

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC55: the 55th regular session
of the Human Rights Council

Monday, 26 February 2024 to 05 April 2024 (6 week session),
Room XX, Palais des Nations

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



A general view of participants during the 30th regular Session at the Human Rights Council. 30 September 2015.

UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré

IN BRIEF

- **104** high-level dignitaries and officials are expected to deliver statements during the four-day High-Level Segment of HRC55, which will take place in a hybrid manner. So far, a total of two heads or deputy heads of State, seven heads or deputy heads of government, and 68 ministers or vice-ministers are scheduled to address the Council. Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr António Guterres, as well as the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis (Trinidad and Tobago), will also be delivering an address at the start of the High-Level Segment.
- On **4th March**, Mr. Volker Türk, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC55 with an **oral global update on the human rights situation around the world**. This oral update together with other country specific oral updates given by the High Commissioner will provide the basis for the general debate under item 2 on 4th and 5th March.
- During the session, the Council will hold **37 Interactive Dialogues** with the High Commissioner, his Office and designated experts (i.e., Special procedures mandate-holders, investigative mechanisms, as well as Special Representative of the Secretary General). The Council will also have **three enhanced Interactive Dialogues, one high level dialogue, as well as nine General Debates**.
- During the session, the Council will consider **country-specific reports** submitted by the High Commissioner (HC) or the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and UN Secretary General (SG) covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*:
 - Item 2
 - **Cyprus.**
 - **Myanmar.**
 - The **Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice.
 - **Sudan.**
 - **Belarus** in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath.
 - **Occupied Syrian Golan.**
 - **Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.**
 - Item 10
 - Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve the situation of human rights in **Haiti** in connection with a request from the authorities of Haiti for coordinated and targeted international action.
 - Technical assistance and capacity building for **South Sudan.**

- The Council will also consider **thematic reports** submitted by the HC, or the OHCHR, and the UNSG, including *inter alia*:
 - Item 2
 - **Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures** ([SG report](#)).
 - **Activities of the OHCHR offices in Guatemala, Honduras and Colombia** (HC reports).
 - **Effective implementation of international human rights instruments** ([SG report](#)).
 - Item 3
 - **Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment** (SG reports on the [Voluntary Fund](#) and on the [Special Fund](#)).
 - **Role of good governance** ([HC report](#)).
 - **Safety of journalists** ([HC report](#) and [note by the Secretariat on SG's report](#)).
 - **Rights of persons with disabilities** ([OHCHR report](#)).
 - **Rights of the child** ([HC report](#)).
 - **Youth and human rights** ([OHCHR report](#)).
 - **Minority issues** ([HC report](#)).
 - **Terrorism and human rights** ([note by the Secretariat on SG's report](#)).
 - **Human rights and climate change** (HC report).
- Item 9

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief (HC report).

 - Additionally, the High Commissioner or his Office will also deliver **oral updates/presentations**, including *inter alia* on:
 - Item 2:
 - **Annual report.**
 - Situation of human rights in **Myanmar**.
 - Promotion and protection of human rights in **Nicaragua**.
 - Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in **Sri Lanka**.
 - Item 4:
 - Situation of human rights in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**.
 - The situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of **Venezuela**.

- Item 10:
 - Enhancement of **technical cooperation and capacity-building** in the field of human rights.
 - Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.
 - Cooperation with and assistance to **Ukraine** in the field of human rights.
- The Council will hold **interactive dialogues (IDs) with human rights special procedures** including Special Rapporteurs (SR), Independent Experts (IE), and Working Groups (WG)
 - **Thematic** mandates:
 - SR on human rights and the environment
 - SR on unilateral coercive measures
 - SR in the field of cultural rights
 - IE on albinism
 - SR on privacy
 - SR on freedom of religion or belief
 - SR on counter-terrorism and human rights
 - SR on the right to food
 - SR on the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
 - SR on human rights defenders
 - SR on minority issues
 - SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
 - SR on adequate housing
 - IE on the effects of foreign debt
 - SR on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children
 - SR on the rights of persons with disabilities
 - Open-ended Intergovernmental WG on transnational corporations
- IDs with **country-specific** mandates:
 - SR on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan
 - SR on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967
 - IE on the situation of human rights in Mali
 - SR on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 - SR on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
 - SR on the situation of human rights in Eritrea
 - SR on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

