

# THE INSIDE TRACK

## CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC 50:  
The 50th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 13th June to Friday 8th July 2022  
(4 week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



*Ambassador Federico Villegas (Argentina), President of the 16th cycle of the Human Rights Council chairing the Urgent Debate on the “situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression” during the 49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council on 3rd March 2022.*

## IN BRIEF

■ On 13th June, H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC50 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 14th and 15th June.

■ As per HRC/PRST/OS/13/1 there will be no **general debates** during HRC50. Therefore, the reports and oral updates of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General as well as subsidiary bodies to be presented during HRC50 will be considered during the relevant general debates at HRC51, unless they are mandated to be considered during an interactive dialogue.

■ 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), Sudan, Ukraine (in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as in Mariupol), and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Additionally, the High Commissioner will deliver **oral updates** on the situations in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Nicaragua.

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

- Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
- **Enhancing the accessibility, dissemination and implementation of the Accountability and Remedy Project;**
- Human rights and HIV/AIDS;
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl;
- Impacts of climate change on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations;
- **Implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;**
- Internet shutdowns: trends, causes, legal implications and impacts on a range of human rights;
- Progress, gaps and challenges in addressing child, early and forced marriage, and measures to ensure accountability at the community and national levels, including for women and girls at risk of and those subjected to this harmful practice; and
- Terrorism and human rights.

■ The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, **23 Special Procedures** (five country-specific and 18 thematic), including those dealing with: Belarus; Burundi; Central African Republic; Eritrea; Myanmar; climate change; discrimination against women; education; extreme poverty; freedom of expression; independence of judges and lawyers; internally displaced persons; international solidarity; migrants; peaceful assembly; persons with leprosy; racism; right to health; sexual orientation and gender identity; summary executions; trafficking; transnational corporations; and violence against women. 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 of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia; the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel; the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic; and the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya.

■ The Council is expected to act on around 22 draft resolutions and other texts. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1 PM on 29th June 2022**.

■ Additionally, it is expected to appoint **eight new mandate-holders**, including one member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (member from Latin American and Caribbean States), Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, one member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (member from Eastern European States), one member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (member from African States), and one member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (member from Western European and other States). More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found **here<sup>1</sup>**.

For the full draft programme of work for HRC50, please click **here<sup>2</sup>**.

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1 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc50>

2 <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/POW-HRC50-EN.doc>

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

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, certain extraordinary modalities as those utilised during HRC49 are expected to continue, in full respect of the IB package.

These include:

- The 50th session of the Human Rights Council will take place in **Room XX**, which can now be used at full capacity (for the first time since March 2020). Consequently, there will be no restrictions on the number of people that can enter the meeting room.
- Taking into consideration that the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended, **hybrid meeting modalities** similar to those applied at the 49th Regular Session will be maintained for the upcoming 50th Session in order to ensure inclusivity. As such, States will be able to participate either in person or virtually through Zoom or pre-recorded video messages, throughout the 50th Session.
- Video messages will have to be uploaded directly to the **online registration system** (<http://ngoreg.ohchr.org/>), which opens on 7 June 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](mailto:ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org)). The deadline to upload video statements is at least 2 hours before the start of the debate for which they are submitted.
- When registering for **panel debates**, States will be asked to rank the panels in the order of their priorities, with the allocation 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.
- Delegations participating remotely will be able to **raise a point of order** by prompting the **raise hand feature** in the Zoom platform, which will be recognised by the Secretariat at the podium. The Chair will then stop the dialogue or debate and give the floor, through the Zoom platform, to the delegation that has raised the point of order.
- Delegations will be able to exercise their **right of reply remotely**, in the same manner as during the 49th Session, by sending a request to [ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org](mailto:ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org). The Secretariat will register the request and inform the representative of the estimated time for the right of reply segment. The delegation will then be called upon during the right of reply segment, in the order in which requests have been registered.

- NHRIs with 'A' status and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will have full access to Room XX for the duration of the session. They will be able to deliver their statement in person in Room XX 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.
- Special procedures mandate holders, members of investigative mechanisms and panellists who are unable to travel to Geneva would be able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
- Given the impact of the Strategic Heritage Plan on the availability of rooms, side events cannot take place inside the Palais des Nations during the 50th session. In case NGOs decide to organise virtual events in parallel to the 50th session, information on such events can be listed on the OHCHR civil society webpage along with a statement indicating that the events are not official Council events.
- In accordance with the IB package, at least one informal open-ended consultation needs 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. Delegations can write to the relevant focal point of the Council Secretariat ([mkumar@ohchr.org](mailto: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'.
- In addition to Room XX, UNOG has allocated three meeting rooms to the Council for the holding of informal consultations.



*Human Rights Council meeting in Room XX.*

# 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@un.org](mailto:hrcdesksmallpm@un.org)) or phone/WhatsApp [+41 \(0\)79 500 00 32](tel:+410795000032). The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund is also available for virtual consultations upon request.

