

# The Inside Track

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

**The Inside Track HRC35: the 35<sup>th</sup>  
regular session of the Human  
Rights Council**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 (3 week  
session), Room XX, Palais des Nations

## In brief


- On June 6th, HRC35 will open with an address by Mr Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay, followed by an oral update on the human rights situation around the world by H.E. Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- HRC35 will see a total of five panel discussions, including on enhancing capacity-building in public health; unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights; the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women; and the annual thematic discussion on technical cooperation.
- During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner or Secretary-General covering issues in, *inter alia*: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Ukraine.
- It will also consider High Commissioner/Secretary-General reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*: the relationship between climate change and the full enjoyment of the rights of the child, the operations of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the UPR, and progress and the challenges encountered in the main activities aimed at enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building undertaken since the establishment of the Human Rights Council.
- The Council will consider regular reports (including, in some cases, country mission reports) from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 18 Special Procedures mandate-holders (4 country-specific and 14 thematic), including those dealing with: health, peaceful assembly and association, extreme poverty, migrants, freedom of expression, and racism.
- At the end of the session, Council members will move to take action on between 26 and 36 draft resolutions and other texts; and to appoint new mandate-holders for the positions of Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

 06.06


**Opening of session and oral update by the High Commissioner**

 08.06


**Panel discussion on enhancing capacity-building in public health**

 09.06


**Round-table on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescent human rights**

 13.06

**Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women**

 15.06

**Interactive dialogue with the COI on Burundi**

 20.06

**Annual thematic discussion on technical cooperation**

 21.06

**High Commissioner oral update on Georgia, followed by general debate**

 22.06  
- 23.06

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

**For your diary<sup>1</sup>**



For the full draft programme of work of the 35<sup>th</sup> session, [please click here](#).

## Global human rights situation

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, on the first day of HRC35, 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 the following day (7<sup>th</sup> June).



Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights UN Photo / Emma Okic, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

1. All dates are subject to change

## Panel debates

The 35<sup>th</sup> session is scheduled to hold five panel debates on the following subjects:

- Realising the right to health by enhancing capacity-building in public health
- Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights
- Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls (part of annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women)
- Women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: health and gender equality (part of annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women)
- A decade of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the Human Rights Council: challenges and the way forward (annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights)

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

## 'L number'– draft resolutions and other texts at HRC35<sup>2</sup>

Based on announcements made during the HRC35 organisational meeting, on the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC32), a number of important draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC35. 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 HRC35 organisational meeting

#### Focus of resolution

#### Lead sponsor(s)<sup>3</sup>

#### Expected agenda item

#### Vote history<sup>4</sup>

Situation of human rights in Belarus

European Union

4

Vote  
(15-9-23)

The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

4

Vote  
(27-7-13)

Cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights

Ukraine

10

Vote  
(22-6-19)

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
Business and Human Rights	Argentina, Ghana, Norway, Russian Federation	3	Annual	Consensus
Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members	Brazil, Estonia, Ethiopia, Japan, Morocco, Portugal, Romania	3	Biennial	Consensus
Elimination of discrimination against women	Colombia, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
Elimination of female genital mutilation	African Group	3	Annual	Consensus
Enhancement of International cooperation in the field of human rights	NAM	3	Annual	Consensus
Extreme poverty and human rights	France, Romania, Albania, Senegal, Peru, Morocco, Belgium, Chile, Philippines	3	Biennial	Consensus
Elaboration of international legally binding instrument on TNCs and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights	Ecuador, South Africa	3	Triennial	Vote (20-14-13)
Civil Society Space	Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia	3	Annual	Vote (31-7-9)
Contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights	China on behalf of the core group	3	New resolution	n/a
Human rights and climate change	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	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>7</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>8</sup>	Vote history <sup>9</sup>
Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms	Ecuador, Peru	3	Biennial	Vote (41-0-6)
Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico Uruguay	3	Annual	Vote (23-18-6)
Human rights of internally displaced persons	Austria, Uganda	3	Biennial	Consensus
Protection of the human rights of migrants	Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights in cities and other human settlements	Brazil (GRULAC)	3	New resolution	n/a
Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent	Brazil	3	Triennial	Consensus
Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers	Australia, Botswana, Hungary, the Maldives, Mexico, Thailand	3	Biannual	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Sweden	3	Triennial	Consensus
Negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights	Austria, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom	3	Triennial	Consensus
Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	Mexico	3	Biannual	Vote (38-0-9)
Protection of the family	Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Uganda	3	Annual	Vote (32-12-3)