- The Council will also hold IDs with Fact Finding Missions (FFMs) on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry (IICOI) on the Syrian Arab Republic, the IICOI on Ukraine, UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, and the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua.
- The Council will also hold IDs with the UN Special Representative of the SG on violence against children and the UN Special Representative of the SG for children and armed conflict.
- In accordance with [HRC/PRST/OS/13/1](#) all the Interactive Dialogues will be individual.
- The Council is expected to act on around **32 draft resolutions**. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1PM on Thursday, 21st of March**.
- Additionally, it is expected to appoint **14 new human rights special procedures**, including two members to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (one from Africa and one from North America); the IE on the promotion of a **democratic and equitable international order**; the IE on the situation of human rights in **Mali**; the SR on the promotion of **truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence**; the SR on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**; five members of the WG on the rights of **peasants** and other people working in rural areas (one each from the African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean States as well as Western European and other Groups); one member of the WG on the use of **mercenaries** as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (from the African Group); the SR on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a **safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**; and the SR on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of **climate change**. More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found [here](#).^[1]
- The 55th session of the Human Rights Council will adopt, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcome report of 14 States ([Azerbaijan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Cabo Verde](#), [Cameroon](#), [Canada](#), [Colombia](#), [Cuba](#), [Djibouti](#), [Germany](#), [Russian Federation](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [Tuvalu](#), and [Uzbekistan](#)).
- Due to a UN holiday on Friday, 29th March and Monday, 1st April, no meetings will be organised nor technical support will be offered during those days.
- For the full draft programme of work for HRC55, please click [here](#).^[2]

MODALITIES FOR THE 55TH SESSION

- The 55th session of the Human Rights Council will take place in Room XX.
- **Effective on January 22, 2024, the Department of Conference Management at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) indicated that it had ceased servicing all hybrid or virtual meetings on any platform, system, or tool (e.g., Zoom, Interprefy, Webex, etc.)** as there is currently no General Assembly mandate for the provision of hybrid services.
- **This decision to cease services for hybrid and virtual meetings only applies to remote live participation. Pre-recorded video statements are still an accepted form of participation, alongside in-person participation.** UN Web TV will also continue to live-stream the Council's meetings.
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with ECOSOC consultative status and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) with "A" status would have the possibility to deliver their statements in person or via pre-recorded video statements. In order to balance inclusivity and feasibility (in terms of time and resources), the list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates would be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous three March sessions (i.e., the 52nd, 49th and 46th sessions).
- The online system for inscription by **States** on the list of speakers for all general debates, interactive dialogues and panel discussions will open at **4PM on Monday, 19th February 2024** and will close 24 hours before the meeting in which each debate is scheduled to start. After the online inscription has closed, delegations may still inscribe or withdraw by sending an email to the address OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org.
- The online system for the list of speakers for the adoptions of the **UPR outcomes** will **open at 9AM on Monday, 11th March and will close at 6PM on Thursday, 14th March 2024**. No registration will be possible after this deadline.
- For NHRIs and NGOs, the list of speakers for all debates for this session will be open online at **2PM on Tuesday, 20th February 2024**.
- During this session, the list of speakers for each panel discussion will be system-generated based on the priority indicated by the delegation and the time of inscription.
- In accordance with the Institution Building (IB) package, at least one informal open-ended consultation needs to be held on each draft resolution and/or decision before it is considered for action by the Council.

