



THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC40: the 40th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 25 February to Friday 22 March 2019 (4-week session),
Room XX, Palais des Nations

IN BRIEF

Over 90 high-level dignitaries and officials are expected to attend the three-day High-Level Segment of HRC40, including, *inter alia*: the President of Tunisia, Mr Béji Caïd Essebsi; the Prime Minister of Fiji, Rear Admiral (ret) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama; and the Prime Minister of Yemen, Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed. So far, a total of five heads or deputy heads of State, and 69 ministers or vice-ministers are scheduled to address the Council.

On **6 March**, 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 March**.

During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner or Secretary-General covering human rights situations in, *inter alia*: the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Myanmar.

The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Eritrea, and the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo before and after the December elections.

It will also consider High-Commissioner/UN Secretary-General reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*: measures taken to implement Council resolution 9/8, including reforming the Treaty Body system; the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; missing persons; empowering children with disabilities; the protection of human rights while countering terrorism; rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; realisation of the right to work.

The Council is expected to act on around 32 resolutions and other texts as of the time of publication. It is also expected to appoint new mandate-holders for positions on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

(EMRIP) – from Africa; Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia, and Transcaucasia; the Caribbean, Central and South America; and the Pacific.



FOR THE FULL DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR HRC40, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).

PANEL DEBATES

THE COUNCIL'S 40TH SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD FIVE PANEL DEBATES ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

◆ Human rights in the light of multilateralism: opportunities, challenges and the way forward, (annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming, **25 February**).

◆ Human rights violations related to the use of the death penalty, in particular with respect to the rights to non-discrimination and equality, (biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty, **26 February**).

◆ Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education, (annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child, **4 March**).

◆ Article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on habilitation and rehabilitation, (annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, **6 March**).

◆ Debate on the mitigation and countering of rising nationalist populism and extremist ideologies, (commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, **15 March**).



CONCEPT NOTES ON THESE PANEL DISCUSSIONS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE HERE.

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC40, States will consider 79 reports from the Secretary General, High Commissioner, Working Groups and/or the Special Procedures mandate-holders.




WHEN PUBLISHED, THESE UN REPORTS, WHICH WERE COMMISSIONED BY THE COUNCIL THROUGH EARLIER RESOLUTIONS, WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE HERE.

'L NUMBER'

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC40¹

Based on announcements made during the HRC40 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC37), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC40. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

 (Highlighted in blue = Initiative formally announced during HRC40 organisational meeting)

FOCUS	LEAD SPONSOR ²	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ³
 Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Romania (European Union), Japan	4	Consensus
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4	Vote (27-4-16)
Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	Republic of Moldova, Sweden, the Republic of North Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4	Vote (21-7-19)

1. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.' 2. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions. 3. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

Situation of human rights in South Sudan	Albania, Paraguay, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4	Consensus	
Situation of human rights in Myanmar	Romania (European Union)	4	Vote (32-5-10)	
Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)	7	Vote (25-14-7)	
Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	Pakistan (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)	7	Vote (41-1-2)	
Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Pakistan (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)	7	Vote (41-2-3)	
Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)	7	Vote (34-4-8)	
Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Pakistan (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)	7	Vote (27-4-15)	
Human rights technical assistance and capacity-building in Mali	Angola (African Group)	10	Consensus	
Cooperation with Georgia	Georgia	10	Vote (19-5-23)	
Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya	Angola (African Group)	10	Consensus	
Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka	Canada, Germany, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2	Consensus	

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

FOCUS	LEAD SPONSOR ⁴	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ⁵	VOTE HISTORY ⁶	
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	Annual	Consensus	
Freedom of religion or belief	Romania (EU)	3	Annual	Consensus	
Human rights and the environment	Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland	3	Annual	Consensus	
Human rights and unilateral coercive measures	Venezuela (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-15-1)	
Integrity of the judicial system	Russian Federation	3	Annual	Consensus	
Migrants from North Africa	Angola (African Group)	3	Triennial	Vote (32-14-0)	
Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social, and cultural rights	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus	
Rights of the child focusing on empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education	Romania (EU), Uruguay (GRULAC)	3	Annual	Consensus	
The effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (31-16-0)	
Impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin	Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Angola (African Group)	3	Annual	Vote (30-1-16)	

4. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions. 5. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions. 6. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

The rights of persons with disabilities	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
The right to food	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (45-1-1)
Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Denmark	3	Biennial	Consensus
Combatting intolerance based on religion or belief	Pakistan (OIC)	9	Annual	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
Elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Angola (African Group)	9	Annual	Vote (31-4-12)
Human rights, democracy and the rule of law	Morocco, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Protecting human rights defenders	Norway	3	Triennial	Vote (33-6-8)



THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

14 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC40. In addition, five 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).

- COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT/ORAL UPDATES AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
Special Rapporteur on Democratic People's Republic of Korea	11 March
Special Rapporteur on Islamic Republic of Iran	11 March
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	11 March
Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories	18 March
Independent Expert on Mali	19 March

● THEMATIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	28 February	Viet Nam Indonesia Argentina
Independent Expert on foreign debt	28 February	Ukraine Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	28 February	Honduras Moldova
Special Rapporteur on torture	28 February	Serbia and Kosovo Argentina Ukraine
Special Rapporteur on privacy	1 March	
Special Rapporteur on cultural rights	1 March	Malaysia
Special Rapporteur on terrorism	1 March	Tunisia Saudi Arabia Sri Lanka France Belgium
Special Rapporteur on environment	4 March	
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	4 March	Korea Egypt
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	5 March	Tunisia
Special Rapporteur on sale of children	5 March	Lao People's Democratic Republic Ireland Malaysia
Special Rapporteur on disabilities	5 March	France
Independent Expert on albinism	5 March	Fiji Kenya
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	13 March	Slovenia Botswana

**THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF
14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED
FOR ADOPTION DURING HRC40
(EXPECTED 14-15 MARCH):**

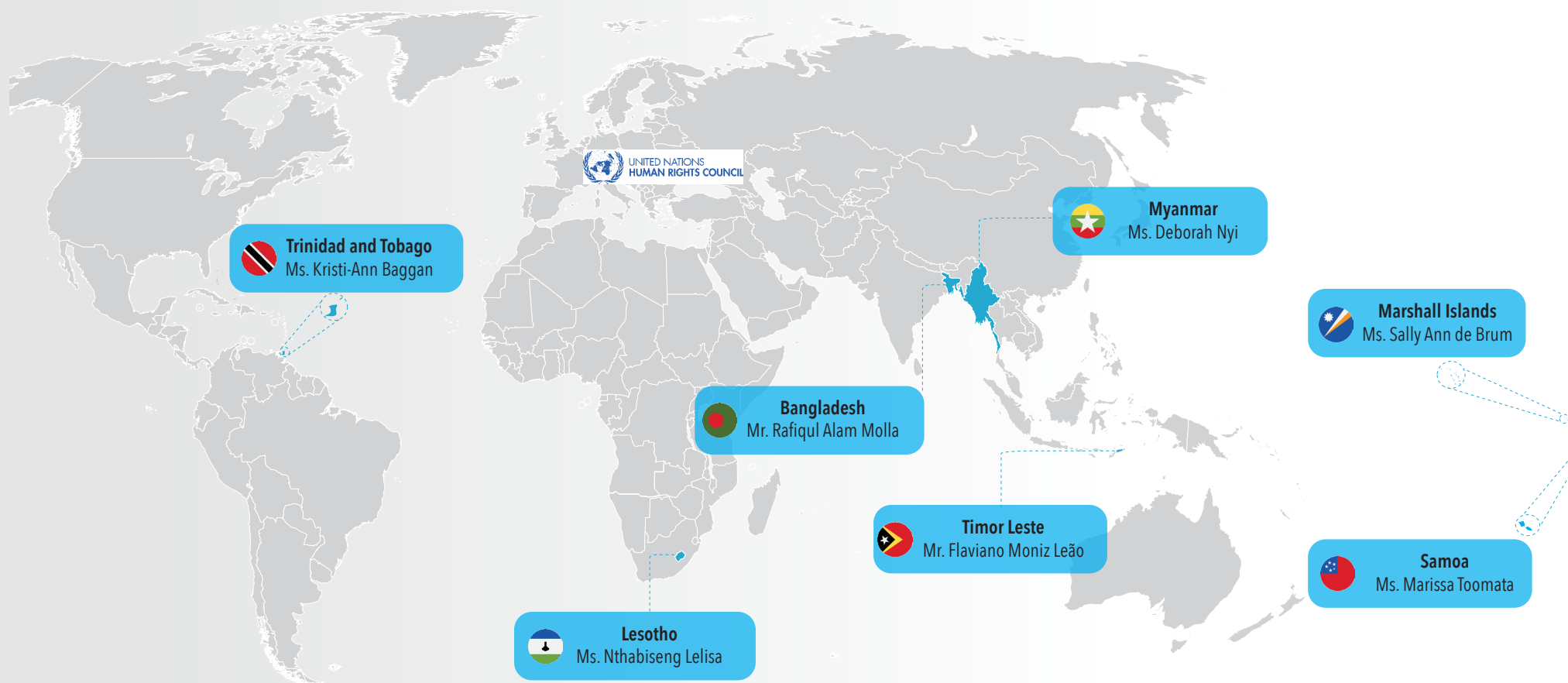
SAUDI ARABIA*, SENEGAL*, CHINA*,
NIGERIA*, MEXICO*, MAURITIUS, JORDAN,
MALAYSIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC,
MONACO, BELIZE, CHAD, CONGO, MALTA

* Council Members

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 support the participation of seven (five female and two male) government officials at HRC40. Two of them represent States that do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva, (i.e. Marshall Islands and Samoa).

At HRC40 the Trust Fund will support the participation of delegates from the following LDCs and SIDS:





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