



# The Inside Track

**Concise information and political  
insight on the upcoming session  
of the Human Rights Council**

**HRC34: the 34<sup>th</sup> regular session of  
the Human Rights Council**

Monday 27th February to Friday 24th March 2017  
(4 week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations

## In brief

- A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to attend HRC34, including UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, and the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, H.E. Mr Didier Burkhalter. In total, at least 95 officials are currently expected to speak during the High-Level Segment, including 2 Heads of State, 4 Vice Presidents, 58 Ministers, and 21 Vice Ministers.
- HRC34 will see a total of nine panel discussions, including on human rights mainstreaming, climate change, rights of persons with disabilities, the annual full-day meeting on rights of the child, access to medicines, maternal mortality, human rights situation in Syrian Arab Republic, the death penalty, and racial profiling and incitement to hatred.
- On 8 March,<sup>1</sup> H.E. Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the High Commissioner for Human Rights (High Commissioner) will present his annual report on the human rights situation around the world.
- During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner or Secretary-General covering issues in, *inter alia*: Afghanistan, Libya, Guinea, Sri Lanka, Syrian Golan, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Libya, Ukraine, Guinea, and Sri Lanka.
- It will also consider High Commissioner/Secretary-General reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*: Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, realization of the right to work, and missing persons.
- The Council will consider regular reports (including, in some cases, country mission reports) from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 21 Special Procedures mandate-holders (6 country-specific and 15 thematic), including those dealing with: human rights defenders, torture, terrorism, disabilities, environment, Myanmar, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Haiti.
- The 34th session is expected to see the adoption of 11 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcome reports, including of: Togo, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor-Leste, Republic of Moldova, Haiti, and South Sudan.
- At the end of the session, Council members will move to take action on between 21 and 36 draft resolutions and other texts; and to appoint new mandate-holders for the positions of Special Rapporteur on the right to development, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances from the Latin American and Caribbean States.

1. All dates are subject to change

 27.02

**Opening of session and High-Level segment**

 02.03

**Panel discussion on climate change**

 06.03

**Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child**

 14.03

**Interactive Dialogue with the COI on the Syrian Arab Republic and the Commission on South Sudan**

 16.03

**Adoption of the UPR reports of Togo, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor-Leste, and the Republic of Moldova**

 17.03

**Adoption of the UPR reports of Haiti and South Sudan**

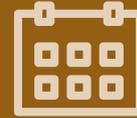
 22.03

**High Commissioner oral updates and/or reports on: Libya, Ukraine, Guinea, and Sri Lanka**

 23.03  
- 24.03

**Action on draft resolutions and decisions, and appointment of new mandate-holders**

**For your diary<sup>2</sup>**



For the full draft programme of work of the 34<sup>th</sup> session, [please click here](#).



Antonio Guterres at a Press Conference in Geneva, U.S. Mission  
Photo by Eric Bridlers, licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0.

## Global human rights situation

On 8th March, during the second week of HRC34,<sup>3</sup> the High Commissioner will present his regular update on the human rights situation around the world. His statement will provide the basis for a general debate under item 2 (9th March).



Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (left) High Commissioner for Human Rights, 13 September 2016. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

<sup>2</sup>. All dates are subject to change

<sup>3</sup>. All dates are subject to change

## Panel debates

The 34<sup>th</sup> session is scheduled to hold nine panel debates on the following subjects:

- Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming on the theme: 'The contribution of human rights to peacebuilding through the enhancement of dialogue and international cooperation for the promotion of human rights'
- Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty
- Panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to realise the rights of the child
- Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities with a focus on article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child on the theme 'Protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'
- Panel discussion on good practices and key challenges relevant to access to medicines as one of the fundamental elements of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (accessible to persons with disabilities)
- Panel discussion on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity as a human rights priority for all States (accessible to persons with disabilities)
- High-level panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic
- Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and debate on racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration

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

# 'L number' – draft resolutions and other texts at HRC34<sup>4</sup>

Based on announcements made during the HRC34 organisational meeting, on the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC31), a number of important draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC34. 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 HRC34 organisational meeting