MEASURES TO ASSIST SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

The HRC Helpdesk for SIDS and LDCs is meant to facilitate the understanding of issues raised at the HRC and enhance small State delegates' participation in the session. The Help Desk can be reached before, during and after the session by email (ohchr-hrcdesksmallpm@un.org) or phone/WhatsApp +41 (0) 79 500 0032. The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund is also available for consultations upon request.

- The use of the online tool e-deleGATE will continue in order to facilitate delegates' work during the HRC. The tool will allow delegates to circulate, table and co-sponsor resolutions, amongst others. It is accessible through the following [link](#).^[3]

Delegates will be able to use the Sched meeting application to personalise their agendas and synchronise with their calendars. HRC55 Sched provides details on plenary meetings as well as other meetings scheduled in parallel to the HRC session at the Palais des Nations.



A wide view of the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room at the Palais des Nations during the high-level segment of the Human Right Council's thirty-fourth regular session.

UN Photo/Elma Okic, 27 February 2017, Photo # 715076

PANEL DEBATES

HRC55 is scheduled to hold **seven panel discussions** on the following subjects:

- **Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming** on the theme “Harnessing multilateral efforts to embed, amplify and realise the rights of persons with disabilities with a focus on full and effective participation and inclusion in society” (26th February, [concept note](#)).
- **Panel discussion on countering hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence** (8th March, [concept note](#)).
- **Panel discussion on challenges and good practices to strengthen the fulfilment of the right to social security and for building, financing and implementing public policies and quality public services as key tools for the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights** (8th March, [concept note](#)).
- **Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities** on the theme “Good practices of support systems enabling community inclusion of persons with disabilities” (11th March, [concept note](#)).
- **Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child.** Two panels (14th March, [concept note](#)):
 - Theme 1: Rights of the child and inclusive social protection.
 - Theme 2: Child rights mainstreaming in the United Nations.
- **Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** (*more information will be made available soon*).

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available [here](#).^[4]

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC55, States will consider **77 reports** from the Secretary-General, High Commissioner, Working Groups and/or the Special Procedures mandate-holders.

These UN reports, which were commissioned by the Council through earlier resolutions, when published, will be made available [here](#).^[5]



A general view of participants during of the 33nd ordinary session of the Human Rights Council. 13 September 2016.

UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC55^[6]

Based on announcements made during the HRC55 organisational meeting (12th February), the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC52), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC55. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

(* = Initiative formally announced during HRC55 organisational meeting)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[7]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ^[8]
1	<u>Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression*</u>	Ukraine	1	Vote (<u>28-2-17</u>)
2	<u>Advancing human rights in South Sudan*</u>	Albania, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America	2	Vote (<u>19-09-19</u>)
3	<u>Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice*</u>	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	2	Vote (<u>38-2-7</u>)
4	<u>Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath*</u>	European Union	4	Vote (21-5-21)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY
5	Situation of human rights in Myanmar*	European Union	4	Consensus
6	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*	European Union	4	Consensus
7	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*	Iceland, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, United Kingdom	4	Vote (23-8-16)
8	Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic*	United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkiye, United States of America	4	Vote (24-4-18)
9	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	7	Vote (31-14-2)
10	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	7	Vote (38-4-5)
11	Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	7	Vote (41-3-3)
12	Cooperation with Georgia*	Georgia	10	Vote (22-4-21)

