

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC49:
The 49th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 28th February to Friday 1st April 2022
(5 week session), Room XIX Palais des Nations / Online



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



H.E. Federico Villegas, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Argentina, was elected as President of the Council for its 16th cycle on December 6th, 2021.

IN BRIEF

- More than 113 high-level dignitaries and officials are expected to deliver statements during the three-day **High-Level Segment** of HRC49, which will take place in a hybrid manner. So far, a total of two heads or deputy heads of State, five heads or deputy heads of government, and 73 ministers or vice-ministers are scheduled to address the Council. Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr Antonio Guterres, as well as the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr Abdulla Shahid, will also be delivering an address at the start of the High-Level Segment.
- On 7 March, H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will give **an oral update on the human rights situation around the world**. This will provide the basis for an interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on 7 and 8 March.
- During the session, the Council will consider **country-specific reports** by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: Afghanistan, Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Honduras, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Occupied Palestinian Territory, occupied Syrian Golan, and South Sudan. Additionally, the High Commissioner will deliver **oral updates** on the situations in Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Sudan, Tigray, Ukraine, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- It will also consider High Commissioner and Secretary General reports on a number of **thematic issues**, including *inter alia*:
 - combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief;
 - comprehensive approach to promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations;
 - contribution of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
 - current system-wide delivery and financing of, and existing gaps in, technical assistance and capacity-building that support the implementation by States of their international human rights obligations and commitments;
 - human rights implications of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the deepening inequalities between States;
 - impact and repercussions of measures taken by Governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the safety and work of journalists and media workers;
 - impact of the civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms by children and youth;

- measures taken to implement Human Rights Council resolution 9/8 and obstacles to its implementation, including recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing and reforming the treaty body system;
- normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons;
- question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights;
- rights of the child and family reunification.

■ The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, **21 Special Procedures** (seven country-specific and 14 thematic), including those dealing with: adequate housing; albinism; counter terrorism; cultural rights; environment; food; freedom of religion or belief; foreign debt; human rights defenders; minorities; persons with disabilities; privacy; sale of children; torture; Cambodia; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Eritrea; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Mali; Myanmar; and Occupied Palestinian Territory. In accordance with **HRC/PRST/OS/13/1** all the Interactive Dialogues (IDs) will be individual.

■ In addition, the Council will also hold interactive dialogues with a number of **investigative mechanisms**, including the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, the Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela, the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.

■ The Council is expected to act on between 32 and 35 draft resolutions and other texts. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1 PM on 23rd March 2022**. Additionally, it is expected to appoint **11 new mandate-holders**, including the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, three members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (from Central and Eastern European States, Central and South American States, and Pacific States), one member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (from Western European and other States), one member of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (from Asia-Pacific States), one member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (from Asia-Pacific States), and one member of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries (from Latin American and Caribbean States). More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found **here¹**.

For the full draft programme of work for the 49th session, please click **here²**.

1 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx>

2 https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Documents/PoW_EN.doc

IMPACT OF THE SPECIAL MEASURES TO COMBAT COVID-19 DURING THE HRC

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the extraordinary modalities utilised during HRC47 and HRC48 are expected to continue in full respect of the Institutional Building (IB) package and in compliance with the current health assessment and measures imposed by the Swiss Federal Council related to the prevention of the further spread of COVID-19.

These extraordinary modalities include:

- HRC49 will take place in **Room XIX**.
- During the **High-Level Segment**, dignitaries can be accompanied by maximum two persons. Dignitaries will have the opportunity to deliver their statements either in person or through prerecorded video statements.
- Outside of the High-Level Segment, access to Room XIX will be limited to **one person per delegation**. Throughout the 49th Session, State delegations would have the possibility to deliver their statements in person, through prerecorded video statements, or by using Zoom.
- All participants to HRC49 are requested to be accredited via **INDICO³** regardless of whether participating in person or not. When submitting an accreditation request, delegates are requested to indicate if they already possess an annual or temporary grounds pass at UNOG and, if so, are requested to upload a picture of the grounds pass in the relevant field of the INDICO platform. It is mandatory for all participants to provide a valid phone number.
- Video messages will have to be uploaded through the **online registration system** (<http://spreg.ohchr.org/>), which will open on 22 February at 4 PM, and will close 24 hours before the start of the meeting in which the debate is scheduled to start. However, delegations can still inscribe or annul their inscription by email (ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org). The deadline to upload video statements is at least two hours before the start of the debate for which they are submitted.
- **Special Procedures, members of investigative mechanisms, and panelists** who are unable to travel to Geneva are strongly encouraged to send pre-recorded video messages.
- When registering for **panel debates**, States will be asked to rank the panels in the order of their priorities, with the allocating of speaking slots happening accordingly. Should the number of States indicating the highest priority for a particular panel exceed the maximum number of speaking slots available, the slots shall be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **NGOs** in consultative status with ECOSOC and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) with A status will be able to **deliver their statement in person** in Room XIX or via pre-recorded video-statements for all interactive dialogues, panel discussions, and UPR adoptions. Video messages will have to be uploaded directly through the online registration system (<http://ngoreg.ohchr.org/>). The deadline to upload video messages is at 6pm on the day prior to the debate for which they are submitted.

- NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and NHRIs with A status are invited to deliver their statements for the **General Debates** via pre-recorded video-statements only.
- Representatives wishing to **raise points of order** when not in the room may alert the Secretariat by using the '**raise hand**' function on Zoom. The Chair would then stop the debate and give the floor, through the Zoom platform, to the delegation that has raised the point of order.
- Representatives wishing to exercise their **right of reply remotely** may do so by sending a request to hrclistofspeakers@ohchr.org. They will receive an invitation to a video call five minutes prior to the moment that the right of reply would be exercised. The Secretariat will test the connection to ensure that sound and video are working. The representative will be able to follow what happens in Room XIX via the platform and will hear when they are given the floor. At that point, the representative can begin the intervention.
- In accordance with the IB package, **at least one informal open-ended consultation** will need to be held on each draft resolution and/or decision before it is considered for action by the Council.
- The main sponsors of draft resolutions are invited to organise **informal meetings virtually or in person** in Room XXI. Delegations can write to the **relevant focal point of the Council Secretariat** (mkumar@ohchr.org) for assistance to set up virtual participation in the informal rooms via the platform WebEx. If informal consultations are organised virtually, Core Groups should notify the HRC Secretariat in order for the meeting to be included in the online application "**Sched**".
- **Side-events** cannot take place inside of the Palais des Nations during HRC49 due to the ongoing construction related to the Strategic Heritage Plan. However, virtual side events can be listed on the **Extranet** for information purposes.



Room XIX at the Palais des Nations will function as the plenary meeting room during the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council.

MEASURES TO ASSIST SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

The HRC Helpdesk for SIDS and LDCs is meant to virtually 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 (HRCdesksmallPM@ohchr.org) or phone/WhatsApp +41 (0)79 500 00 32. The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund is also available for virtual consultations upon request.

The use of the online tool, E-Delegates, will continue in order to facilitate delegates' work during the HRC. The tool will allow delegates to circulate, table and cosponsor resolutions, amongst others. It is accessible through the following [link](#)⁴.

Delegates will be able to continue using the [HRC49 Sched App](#) to personalize their agendas and synchronize with their calendars. HRC49 Sched provides details on plenary meetings as well as other meetings scheduled in parallel to the HRC session at the Palais des Nations. Please note that meeting details may be subject to change and will be updated daily.

PANEL DEBATES

The 49th session is scheduled to hold seven panel debates and one thematic meeting on the following subjects:

- Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming - the contribution of universal participation to the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of 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 (28th February)
- Meeting on enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in promoting and protecting the human rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations in recovery efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic (7th March)
- Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child - the rights of the child and family reunification (9th March)
- Panel discussion on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (10th March)
- Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities - statistics and data collection under article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (14th March)
- Panel discussion on the importance of robust public policies and services for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in contributing to the COVID-19 pandemic recovery (22nd March)
- Debate in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - voices for action against racism (28th March)

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available [here](#)¹.