**Focus of resolution**                      **Lead sponsor(s)<sup>5</sup>**                      **Expected agenda item**                      **Vote history<sup>6</sup>**

Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka	FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, United Kingdom, United States of America	2	Consensus
Syrian Arab Republic	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America	4	Vote (26-7-14)
Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, United States of America	4	Vote (20-15-11)
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	Albania, Paraguay, United Kingdom, United States of America	4	Consensus
Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (31-0-16)
Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Consensus
Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (42-0-5)
Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (32-0-15)

4. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

5. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

6. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

## Country-specific resolutions



Initiative formally announced during HRC34 organisational meeting

**Focus of resolution**                      **Lead sponsor(s)<sup>5</sup>**                      **Expected agenda item**                      **Vote history<sup>6</sup>**

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

Pakistan (OIC)

7

Vote  
(32-15-0)

Enhancing cooperation between the Government of Georgia, the OHCHR, and its office in Georgia, regarding the monitoring of the human rights situation on the ground

Georgia

10

New resolution

4. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

5. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

6. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

## Thematic resolutions

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>7</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>8</sup>	Vote history <sup>9</sup>
Mainstreaming	Portugal	1	Annual	Consensus
Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law	Mexico, Turkey	3	Biennial	Consensus
Freedom of religion or belief	EU	3	Annual	Consensus
Cultural rights	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
Effective implementation of international human rights instruments	Canada	3	Annual	Consensus
Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia	3	Annual	Vote (28-14-5)
Human rights and the environment	Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights, democracy and the rule of law	Morocco, Norway, Peru, Romania, Republic of Korea, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Vote (35-0-12)
Impact of non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to countries of origin	South Africa (African Group)	3	Annual	Vote (32-0-15)
Integrity of the judicial system	Russian Federation	3	Annual	Consensus
Migrants from North Africa	African Group			
Minorities	Austria, Senegal, Slovenia	3	Triennial	Consensus
Persons with albinism	African Group	3	Biennial	Consensus
Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights	Portugal	3	Biennial	Consensus

7. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

8 Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

9. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

## Thematic resolutions

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>7</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>8</sup>	Vote history <sup>9</sup>
Rights of the child	EU - GRULAC	3	Annual	Consensus
Right to adequate housing	Namibia, Germany, Finland, Brazil	3	Annual	Consensus
Right to work	Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Romania	3	Annual	Consensus
Rights of persons with disabilities	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Annual	Consensus
The right to food	Cuba	3	Biennial	Consensus
Effects of foreign debt and other related int. financial obligations of States	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (33-12-2)
Right to privacy in the digital age	Austria, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland	3	Annual	Consensus
Unilateral coercive measures	Venezuela (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (33-14-0)
Human rights of migrants: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights	Belgium, Armenia, Mexico, Senegal, Thailand	3	Triennial	Consensus
Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: mandate of the Special Rapporteur	Denmark	3	Annual	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	Norway	3	Triennial	Consensus

7. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

8. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

9. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

## Thematic resolutions

**Focus of resolutions**      **Lead sponsor(s)<sup>7</sup>**      **Expected agenda item**      **Periodicity<sup>8</sup>**      **Vote history<sup>9</sup>**

Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Tunisia (African Group)

9

Vote  
(34-1-12)

Elaboration of international complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Tunisia (African Group)

9

Annual

Consensus

Combatting intolerance based on religion or belief

Pakistan (OIC)

9

Annual

Consensus

Commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the resolution on the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council

Morocco, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Maldives, Senegal (African Group), Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Mauritius, Brazil, Djibouti, Barbados

10

Consensus

7. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

8. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

9. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

At HRC34, Portugal is expected to table a resolution on the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights, with a particular focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The resolution will provide follow-up to a recent report by the Secretary-General ([A/HRC/34/25](#)) on the linkages between economic, social and cultural rights and the Sustainable Development Goals framework as two converging agendas. The report highlights equality, non-discrimination and accountability principles as well as a human rights-based approach to data as key to ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a manner consistent with the obligations of States under international law. The report also identifies key challenges and opportunities for the human rights-based implementation of the 2030 Agenda and contributions of international human rights mechanisms, and concludes with recommendations to that end.

