

32nd session of the Human Rights Council

High-level panel discussion on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council: achievements and challenges

Concept note (as of 30 May 2016)

- Date and venue:** **Monday, 13 June. 3 to 6 p.m.**, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)
- Objectives:** The Human Rights Council will mark its tenth anniversary through a panel discussion, reflecting on its achievements and challenges, pursuant to Council decision 31/115.
- Chair:** **H.E. Mr. Choi Kyonglim (Republic of Korea)**, President of the Human Rights Council
- Moderator:** **Ms. Kate Gilmore**, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Opening statements:**
- **Mr. Jan Eliasson**, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General
 - **Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Panellists:**
- **H.E. Mr. Joachim Rücker (Germany)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 9th Cycle, 2015
 - **H.E. Mr. Baudelaire Ndong Ella (Gabon)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 8th Cycle, 2014
 - **H.E. Mr. Remigiusz Achilles Henczel (Poland)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 7th Cycle, 2013
 - **H.E. Ms. Laura Dupuy Lasserre (Uruguay)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 6th Cycle, June 2011 – December 2012
 - **H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangkitkeow (Thailand)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 5th Cycle, June 2010 – June 2011
 - **H.E. Mr. Alex Van Meeuwen (Belgium)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 4th Cycle, June 2009 – June 2010
 - **H.E. Mr. Martin I. Uhomoibhi (Nigeria)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 3rd Cycle, June 2008 – June 2009
 - **H.E. Mr. Doru Costea (Romania)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 2nd Cycle, June 2007 – June 2008
 - **H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora (Mexico)**, former President of the Human Rights Council, 1st cycle, June 2006 – June 2007 (by video message)
 - **Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque**, former Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, 2008 - 2014
 - **Ms. Laila Matar**, United Nations Advocate, Human Rights Watch
- Outcome:** The presentations of the panel and a summary of interventions will be compiled and made available electronically and kept on record together with contributions to other commemorative events throughout the year.

Format: The moderated discussion will strive to achieve a great degree of interaction between the panellists and the participants. The list of speakers for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per established practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list. States and observers, including representatives of civil society, take the floor for a 2-minute intervention each, followed by responses from panellists. A total of two rounds of interventions from the floor will be followed by responses and remarks from the panellists. Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). A short video will be screened, presenting various achievements of the Council.

To ensure the interactive dimension of the panel, participants are invited to focus their interventions on asking questions to the panellists and/or sharing observations related to concrete aspects of the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, from the Council's sessions or the process leading to its establishment. Participants may wish to refer to the Council's role and effectiveness in generating norms and driving implementation on the ground for the benefit of rights holders. They may also wish to reflect on their national efforts and lessons learned in the implementation of Council resolutions, and recommendations of the Council's mechanisms. In highlighting the Council's achievements, participants may wish to share their views and experience about the Human Rights Council implementation of the mandate given to it by General Assembly resolution 60/251.

Background: The Human Rights Council was created by General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery, with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights. The Council replaced the Commission on Human Rights, which had been a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council. The establishment of the Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly elevated human rights within the United Nations system. The tenth anniversary offers an important opportunity to underline and reiterate the commitment to the universal promotion and protection of the human rights of all, and to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the Human Rights Council.

Accessibility for persons with disabilities: In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel will be made accessible to persons with disabilities. During the debate, international sign interpretation and real-time captioning will be provided and webcasted. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants with disabilities in the last (seventh) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Accessibility Focal Point at the secretariat desk in Room XX. Oral statements can be embossed in Braille from any of the six official United Nations languages by following the procedure described in the *Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities* at the following link: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>

Background documents: [Human Rights Council decision 31/115](#) (23 March 2016), "High-level panel discussion on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council"
[General Assembly resolution 60/251](#) (15 March 2006), "Human Rights Council"
