

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC47:
The 47th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 21st June to Thursday 15th July 2021
(4 week session), Room XVIII/Online, Palais des Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Ambassador Nazhat Khan (Fiji), President of the Human Rights Council chairing the 30th Special Session of the Human Rights Council.

IN BRIEF

■ On 21st June, H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC47 with the presentation of her **annual report on the human rights situation around the world**, followed by an interactive dialogue on her report on the role of the State in responding to pandemics. The presentation of her annual report will provide the basis for an interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on 21st and 22nd June.

■ The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 24 **Special Procedures** (five country-specific and 19 thematic), including those dealing with: adequate housing; discrimination against women and girls; arbitrary detention; education; extreme poverty; freedom of expression; right to health; internally displaced persons; international solidarity; judges and lawyers; persons with leprosy; migrants; peaceful assembly; privacy; sexual orientation and gender identity; summary executions; trafficking; transnational corporations; violence against women; Belarus; Eritrea; Central African Republic; Myanmar; and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In accordance with **HRC/PRST/OS/13/1** all the Interactive Dialogues (IDs) will be individual.

■ During the session, the Council will consider **country-specific reports** by the High Commissioner and the UN Secretary-General covering human rights issues in, inter alia: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Ukraine. Additionally, the High Commissioner will deliver **oral updates** on the situations in Georgia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, and Ukraine.

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

- Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations system and regional organizations to support States' efforts to promote and protect the right to education;
- Freedom of opinion and expression;
- Human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice;
- Implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

- Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers;
- Promotion and protection of the rights of older persons in the context of climate change;
- Operations of the Voluntary Fund for participation in the universal periodic review; and
- Operations of the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review.

■ As per HRC/PRST/OS/13/1 there will be no **general debates** during HRC47. Therefore, the reports and oral updates of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General as well as subsidiary bodies to be presented during HRC47 will be considered during the relevant general debates at HRC48, unless they are mandated to be considered during an ID.

■ The Council is expected to act on around 23 draft resolutions and other texts. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1 PM on 2nd July 2021**. Additionally, it is expected to appoint **seven new mandate-holders**, including the Independent Expert on foreign debt, Independent Expert on persons with albinism, Special Rapporteur on right to privacy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, two members of the Working Group of Experts on people of African Descent (members from Asia-Pacific and Eastern European States), and one member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (member from Western European and other States). More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found **here**¹.

For the full draft programme of work for HRC47, please click **here**².

1 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC47.aspx>

2 https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session47/Documents/POW_EN.doc

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

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, similar extraordinary modalities to those utilised during HRC46 are expected to continue, in full respect of the IB package and in compliance with the health assessment and announcements made by the Swiss Federal Council related to the prevention of the further spread of COVID-19. These measures will be reviewed if and when the measures imposed by the Government of Switzerland change.

These include:

- HRC47 will take place in **Room XVIII**. Despite the recent relaxed measures announced by Switzerland, as the capacity of Room XVIII will not be able to accommodate one delegate per Member and Observer State as well as representatives of international organizations and NGOs, the Council will have to conduct its **work in a primarily virtual manner**.
- All participants to HRC47 are **requested to be accredited via INDICO³**. Although access to UNOG premises will be restricted, all representatives will still have to register through INDICO in order to deliver video messages. 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.
- As physical attendance in the Room XVIII **cannot exceed 100 persons**, as per the prevailing sanitary restrictions, State delegations are **strongly encouraged to send pre-recorded video statements**. Video messages will have to be uploaded through the online registration system (<http://spreg.ohchr.org/>), and the deadline to upload video statements is at least two hours before the debate for which they are submitted. In the case that pre-recorded messages are not possible, States can alternatively **deliver messages via Zoom**. Only those States that cannot deliver messages via pre-recorded messages or through Zoom due to technical difficulties can exceptionally deliver them in Room XVIII while respecting the 100 person limit.
- **Special Procedures, members of investigative mechanisms, and panelists** who are unable to travel to Geneva are strongly encouraged to send pre-recorded video messages.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, **NGOs** in consultative status with ECOSOC will have to **deliver video-statements for all interactive dialogues as well as for 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 6pm on the day prior to the debate for which they are submitted.

- Representatives that wish to raise **points of order** when not in the room may alert the Secretariat by **'raising their hand' 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 can do so in the same manner as during HRC46 by sending a request to hrclistofspeakers@ohchr.org. The Secretariat will register the request and inform the representative of the estimated time for the right of reply segment. The representative will be called upon during the relevant segment, in the order of the requests received. Representatives will be able to follow what happens in Room XVIII via the Zoom platform.
- When registering for **panel debates**, States will be asked to rank the panels in the order of their priorities, with speaking slots allocated by the system taking these priorities into account. 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.
- 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.
- As the HRC Bureau has reiterated, the main sponsors of draft resolutions are encouraged to **organise informal consultations virtually** or conduct rounds of consultations in writing. 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. However, representatives of the draft resolution's Core Group will have the opportunity to lead the virtual informal consultation from Room XXVI or another available room in the Palais des Nations, if they wish to do so. 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 HRC47. However, virtual side events can be listed on the **Extranet** for information purposes.



