Minutes of the Human Rights Council Bureau 12 September 2025

On 12 September 2025, the President informed the Bureau that on 10 September he had received two letters seeking an urgent debate during the ongoing 60th session of the Human Rights Council, to "discuss the recent military aggression launched by Israel against the State of Qatar on 9 September 2025": from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC member states; and from the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait in his capacity as Chair of the Council of Ambassadors in Geneva of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).

The President recalled that there had been nine precedents of urgent debates in the Human Rights Council.

The President also recalled that urgent debates were based on a decision of the Council to adjust its programme of work to address a matter which was considered to be urgent. The reorganization of the programme of work is made upon the request of a Member of the Council. Such a debate should be organized in a constructive and most efficient manner, be as non-disruptive as possible to the programme of work and take place under Item 1 of the Council's agenda.

The President further recalled that an urgent debate may be followed by the adoption of a resolution immediately following the urgent debate or at the beginning of the regular decision-making process at the end of the session, provided that the resolution is submitted at least 24 hours prior to its adoption and that at least one informal consultation is organized by the main sponsor.

Finally, the President emphasized that a request to convene an urgent debate must be approved by the Council.

Recommendation by the Bureau

The Bureau considered the request to hold an urgent debate to "discuss the recent military aggression launched by Israel against the State of Qatar on 9 September 2025" during the 60th session of the Human Rights Council. Following the Secretariat's advice, the Bureau concluded that the debate could be accommodated on Tuesday, 16 September 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Concerning the modalities for the urgent debate, the Bureau recalled that urgent debates follow the modalities of general debates and, consequently, speaking time limits would be 5 minutes for each concerned country and 1 minute and 30 seconds for all other speakers. In line with the practice applied during the general debates, the Bureau agreed that the list of speakers for the NGOs would be set in line with the average number of speakers in the past three urgent debates.

The Bureau agreed that the decision on the requests to convene this urgent debate would be taken by the Council on Monday, 15 September at the opening of the morning meeting at 10 a.m.