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC49, States will consider 96 reports from the Secretary-General, High Commissioner, Working Groups, Special Procedures, and other Council mechanisms.

These UN reports, which were commissioned by the Council through earlier resolutions, when published, will be made available [here](#)².

5 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Pages/49RegularSession.aspx>
6 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

‘L NUMBER’ – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC49⁵

Based on announcements made during the HRC49 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and recurring initiatives from HRC46, the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC49. 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 HRC49 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ⁸	Expected agenda item	Vote history ⁹
Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice*	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Vote (32-6-8)
Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua	Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru	2	Vote (20-8-18)
Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath*	France (EU)	4	Vote (20-7-20)
Situation of human rights in Myanmar*	France (EU)	4	Consensus
Situation of human rights in South Sudan*	Albania, Norway, United Kingdom, United States	4	Vote (20-16-11)

7

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

8

Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

9

Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*	France (EU)	4	Consensus
Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*	Iceland, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, United Kingdom	4	Vote (21-12-14)
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic*	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	4	Vote (23-7-17)
Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (26-18-3)
Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (36-3-8)
Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (42-3-2)
Cooperation with Georgia*	Georgia	10	Vote (19-8-19)
Technical assistance and capacity building for Mali in the field of human rights*	Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)	10	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity building for South Sudan*	Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

(* =Initiative formally announced during HRC49 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ¹⁰	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ¹¹	Vote history ¹²
Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context*	Brazil, Finland, Germany, Namibia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Follow up initiative to HRC resolution 31/4	N/A
Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage*	Argentina, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Consensus
Freedom of religion or belief*	France (EU)	3	Annual	Consensus
Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*	Azerbaijan (NAM), Ecuador	3	Annual	Consensus

¹⁰ Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

¹¹ Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

¹² Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)

Human rights defenders in conflict and post conflict situations*	Norway	3	Triennial	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*	Mexico	3	Triennial	Consensus
Prevention of genocide*	Armenia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Promotion of the enjoyment of cultural rights of everyone and respect of cultural diversity*	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights, and addressing inequality in the context of COVID-19*	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Pakistan	3	New initiative	N/A
Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities*	Austria, Mexico, Slovenia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Participation of persons with disabilities in sport*	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
Rights of the child*	France (EU), Uruguay (GRULAC)	3	Annual	Consensus

Right to work*	Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Romania	3	Biennial	Consensus
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*	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (28-14-4)
The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights*	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-15-2)
The right to food*	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
The role of States in countering the negative impact of disinformation on human rights*	Ukraine	3	New initiative	N/A
Combatting intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief*	Pakistan (OIC)	9	Annual	Consensus
Strengthening the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to enhance the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council*	Barbados, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Senegal, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey	10	New initiative	N/A

