC** - A call for international recognition of the ignored genocide, truth and justice.’ This event will take place on 8 September from 2:30 to 5:30 pm in Room XVII (Emirates’ Room) with the participation of national speakers, namely members of the government, as well as international speakers and many other personalities. The goal of this event is to spark an international debate about the recognition of the genocide perpetrated on DRC land; promote justice for victims; foster synergies among states, international organisations, academia, and civil society; and prevent that such atrocities happen again through global mobilisation. This side event will feature presentations both in the *Palais des Nations* and outside of the *Palais des Nations* all along the week from 8 to 12 September 2025.
- A side event focussing on the strengthening of the **educational system to improve access to education in Africa**, to be held on 30 September from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

The **Dominican Republic** will host jointly with OHCHR and Lithuania, a side event to be held on 23 September with the aim of commemorating the International Sign Language Day. This event will be a meaningful opportunity to celebrate linguistic diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. For the Dominican Republic, this event offers a perfect occasion to highlight the progress made, including the recognition and development of the country’s own sign language.

**Holy See** jointly with Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG 23), will co-organise a side event titled ‘**No more wars - Building peace through human rights development and international solidarity**.’ The event will take place on Wednesday, 17 September from 1 to 2 pm in Room VIII, and it is co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Italy and San Marino, the University for Peace, and the Forum of Catholic-inspired Organizations in Geneva.

**Italy** will co-organise some cross-regional side events on the following:

- A side event on the **death penalty with a focus on children**, organised jointly with Switzerland, France, Chile, Zambia and possibly other stakeholders, and co-sponsored by OHCHR and the members of the core group of the resolution on the issue of death penalty. The event will offer a good occasion to share and disseminate positive developments and good practises for the abolition of the death penalty, especially on children and young persons. The co-organizers also intend to put forward effective solutions to safeguard the rights of children whose parents or other close family members are facing the death penalty.
- A side event on the **rights of older persons** to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons as well as the 10th anniversary of the UNHRC establishment of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. Co-organized with Slovenia and other countries, the event will focus on the issue of active ageing and how to ensure the full enjoyment of rights of older persons.
- A side event dedicated to present a publication on the **protection of children in armed conflicts**. Following up to the side event held during #HRC58, this event is intended to



launch an international handbook exploring the link between emerging technologies and wars, including their impact on children. The handbook features contributions from distinguished international experts and scholars and was edited by the University Network for Children in Armed Conflicts supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Netherlands** jointly with the Benelux countries and Poland will host a side event on the situation of **human rights in the Russian Federation** with the participation of the Special Rapporteur. The event will be held on 22 September from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** will host a side event titled '**Humanitarian principles and the prophetic tradition**' on 24 September from 2 to 3 pm in Room III. 1<sup>st</sup> Rabi' Al-Awwal 1447 of the Islamic calendar started on Monday 25 August, namely on the very same day as the Council's Organizational Meeting, marks 1,500 lunar years since Prophet Muhammad, - peace be upon him - was born. This side event will commemorate this significant date by reflecting on the timeless legacy of Prophet Muhammad and his contributions to global civilisation. Dialogue and justice and discussion shared ethical and humanitarian values between the Islamic tradition and contemporary international law, especially in light of the current global challenges.

**Qatar** will host two side events:

- A high-level panel discussion on 9 September from 10:00 to 11:00 am in Room XIX (Hall of Qatar) in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of **protecting schools from attacks**, featuring the participation of H.E. Sheika Moza bint Nasser, the President of Slovenia, the President of the African Union, and High Commissioner Volker Türk. The side event will also host a number of youth and rights advocates that renew Qatar's engagement with the education sphere during conflict.
- A side event titled '**Family first as a cornerstone of social development**' in collaboration with Doha Family Centre, to be held in Room VII from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

**Spain** will host two thematic side events:

- On the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325, it will host jointly a group of countries and WILPF, a side event with a view of reaffirming the **full application of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**, and the key role played by the UNHRC in the prevention of conflict and accountability.
- Jointly with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and with the support of a cross-regional group of countries, Spain will host a side event on **forensic science, transitional justice and human rights**. This event will provide information about advances in forensic science and their contribution to the process of truth, justice, memory and reparation and non-repetition.

**Thailand** will convene a side event aimed at showcasing **success stories under agenda item 10** and raising awareness on the positive impact of technical cooperation in the furtherance of human rights.