The Portugal-led draft resolution is emblematic of a heightened focus, at the Human Rights Council in 2017, on how the international human rights system can best contribute to the fulfillment of the SDGs, leaving no one behind.

Also at the March session, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Portugal, Sweden, Uruguay and others are expected to deliver a cross-regional statement on 'human rights and the SDGs,' that will mark the first step in a new initiative designed to support States as they work to implement the 'two converging agendas' described by the Secretary-General.

## Resolution in focus



## Trust fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS

The Trust Fund for the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council, which was set up in 2012, will fund the participation at HRC34 of 11 (6 female and 5 male) government officials from Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Jamaica, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Timor Leste, Tonga, and Trinidad and Tobago. For 10 of them, it will be the first time participating in an HRC session.

The LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has developed an e-learning tool on HRC and its mechanisms for LDCs/SIDS Government officials. It can be accessed [here](#).

During HRC34, States will consider more than 80 reports from the High Commissioner, the Secretary General and/or the Special Procedures mandate-holders. These UN reports, which were commissioned by the Council through earlier resolutions, cover, *inter alia*, the following subjects:

## What's in print?

**Thematic reports:** Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; missing persons; question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights; equality and non-discrimination under article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; activities and programmes of the United Nations system that contribute to the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights; realization of the right to work; negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations; mental health and human rights; combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief.

**Country-specific reports:** Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; Situation of human rights in Afghanistan and the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights; the situation of human rights in Libya, including on the effectiveness of technical assistance and capacity-building measures received by the Government of Libya; Situation of human rights and the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guinea; Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the question of human rights in Cyprus.

**Summary reports of previous panel debates and workshops:** Promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems and processes; ensuring effective and inclusive mechanisms and methodologies to mainstream human rights in the formulation and implementation of public policies; ensuring effective and inclusive mechanisms and methodologies to mainstream human rights in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

[These and other reports, when published, will be made available here.](#)

## Special Procedures

Over the course of the 34<sup>th</sup> session, 15 **thematic Special Procedures** (e.g. Special Rapporteurs) will present reports exploring issues and questions related to their mandate. Many of these thematic Special Rapporteurs will also present country mission reports (in addendum to their main reports). In addition, 6 **country-specific Special Procedures** will present reports on the human rights situation in the countries covered by their mandates and their engagement with the concerned state(s).

## The Council's mechanisms

### Country-specific mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue <sup>10</sup>
Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran	13 <sup>th</sup> March
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	13 <sup>th</sup> March
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	13 <sup>th</sup> March
Special Rapporteur on OPT	17 <sup>th</sup> March
Independent Expert on Mali	21 <sup>th</sup> March
Independent Expert on Haiti	21 <sup>th</sup> March

10. Dates liable to change.

## Thematic mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue <sup>11</sup>	Country mission reports
Independent Expert on foreign debt	1 <sup>st</sup> March	<i>European Union</i>
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	1 <sup>st</sup> March	India, Portugal
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Hungary, Azerbaijan
Special Rapporteur on torture	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mauritania, Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on terrorism	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	
Independent Expert on cultural rights	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Cyprus
Special Rapporteur on disabilities	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Paraguay, Zambia
Special Rapporteur on albinism	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Malawi, Mozambique
Special Rapporteur on truth and justice	6 <sup>th</sup> March	United Kingdom
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion	6 <sup>th</sup> March	Denmark
Special Rapporteur on privacy	7 <sup>th</sup> March	
Special Rapporteur on sale of children	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Georgia
Special Rapporteur on environment	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Madagascar
Special Rapporteur on food	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Poland, Paraguay
Special Rapporteur on minorities	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Iraq, Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Council will consider the UPR outcome reports of 11 countries for adoption during its 34<sup>th</sup> session. On 16 March, the Council will consider and move to adopt the reports of Togo, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor-Leste, and the Republic of Moldova. Finally, on 17 March, it will consider and take action on the outcome of Haiti and South Sudan.

11. All dates are subject to change



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