THE COUNCIL’S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

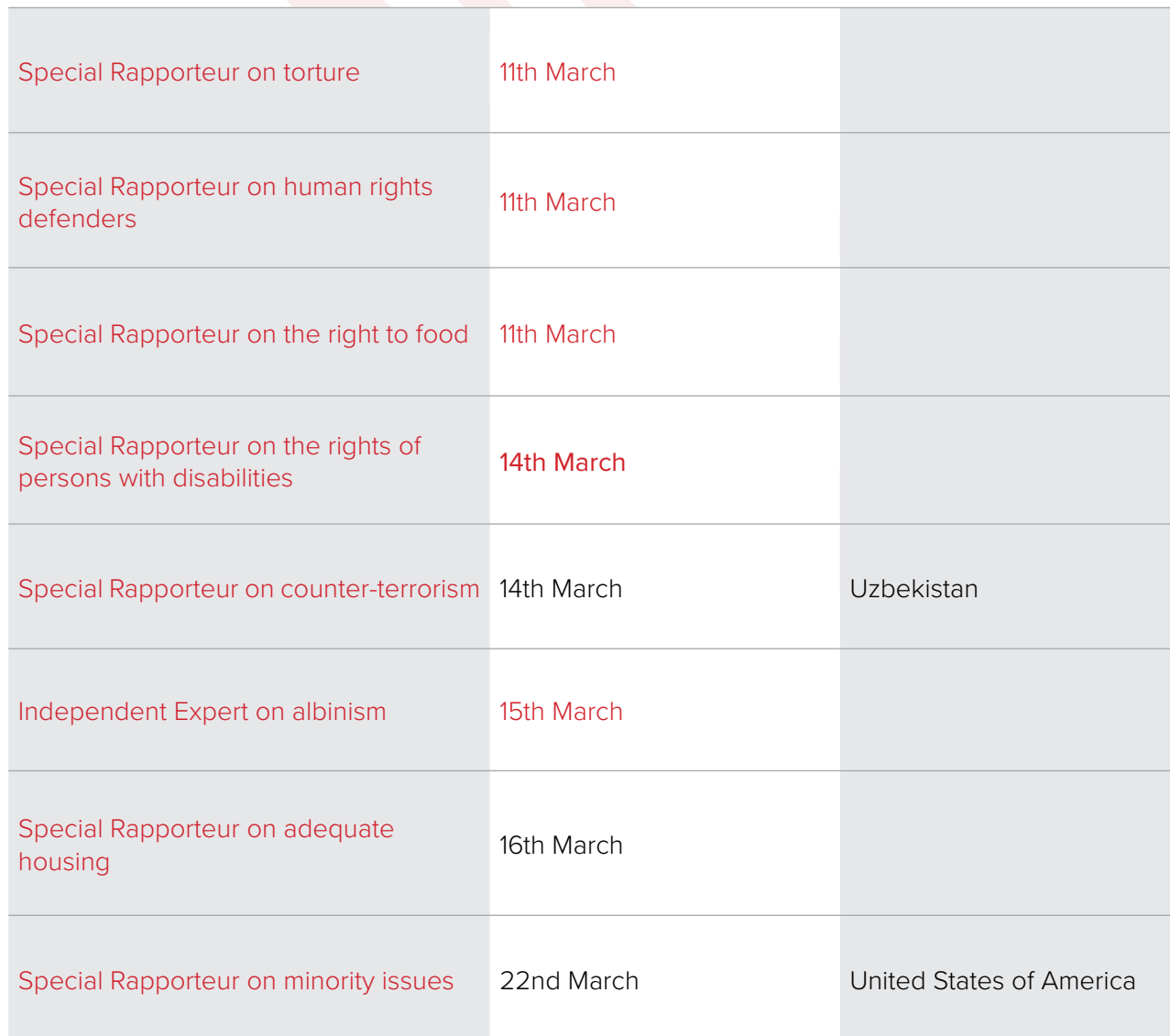
14 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, and Independent Experts) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC49. In addition, seven country-specific Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts) will present reports/oral updates on the human rights situation in the countries covered by their mandates and their engagement with the concerned State(s). On 22 March, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures will also present the annual report of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue ¹³
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	3rd March
Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran	17th March
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	18th March
Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	21st March
Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territory	24th March
Independent Expert on Mali	28th March
Special Rapporteur on Cambodia	29th March

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on cultural rights	8th March	
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children	8th – 9th March	Montenegro
Independent Expert on foreign debt	9th – 10th March	
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	10th March	
Special Rapporteur on privacy	10th March	
Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment	10th March	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Special Rapporteur on torture	11th March	
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	11th March	
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	11th March	
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	14th March	
Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism	14th March	Uzbekistan
Independent Expert on albinism	15th March	
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	16th March	
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	22nd March	United States of America

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 one government official from Benin to participate in HRC49. The State currently does not have a Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. The biography of the participating delegate can be consulted [here](#).



Encounter between beneficiaries of the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund and Ambassador Nazhat Khan, then President of the Human Rights Council, at the 48th Regular Session.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL DURING HRC49 (EXPECTED 23RD - 24TH MARCH).

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, GREECE,
ESWATINI, HUNGARY, IRELAND,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SAINT VINCENT
AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA,
SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND,
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC49*





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