Human Rights Council meeting in the Assembly Hall.

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 [HRC47 Sched](#) app to personalize their agendas and synchronize with their calendars. HRC47 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.

4 <https://delegate.un.int/dgacm/delegate.nsf/xaOpenPortal.xsp>

PANEL DEBATES

HRC47 is scheduled to hold **seven panel debates** on the following subjects:

- High-level panel discussion on the multisectoral prevention of and response to female genital mutilation (**23rd June**)
- Panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (**29th June**)
- Panel discussion on the human rights by older persons in the context of climate change (**30th June**)
- Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women – Violence against women and girls with disabilities (**5th July**)
- Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women – Gender-equal socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (**6th July**)
- Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal – The potential of leveraging sport and the Olympic ideal for promoting human rights for young people (**7th July**)
- Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building – Technical cooperation to advance the right to education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all (**12th July**)

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available **here**⁵.

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC47, States will consider **64 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**⁶.

Additionally, a number of reports submitted to HRC46 whose consideration had been postponed will also be considered during HRC47, namely the thematic and country visit reports of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy.

5 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session47/Pages/47RegularSession.aspx>

6 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session47/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC47⁷

Based on announcements made during the HRC47 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC44), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC47. 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 HRC47 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ⁸	Expected agenda item	Vote history ⁹
Situation of human rights in Eritrea*	Slovenia (EU)	2	Vote (24-10-13)
Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar*	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Vote (37-2-7)
Situation of human rights in Belarus*	Slovenia (EU)	4	Vote (22-5-20)
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic*	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, The Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	4	Vote (28-2-17)
Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights*	Ukraine	10	Vote (20-5-22)

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)

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

(* = Initiative formally announced during HRC47 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ¹⁰	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ¹¹	Vote history ¹²
Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls*	Canada	3	Biennial	Consensus
Civil society space*	Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia	3	Triennial	Vote (35-0-11)
Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights*	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-15-2)
Human rights and climate change*	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights and international solidarity*	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (31-15-1)
Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS*	Brazil, Colombia, Mozambique, Portugal, Thailand	3	Triennial	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)

Impact of arms transfers on human rights*	Ecuador, Peru	3	Biennial	Consensus
Menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality: elimination of harmful practices, accusation of witchcraft and malicious assault*	Cameroon (African Group)	3	New	N/A
New and emerging digital technologies and human rights*	Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco Republic of Korea, Singapore	3	Biennial	Consensus
Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights*	Burkina Faso, Colombia, Estonia, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl*	United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom	3	Triennial	Consensus
The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights	China	3	Biennial	Vote (33-13-0)

The human rights of migrants*	Mexico	3	Biennial	Consensus
The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights*	Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom	3	Biennial	Consensus
The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on Internet*	Brazil, Nigeria, Sweden, Tunisia, United States	3	Biennial	Consensus
The right to education*	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
The Social Forum*	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus
The promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers*	Cameroon (African Group)	9	Annual	Consensus

THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

19 thematic Special Procedures (i.e. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC47. In addition, five country-specific Special Procedures (i.e. 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 ¹³
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	21st June
Special Rapporteur on Belarus	5th July
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	7th July
Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories	12th July
Independent Expert on the Central African Republic	13th July

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	22nd June	New Zealand
Special Rapporteur on the right to health	23rd – 24th June	Fiji
Special Rapporteur on migrants	23rd June	
Independent Expert on international solidarity	23rd – 24th June	
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	24th – 25th June	
Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity	24th June	
Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons	25th June	
Working Group on discrimination against women and girls	25th June	Romania
Special Rapporteur on violence against women	28th June	

Special Rapporteur on trafficking	28th – 29th June	
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	28th June	
Working group on transnational corporations	28th – 29th June	
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty	29th – 30th June	
Special Rapporteur on summary executions	30th June	Nigeria
Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly	1st July	
Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression	1st – 2nd July	
Special Rapporteur on leprosy	1st July	
Working group on arbitrary detention	2nd July	
Special Rapporteur on Privacy	2nd & 5th July	Argentina France Germany Republic of Korea United Kingdom United States of America

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL DURING HRC47 (8TH - 9TH JULY).

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA*, GEORGIA,
LEBANON, MAURITANIA*, MICRONESIA
(FEDERATED STATES OF), MYANMAR,
NAURU, NEPAL*, OMAN, RWANDA,
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA,
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

*Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC47*



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



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