

# The Inside Track

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

**HRC32: the 32<sup>nd</sup> regular session of  
the Human Rights Council**

Monday 13 June 2016 to Friday 1 July 2016 (3 week  
session), Room XX, Palais des Nations

## In brief

- At the opening of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session (13 June to 1 July), there will be a high-level panel to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Human Rights Council, featuring statements by H.E. Mr Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General, and Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The panel will feature all ten (current and former) Presidents of the Council.
- HRC32 will see a total of 6 panel discussions, including on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the right to development, the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council and the UPR, and – as part of the annual full-day discussion on women's rights – on violence against indigenous women and girls, and women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- During the session, the Council will consider reports by the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Burundi, and on human rights violations against Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar. It will also hear an oral update from the High Commissioner on Sri Lanka (ahead of a comprehensive report at the 34<sup>th</sup> session).
- The Council will also hold interactive dialogues with the Commissions of Inquiry on Syria and Eritrea, and with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus. There will be an enhanced interactive dialogue (EID) on South Sudan.
- The Council will also consider thematic reports on, *inter alia*, improving accountability and access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuse; creating a safe environment for civil society; the right to physical and mental health; right to education; summary executions and the use of force by private security providers; trade agreements and migrant rights; discrimination against women; and countering corruption.
- Members of the Council will consider regular reports (including, in some cases, country mission reports) from, and/or hold interactive dialogues with 15 thematic Special Procedures, 1 country specific Special Rapporteur, and 2 country specific Independent Experts.
- HRC32 is expected to see the adoption of 14 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcome reports.
- There are expected to be a number of important cross-regional statements during HRC32, including on rule of law, the Nelson Mandela Rules, the participation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- At the end of the session, Council members will move to take action on between 25-35 draft resolutions and other texts, and to appoint 5 Special Procedures mandate-holders.

## One year ago...

The 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Council in June 2015 saw the efficiency drive of the then Council President, H.E. Ambassador Ruecker, begin to bear fruit. For example, the number of texts adopted at HRC29 dropped to 26 (25 resolutions and 1 Presidential statement) from 32 resolutions and 2 decisions the previous June session.

HRC29 also adopted a resolution on a fact-finding mission to South Sudan, extended the mandate of the COI Eritrea and the Special Rapporteur on the situation in Eritrea, and extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Belarus.

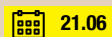
Important thematic resolutions adopted at HRC29 included texts on the independence and impartiality of judges; the elimination of discrimination against women; the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage; protecting human rights while countering terrorism; corruption and human rights; the right to education; and human rights and climate change.

A detailed report of the outcome of the 29<sup>th</sup> session can be read [here](#).



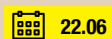
13.06

Opening of session, update by the High Commissioner, and high-level panel on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council



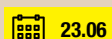
21.06

Interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus and the COI on Eritrea, and oral update by the COI on the Syrian Arab Republic



22.06

Enhanced interactive dialogue on South Sudan



23.06

Adoption of the UPR reports of Namibia, Niger, Mozambique, Estonia, Paraguay, and Belgium



24.06

Adoption of the UPR reports of Denmark, Palau, Somalia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Latvia, Sierra Leone, and Singapore



28.06

Interactive dialogues on the Independent Experts on the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire



29.06

Interactive dialogues on the High Commissioner's report on Burundi



30.06

High Commissioner's annual presentation on technical cooperation



30.06  
-01.07

Action on draft resolutions and decisions, and appointment of Special Procedures mandate-holders

For your diary<sup>1</sup>



For the full draft programme of work of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session, [please click here](#).

## Global human rights situation

On 13 June, the High Commissioner will present his regular update. His statement, which is usually circulated to delegations shortly before the start of the session, provides the basis for a general debate under item 2.



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1. Dates liable to change.

## Panel debates

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session is scheduled to hold 6 panel debates/thematic discussions on the following subjects:

- High-level panel on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Human Rights Council
- 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development
- Violence against indigenous women and girls and its root causes (part of annual full-day discussion on women's rights)
- Women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (part of annual full-day discussion on women's rights)
- The contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council and the UPR
- The possibility of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights

Concept notes and background information on these panel discussions, when published, will be available [here](#).