The use of the online tool, E-deleGATE, 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](#)<sup>3</sup>.

Delegates will be able to continue using the [HRC50 Sched](#) app to personalize their agendas and synchronize with their calendars. HRC50 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 50th session is scheduled to hold eight panel debates and one thematic meeting on the following subjects:

- Panel discussion on the root causes of human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar (15th June)
- Panel discussion on menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality (21st June)
- Panel discussion on good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic (22nd June)
- Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women - Exploring the nexus between climate change and violence against women and girls through a human rights lens (27th June)
- Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women – Human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems (27th June)
- Panel discussion on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations in the context of climate change (28th June)
- High-level panel discussion on countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights (28th June)
- Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building – Technical cooperation on the full and effective participation of women in decision-making and in public life and on the elimination of violence, with a view to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (4th July)

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

## WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC50, States will consider 76 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](#)<sup>2</sup>.

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5 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session50/regular-session>  
6 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session50/list-reports>

# 'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC50<sup>7</sup>

Based on announcements made during the HRC50 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC47), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC50. 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 HRC50 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>8</sup>	Expected agenda item	Vote history <sup>9</sup>
Situation of human rights in the Sudan*	Germany, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America	1	Consensus
Situation of human rights in Eritrea*	Czech Republic (EU)	2	Vote (21-13-13)
Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar*	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Consensus
Situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia	Czech Republic (EU)	2	Vote (20-14-13)
Situation of human rights in Belarus*	Czech Republic (EU)	4	Vote (21-7-19)
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic*	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, The Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	4	Vote (26-6-15)

<sup>7</sup> When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

<sup>8</sup> Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

<sup>9</sup> 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 HRC50 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>10</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>11</sup>	Vote history <sup>12</sup>
Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls*	Canada	3	Biennial	Consensus
Access to medicines and vaccines 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
Casualty recording and the promotion and protection of human rights*	Croatia, Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, Sierra Leone	3	New initiative	N/A
Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls*	Mexico	3	Biennial	Consensus
Elimination of female genital mutilation*	Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)	3	Biennial	Consensus
Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights*	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-14-3)
Freedom of opinion and expression*	Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Namibia, The Netherlands, Sweden	3	Biennial	Consensus

<sup>10</sup> Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

<sup>11</sup> Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

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

Human rights and climate change*	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	3	Annual	Vote (46-0-1)
Human rights and international solidarity*	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-14-1)
Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms*	Ecuador, Peru	3	Biennial	Consensus
Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers*	Australia, Botswana, Hungary, Maldives, Mexico, Thailand	3	Biennial	Consensus
Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity*	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay	3	Triennial	Vote (27-12-7)
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons*	Austria, Honduras, Uganda	3	Triennial	Consensus
Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association*	Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mexico, United States of America	3	Triennial	Consensus
The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests*	Costa Rica, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Consensus
The Social Forum*	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus

# THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

## SPECIAL PROCEDURES

18 thematic Special Procedures (i.e. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC50. 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 <sup>13</sup>
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	13th June
Special Rapporteur on Belarus	28th June
Special Rapporteur on Burundi	29th June
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	29th June
Independent Expert on the Central African Republic	6th July

## THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity	16th June	Tunisia
Working Group on discrimination against women and girls	16th – 17th June	
Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly	17th June	Niger
Special Rapporteur on leprosy	17th June	
Special Rapporteur on violence against women	20th June	Mongolia
Special Rapporteur on the right to health	20th June	
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	20th June	Bolivia (Pluranational State of )
Special Rapporteur on trafficking	21st June	Tajikistan

Working group on transnational corporations	21st June	Italy
Special Rapporteur on summary executions	22nd June	
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	22nd June	
Special Rapporteur on climate change	23rd June	
Special Rapporteur on migrants	23rd June	
Independent Expert on international solidarity	23rd – 24th June	
Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression	1st July	Hungary
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty	1st – 2nd July	Lebanon Nepal
Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons	27th June	
Special Rapporteur on racism	5th July	

# 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 ten government officials (four female and six male) to participate in HRC50. For nine of them it will be their first time participating in a regular session of the Council.

At HRC50 the Trust Fund will support the participation of delegates from the following LDCs and SIDS:

- Angola
- Benin\*
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Ethiopia
- The Gambia\*
- Guinea-Bissau
- Jamaica
- Madagascar
- The Maldives

\*Council Members

# UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

**THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 13 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL DURING HRC50 (EXPECTED 30TH JUNE - 4TH JULY).**

HAITI, ICELAND, LITHUANIA\*, MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC OF), MYANMAR, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN\*, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, TIMOR-LESTE, TOGO, UGANDA, VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)\*, AND ZIMBABWE

\*Council Members

## MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC50\*



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



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