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

(* =Initiative formally announced during HRC55 organisational meeting)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[9]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ^[10]	VOTE HISTORY ^[11]
1	<u>Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to non-discrimination in this context*</u>	Finland, Brazil, Germany, Namibia	3	Biennial	Consensus
2	Combating violence discrimination and harmful practices against intersex persons*	Finland, Australia, Chile, South Africa	3	New initiative	N/A
3	<u>Effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights*</u>	Cuba	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
4	<u>Freedom of religion or belief*</u>	European Union	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
5	<u>Mandate of Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism</u>	Cameroon (African Group)	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
6	<u>Mandate of Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights*</u>	Cuba	3	Triennial	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
7	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment*</u>	Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland	3	Triennial	Consensus
8	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy*</u>	Austria, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico	<u>3</u>	Triennial	Consensus
9	<u>Prevention genocide*</u>	Armenia	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
10	Promoting and strengthening a culture of peace*	Gambia, Lesotho, Chile, Mozambique, South Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan and Botswana	3	New initiative	N/A
11	<u>Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights*</u>	China	3	Annual resolution	(26-15-6)
12	<u>Right to work*</u>	Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Romania	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
13	<u>Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities*</u>	Austria, Mexico, Slovenia	3	Biennial	Consensus
14	<u>Rights of persons with disabilities*</u>	Mexico, New Zealand	<u>3</u>	Biennial resolution	Consensus
15	<u>Rights of the child: realizing the rights of the child and family reunification*</u>	European Union, Uruguay (GRULAC)	<u>3</u>	Biennial resolution	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
16	<u>Role of States in countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights*</u>	Ukraine, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, United Kingdom, United States of America	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
17	<u>The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights</u>	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual resolution	Vote (<u>33-13-1</u>)
18	<u>The right to food*</u>	Cuba	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
19	<u>Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*</u>	Denmark	3	Biennial	Consensus
20	<u>Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief*</u>	Pakistan (OIC)	9	Annual resolution	Consensus

THE COUNCIL’S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

17 thematic mandate-holders (i.e., Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC55. In addition, 6 country-specific Special Procedures (i.e., Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts) will present reports/oral updates on the human rights situation in the countries covered by their mandates and their engagement with the concerned State(s).

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MANDATES

	MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT/ORAL UPDATES AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ^{1,2)}
1	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	28th February
2	Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan	29th February
3	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	18th March
4	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	19th March
5	Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories	26th March
6	Independent Expert on Mali	28th March

THEMATIC MANDATES

	MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
1	<u>Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children</u>	<u>5 - 6th March</u>	<u>Philippines</u> Uruguay
2	<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing</u>	<u>5th March</u>	Netherlands
3	<u>Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief</u>	<u>6th March</u>	<u>Tajikistan</u> Sweden
4	<u>Independent Expert on the rights of persons with albinism</u>	<u>6th March</u>	Panama
5	<u>Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment</u>	<u>6th March</u>	<u>Chile</u> <u>Botswana</u>
6	<u>Special Rapporteur on the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association</u>	<u>6th March</u>	
7	<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to food</u>	<u>7th March</u>	
8	<u>Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt</u>	<u>7th March</u>	Liechtenstein Bahamas
9	<u>Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities</u>	<u>11th March</u>	<u>Georgia</u>

	MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
10	Special Rapporteur on torture	11th March	Ukraine
11	Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	8th March	Lithuania
12	Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights	11th March	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and North Macedonia
13	Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	12th March	Tajikistan Georgia
14	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	12th March	Germany
15	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	14th March	
16	Special Rapporteur on minority issues	21st March	Paraguay Tajikistan
17	Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures	A/HRC/55/42	

TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF LDCS AND SIDS

The Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council, set up in 2012, will be supporting **fourteen** government officials (seven female and seven male) to participate in HRC55. The delegates come from:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bangladesh*
- Benin*
- Burundi*
- Ethiopia
- Lesotho
- Maldives*
- Nepal
- Sierra Leone
- Timor Leste
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC55*



*based on all announced resolutions, interactive dialogues, panels, and reports

ENDNOTES

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc55>
2. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/POW-HRC55-EN.doc>
3. <https://edelegate.un.int/>
4. <https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/55/Pages/Panel%20discussions.aspx>
5. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session55/list-reports>
6. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'
7. Based on the main sponsors of previous resolutions.
8. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)
9. Based on the main sponsors of previous resolutions.
10. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.
11. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)
12. Dates liable to change

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