



THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC41: the 41st regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 24 June to Friday 12 July 2019 (3-week session),
Room XX, Palais des Nations

IN BRIEF

On **24 June**, H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open the HRC41 with 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 **25 June**.

A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to address the Council, including *inter alia*, H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev, President of Bulgaria; H.E. Ms. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; H.E. Ms. Katrin Jakobsdottir, Prime Minister of Iceland; H.E. Mr. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia; H.E. Ms. Karin Kneissl, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria; and H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner covering human rights situations in, *inter alia*: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The High Commissioner will also present oral reports on

the situation of human rights in Nicaragua and on technical cooperation in Georgia.

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

- . child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings;
- . national policies and human rights;
- . approaches and challenges with regard to application procedures for obtaining the status of conscientious objector to military service in accordance with human rights standards;
- . prevention of genocide;
- . implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- . gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women;
- . human rights in the response to HIV;
- . operation of the Voluntary Fund for participation in the universal periodic review;
- . operations of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review.

The Council will consider regular reports (including, in some cases, country mission reports) from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 21 Special Procedures mandate-holders (four country-specific and 17 thematic). This includes those mandates dealing with: sexual orientation and gender identity; health; leprosy; migrants; peaceful assembly and association; freedom of expression; summary executions; right to education; business and human rights; violence against women; extreme poverty; racism; Belarus; Eritrea; Myanmar; and the Central African Republic.

The Council is expected to act on around 25 resolutions and other texts as of the time of publication. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1PM on 4th July 2019**. It is also expected that no new mandate-holders will be appointed during this session of the Council.



FOR THE FULL DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR HRC41, PLEASE CLICK HERE.

NEW MEASURES TO SUPPORT SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

The **PRST/OS/12/1** on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the HRC adopted in 2018, inter alia, encouraged the implementation of measures to address the challenges faced by small delegations, particularly SIDS/LDCs. The PRST also strongly encouraged the progressive use of modern technology to improve efficiency. The HRC President announced new measures at the organisational meeting to achieve these goals.

The OHCHR will be running a **HRC Clinic** – a helpdesk for small delegations aimed at facilitating the understanding of HRC rules and practices – every Wednesday during HRC41 (19 June, 26 June, 3 July, 10 July and 17 July) between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. in room E-3064. Delegates who wish to consult the OHCHR during the clinic may request an appointment [here](#).

The OHCHR will introduce the **E-Delegates** online tool this session. The **E-Delegates** tool allows delegates to, inter alia, table and cosponsor resolutions online instead of having to perform some of these tasks in person or via email.

The OHCHR has **committed to avoid scheduling concurrent informals**, in so far as possible. This will alleviate the burden on small delegations who are unable to cover multiple meetings at the same time..

PANEL DEBATES

THE COUNCIL'S 41ST SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD FOUR PANEL DEBATES ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- ◆ Violence against women in the world of work during the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women (**27 June**)
- ◆ The rights of older women and their economic empowerment during the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women (**28 June**)

◆ Panel discussion on women's rights and climate change: climate action, best practices and lessons learned (**28 June**)

◆ Technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of the human rights of older persons during the annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights (**10 July**)



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

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC41, States will consider 74 reports from the UN 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 HRC41¹

Based on announcements made during the HRC41 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC38), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC41. 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 HRC41 organisational meeting)

FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR ²	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ³
Promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines	Iceland	2	New initiative
 The situation of human rights in Belarus	Finland (European Union)	4	Vote (19-6-21) 
Situation of human rights in Eritrea	Djibouti, Somalia	4	Consensus
 The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom	4	Vote (26-5-15) 
 Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights	Ukraine	10	Vote (22-6-19) 
Technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions	Angola (African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR ⁴	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ⁵	VOTE HISTORY ⁶
Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls	Canada	3	Biennial	Consensus
Access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Brazil, China Egypt, India, Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand	3	Triennial	Consensus
Child, early and forced marriage	Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Honduras, Italy, Montenegro, the Maldives, Netherlands, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls	Colombia, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (28-14-3)
Equal pay	Iceland	3	Biennial	N/A
Extreme poverty and human rights	Albania, Belgium, Chile, France, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Senegal	3	Biennial	Consensus
Human rights and climate change	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	3	Annual	Consensus
Human Rights and international solidarity	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (31-14-1)
Human rights in cities and other human settlements	Brazil, Ecuador	3	Biennial	Consensus
Human rights of internally displaced persons	Austria, Honduras, Uganda	3	Biennial	Consensus
Human rights of migrants	Mexico	3	Biennial	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.

Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay	3	Triennial	Vote (23-18-6)
Impact of arms transfers on human rights	Ecuador, Peru	3	Biennial	Vote (32-5-10)
New and emerging technologies and human rights	Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Singapore	3		N/A
Promotion of the right to peace	Cuba	3	Biennial	Vote (32-11-4)
Protection of the family	Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt (Arab Group), El Salvador, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Vote (30-12-5)
Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Maldives, Mexico	3	Triennial	Consensus
The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights	China	3	Biennial	Vote (30-13-3)
The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights	Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom	3	Biennial	Consensus
The right to education	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
Trafficking in persons, especially women and children	Germany, Philippines	3	Biennial	Consensus
Youth and human rights	Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and the UPR	Ecuador, Italy, the Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Spain	5	Annual	Consensus
Rationalising and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Special Procedures Mandate Holders for the enhancement of their contribution to the promotion and protection of all human rights	Pakistan, United Arab Emirates	5		N/A
The Social Forum	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus
Consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent	Angola (African Group), Azerbaijan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru	9	Biennial	Consensus

THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

17 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC41. In addition, four 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 ^{7*}
Special Rapporteur on Belarus	1 July
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	2 July
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	2-3 July
Independent Expert on the Central African Republic	10 July

● THEMATIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity	24 June	Georgia Mozambique
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	24 June	
Special Rapporteur on health	24 June	Kyrgyzstan Canada
Special Rapporteur on leprosy	24 June	
Special Rapporteur on migrants	24 June	Niger
Independent Expert on international solidarity	24 June	Sweden The Netherlands
Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly and association	25 June	Tunisia Armenia
Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression	25 June	Ecuador
Special Rapporteur on summary executions	26 June	
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	26 June	
Working Group on business and human rights	26 June	Thailand Kenya
Working Group on discrimination against women	26 June	Honduras Poland
Special Rapporteur on violence against women	27 June	Canada Nepal
Special Rapporteur on trafficking	27 June	Nigeria
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty	28 June	United Kingdom Lao People's Democratic Republic
Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons	28 June	
Special Rapporteur on racism	8 July	Morocco United Kingdom

**THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF
14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED
FOR ADOPTION DURING HRC41
(EXPECTED 4-5 JULY):**

NEW ZEALAND, AFGHANISTAN*, CHILE*,
VIET NAM, URUGUAY*, YEMEN, VANUATU,
NORTH MACEDONIA, COMOROS,
SLOVAKIA*, ERITREA*, CYPRUS, DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC, CAMBODIA

* 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 15 (12 female and three male) government officials at HRC41. Four of them represent States that do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva, (i.e. Dominica, Kiribati, Palau, and Papua New Guinea)

At HRC41 the Trust Fund will support the participation of delegates from the following LDCs and SIDS:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bahamas* | 6. The Gambia | 11. Palau |
| 2. Comoros | 7. Kiribati | 12. Papua New Guinea |
| 3. Dominica | 8. Madagascar | 13. Rwanda* |
| 4. Djibouti | 9. Nauru | 14. Somalia* |
| 5. Fiji* | 10. Nepal* | 15. Vanuatu |

MOST LIKELY KEY THEMES OF HRC41 *





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