## 'L number'<sup>2</sup>

Based on announcements made during the HRC32 organisational meeting, on the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC29), a number of important draft resolutions and other texts can be expected to be tabled during HRC32. 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 HRC32 organisational meeting

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>3</sup>	Expected agenda item	Vote history <sup>4</sup>
Human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	UK and core group	4	Vote (27-14-6)
Situation of human rights in Belarus	Latvia (EU)	4	Vote (21-8-18)
Cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights	Ukraine	10	Vote (21-6-20)

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

3. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

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

## Thematic resolutions

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>5</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>6</sup>	Vote history <sup>7</sup>	
Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women	Canada	3	Annual	Consensus	
Civil society space	Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia	3	Annual	Consensus	
Elaboration of international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and human rights	Ecuador, South Africa	3	Annual	Vote (20-14-13)	
Elimination of discrimination against women in law and practice	Colombia, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus	
Elimination of female genital mutilation	African Group	3	Annual	Consensus	
Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Sweden	3	Annual	Consensus	
Extreme poverty and human rights	France, Albania, Romania, Belgium, Peru, Chile, Philippines, Senegal, Morocco	3	Biennial	Consensus	
Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality	Russian Federation	3	Biennial	Consensus	
Human rights and climate change	Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam	3	Annual	Consensus	
Human rights and international solidarity	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (33-14-0)	
Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession, and use of firearms	Ecuador, Peru	3	Annual	Vote (41-0-6)	
Human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	Norway, Russian Federation, Ghana, Argentina	3	Annual	Consensus	
Human rights of internally displaced persons	Austria, Uganda	3	Biennial	Consensus	
Human rights of migrants	Mexico	3	Biennial	Consensus	
Independence and impartiality of the judiciary	Hungary, Australia, Botswana, Maldives, Mexico, Thailand	3	Annual	Consensus	

5. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

6. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

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

## Thematic resolutions

**Focus of resolutions**      **Lead sponsor(s)<sup>5</sup>**      **Expected agenda item**      **Periodicity<sup>6</sup>**      **Vote history<sup>7</sup>**

Migrants from North Africa	African Group	3	Annual	Vote (32-14-0)	
Promoting right to health through capacity building in public health	China	3	New	n / a	
Promotion, protection, and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet	Sweden, Nigeria, USA, Turkey, Brazil, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus	
Protection of the family	Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia	3	Annual	Vote (29-14-4)	
Realisation of all human rights of persons with mental disorders and psychosocial disabilities	Portugal	3	New	n / a	
Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl	UAE	3	Annual	Consensus	
Regional arrangements for protection and promotion of human rights	Armenia, Mexico, Thailand, Belgium, Senegal, Republic of Korea	3	Annual	Consensus	
Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Brazil, Paraguay, Romania, South Africa	3	Annual	Consensus	
Right to a nationality: women and children	USA	3	Annual	Consensus	
Right to education (information technology and the right to education)	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus	
Right to freedom of opinion and expression	USA	3	Annual	Consensus	
Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	USA, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico and Nigeria	3	Annual	Consensus	
Trafficking in persons, especially women and children	Germany, Philippines	3	Biennial	Consensus	

5. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

6. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

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

## Thematic resolutions

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>5</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>6</sup>	Vote history <sup>7</sup>
Young people and human rights	El Salvador, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Greece, Morocco, Tunisia, Italy, Portugal	3	New	n / a
Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council and its UPR	Ecuador, Italy, Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Spain	5	Annual	Consensus
Social Forum	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus
Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity	Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Brazil	8	Annual	Vote (25-14-7)
Racism and women's rights	Brazil (MERCOSUR)	9	New	n / a

At HRC32 Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, and Brazil are expected to table a draft resolution on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, which will call for the creation of a new Special Procedures mandate. The adoption, in 2011, of a first resolution on this subject, sponsored by South Africa, is considered by many as one of the landmark thematic developments in the early history of the Council. However, then as now, the resolution drew sharp criticism from some quarters, and was eventually adopted following a close vote – 23 in favour, 19 against, 3 abstentions. Many of the States that opposed the 2011 resolution have, since then, coalesced around a separate initiative/resolution: protection of the family. While not ostensibly a reaction to the sexual orientation and gender identity initiative, it has come to be perceived as such. It is expected that the core group will present a follow-up resolution on protection of the family at HRC32. A key feature of the session will therefore be how these two initiatives interact – whether they come to be seen as parallel draft resolutions, or as competing texts.