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>
Promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Brazil	3	Annual	Consensus
The right to education	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Czechia, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Maldives, Mexico, USA	3	Annual	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Triennial	Consensus
Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage	Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Honduras, Italy, the Maldives, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Uruguay, United Kingdom, Zambia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	Germany, Philippines	3	Triennial	Consensus
Youth and Human Rights	Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia	3	Annual	Consensus
The 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Programme of Action	Russian Federation	3	New resolution	n/a
The Social Forum	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus
Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review	Ecuador, Italy, the Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Spain	6	Triennial	Consensus
National policies and human rights	Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, Romania, Thailand	10	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.



HRC35 is expected to see the tabling of a further resolution (building on those adopted in 2013, 2014, and 2015) on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. HRC35 is an important opportunity to consider how to reinforce the key role of parliaments in supporting on-the-ground implementation and oversight of, and reporting on, international human rights obligations, commitments and recommendations.

## 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 HRC35 of 7 (5 female and 2 male) government officials from Dominica, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Tanzania (United Republic of), The Gambia, and Uganda.

During HRC35, States will consider 79 reports from the High Commissioner, the Secretary General, Working Groups and/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:** the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women; conscientious objection to military service; the impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights; ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective; the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls; the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl; the relationship between climate change and the full enjoyment of the rights of the child; the operations of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review; the operations of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review; and progress and the challenges encountered in the main activities aimed at enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building undertaken since the establishment of the Human Rights Council.

## What's in print?

**Country-specific reports:** ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: comprehensive review on the status of recommendations addressed to all parties since 2009; the situation of human rights in Eritrea; the situation of human rights in Belarus; and capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights.

**Summary reports of previous panel debates and workshops:** the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices and challenges; youth and human rights; the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to realize the rights of the child and related policies, lessons learned and good practices; the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic; the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review; the impact of existing strategies and initiatives to address child, early and forced marriage; and the protection of the family and disability.

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

## Special Procedures

Over the course of the 35<sup>th</sup> session, 14 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts) 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, 4 country-specific Special Procedures 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).

## The Council's mechanisms

### Country-specific mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report /oral updates and interactive dialogue <sup>10</sup>
Special Rapporteur on Belarus	14 <sup>th</sup> June
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	14 <sup>th</sup> June
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	15 <sup>th</sup> June (oral update)
Special Rapporteur on Côte d'Ivoire	20 <sup>th</sup> June

10. Dates liable to change

## Thematic mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue <sup>11</sup>	Country mission reports
Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity	6th June	
Special Rapporteur on summary executions	6th June	Honduras
Special Rapporteur on health	6th June	Algeria, Croatia
Independent expert on international solidarity	6th June	Norway
Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly and association	6th June	United Kingdom, USA
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	6th June	Chile
Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons	7th June	Nigeria, Georgia, Afghanistan
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty	7th June	Mauritania, China, Saudi Arabia
Special Rapporteur on migrants	8th June	Angola, Greece, Australia and the regional processing centres in Nauru
Working Group on transnational corporations and human rights	8th June	Republic of Korea, Mexico
Working Group on discrimination against women	8th June	Hungary, Kuwait
Special Rapporteur on trafficking	9th June	Kuwait, USA
Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers	12th June	Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on violence against women	12th June	Israel, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Argentina
Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of expression	12th June	Japan, Tajikistan, Turkey
Special Rapporteur on racism	19th June	Argentina, Australia, Fiji

11. All dates are subject to change



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