



THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC39: the 39th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 10th September to Friday 28th September 2018 (3 week session),
Room XX, Palais des Nations

IN BRIEF

● The new High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Michelle Bachelet will present her first oral update on 10th September on the human rights situation around the world.

● A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to address the Council, including *inter alia*, H.E. Mr Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, and H.E. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations of the United Kingdom.

● During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (in the electoral context), Georgia, and Yemen. The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Libya, and Ukraine.

● It will also consider High Commissioner and Secretary General reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*:

- right to development;
- question of the death penalty;
- national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- available mechanisms concerned with ensuring

the safety of journalists;

- draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs;
- the promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age, including the responsibility of business enterprises in this regards;
- best practices and specific measures to ensure access to birth registration, particularly for those children most at risk;
- youth and human rights;
- mental health and human rights;
- rights of indigenous peoples;
- the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights;
- cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

● On Friday 14th September the President of ECOSOC will brief the Council on the discussions of the high-level political forum as requested by Council [resolution 37/25](#).

● The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 17 Special Procedures (four country-specific and 13 thematic), including those dealing with: contemporary forms of slavery; international order; rights of older persons; water and sanitation; enforced disappearances; arbitrary

detention; use of mercenaries; hazardous wastes; right to development; unilateral coercive measures; truth, justice and reparations; rights of indigenous peoples; Cambodia; Central African Republic; Somalia; and Sudan.

● The Council is expected to act on between 24 and 31 draft resolutions and other texts. It is expected to appoint new mandate-holders for the positions of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, and a member (from WEOG) to the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.



FOR THE FULL DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 39TH SESSION, PLEASE CLICK HERE.

PANEL DEBATES

THE 39TH SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD THREE PANEL DEBATES ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- High-level panel discussion to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (13th September)
- Participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development and implementation of strategies and projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples (19th September)

- Gender integration and human rights investigations: strengthening a victim-centered approach during the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms (24th September)

As a result of the adopted short-term efficiency measures, each Panel Discussion will be limited to 2 hours, with speaking times of 2 minutes for all delegations and observers.



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

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC39, States will consider 74 reports from the Secretary-General, High Commissioner, Working Groups and/or the Special Procedures mandate-holders.



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

**NUMBER¹ – DRAFT
RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER
TEXTS AT HRC39¹**

The draft resolutions and texts tabulated below – based on announcements made during the HRC39 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC36) – are expected to be tabled during HRC39. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

(Highlighted in pink = Initiative formally announced during HRC39 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ²	Expected agenda item	Vote history ³
Mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the human rights situation and accountability in Burundi	Togo (African Group, minus Botswana and Rwanda)	2	Vote (23-14-9)
Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Consensus
Renewal of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi	European Union	4	Vote (22-11-14)
Situation of human rights in Myanmar	European Union	4	Vote (32-5-10)
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom	4	Vote (26-5-15)

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.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Vote history ⁶
Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights	Australia, Italy, Togo (African Group), Turkey, United Kingdom	10	Consensus
Human rights, technical assistance and capacity-building in Yemen	Egypt (Arab Group)	10	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Togo (African Group)	10	Vote (45-1-1)
Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Sudan	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Equal participation in political and public affairs	Botswana, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Netherlands, Peru	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights and indigenous people	Guatemala, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus

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.

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Human rights and transitional justice	Argentina, Morocco, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Vote (29-1-17)
Human rights and unilateral coercive measures	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-15-1)
Impact of arms transfers on human rights	Ecuador, Peru	3	Annual	Vote (32-5-10)
The Impacts of the control systems on the International Watercourse on the Rights of Safe Water, Food and Environment and Its Influence on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.	Iraq	3	New initiative	N/A
Local government and human rights	Chile, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Romania	3	Biennial	Consensus
Mental health and human rights	Brazil, Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights	Burkina Faso, Colombia, Estonia, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-15-0)
Right to development	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (31-11-4)
The full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Brazil (Community of Portuguese speaking countries)	3	Annual	Consensus

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.

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation	Germany, Spain	3	Biennial	Vote (42-1-4)
The safety of journalists	Austria, Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus
The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-15-0)
Unaccompanied migrant children	El Salvador	3	Annual	Consensus
World Programme for Human Rights Education	Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand	3	Annual	Consensus
Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, South Africa	5	Annual	Vote (34-2-11)
National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights	Australia	8	Biennial	Consensus
Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights	Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey	10	Annual	Consensus
National policies and human rights	Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, Romania, Thailand	10	Annual	Consensus
Promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms, and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Brazil, Paraguay	10	Annual	Consensus

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.

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 five (three female and two male) government officials at HRC39. One of them does not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva (Tuvalu).

WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS FROM:

1. AFGHANISTAN*
2. BHUTAN
3. NIGER
4. THE GAMBIA
5. TUVALU

* Council Member

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

13 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC 39. In addition, four 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).

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue ¹⁰
Special Rapporteur on Cambodia	26 th September
Independent Expert on Somalia	26 th September
Independent Expert on Sudan	26 th September
Independent Expert on Central African Republic	27 th September

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery	10 th September	Paraguay
Independent Expert on international order	10 th September	Venezuela, Ecuador
Independent Expert on the rights of older persons	10 th – 11 th September	Georgia, Montenegro
Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation	10 th – 11 th September	India, Mongolia

¹⁰ Dates liable to change

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Working Group on enforced disappearances	12 th September	The Gambia
Working Group on arbitrary detention	12 th September	Argentina, Sri Lanka
Working Group on use of mercenaries	12 th September	Ghana
Special Rapporteur on hazardous wastes	12 th September	Sierra Leone, Denmark and Greenland
Special Rapporteur on the right to development	13 th September	
Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures	13 th September	European Union
Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparation	13 th – 14 th September	Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples	19 st September	Mexico, Guatemala
Working Group of experts on People of African Descent	25 th September	Guyana, Spain

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC39*



* Based on all announced resolutions, side-events, interactive dialogues, panels, and reports.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL DURING HRC39

20TH SEPTEMBER

TURKMENISTAN
BURKINA FASO
CABO VERDE
COLOMBIA

UZBEKISTAN
TUVALU
GERMANY*
DJIBOUTI

CANADA
BANGLADESH
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AZERBAIJAN

CAMEROON
CUBA*

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