## 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 help fund the participation at HRC32 of government officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

During HRC32, there will be an exhibition showcasing the impact of the LDC-SIDS Trust Fund.

5. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

6. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

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



During HRC32, States will consider around 90 reports from the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General, or Special Procedures mandate-holders. These UN reports, which were commissioned by the Council through earlier resolutions, cover, *inter alia*, the following subjects:

**Thematic reports:** improving accountability and access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuse; creating a safe environment for civil society; regulation of firearms; climate change and health; extreme poverty and human rights; the right to physical and mental health; sports, healthy lifestyles, and the right to health; independence of judges and lawyers; rights of IDPs; freedoms of assembly and association; right to education; rights to opinion and expression; extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions and the use of force by private security providers in law enforcement; trade agreements and migrant rights; violence against women; international solidarity; discrimination against women; transnational corporations; Nazism and neo-Nazism; contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia; and countering corruption.

**Country specific reports:** rights violations against minorities in Myanmar; situation in Burundi; systematic rights violations in Eritrea; situation in Belarus; and capacity-building in and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire.

**Summary reports of previous panel debates/working groups:** climate change and health; human rights and efforts to end HIV/AIDS by 2030; and incompatibility between democracy and racism.

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

## What's in print?

## Special Procedures

Over the course of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session, 15 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, Working Groups) 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, 3 country-specific Special Procedures (1 Special Rapporteur and two Independent Experts) will present reports on the human rights situation in the countries covered by their mandates and on their engagement with the concerned State(s).

Reports presented to the Council by the Special Procedures will be available [here](#).

## The Council's mechanisms

### Country-specific mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue <sup>8</sup>
Special Rapporteur on <b>Belarus</b>	21 June
Independent Expert on <b>Central African Republic (CAR)</b>	28 June
Independent Expert on <b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	28 June

8. Dates liable to change.



## Thematic mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue <sup>9</sup>	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty	14 June 2016	Chile, Romania
Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health (will present 2 reports)	14 June 2016	Paraguay, Nigeria
Special Rapporteur on migrants	14 June 2016	
Special Rapporteur on trafficking	14 June 2016	Jordan
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	15 June 2016	Guinea Bissau
Independent Expert on international solidarity	15 June 2016	Morocco
Special Rapporteur on freedoms of opinion and expression	16 June 2016	
Working Group on transnational corporations	16 June 2016	Brazil
Special Rapporteur on freedoms of assembly and association	17 June 2016	Chile, Republic of Korea
Special Rapporteur on education	17 June 2016	Fiji
Special Rapporteur on violence against women	17 June 2016	Sudan, South Africa, Georgia
Working Group on discrimination against women	17 June 2016	Senegal, USA
Special Rapporteur on IDPs	20 June 2016	Iraq, Syria, Philippines, Honduras
Special Rapporteur on summary executions	20 June 2016	Ukraine, Mexico
Special Rapporteur on racism and xenophobia	27 June 2016	Greece

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Council will consider the UPR outcome reports of 14 countries for adoption during its 32<sup>nd</sup> session. On 23 June, the Council will consider and move to adopt the reports of Namibia, Niger, Mozambique, Estonia, Paraguay, and Belgium. On 24 June, it will consider and take action on the outcome reports of Denmark, Palau, Somalia, Seychelles, the Solomon Islands, Latvia, Sierra Leone, and Singapore.

<sup>9</sup>. Dates liable to change.



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