

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC52: the 52nd regular session
of the Human Rights Council

Monday 27 February – 4 April 2023
(5-week and a half session), Room XX, Palais des Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
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H.E. Václav Bálek (Czech Republic) was elected President of the 17th Cycle of the Human Rights Council in December 2022. Photo: UN Photo / Jean Marc Ferré

IN BRIEF

- **130** high-level dignitaries and officials are expected to deliver statements during the three-day High-Level Segment of HRC52, which will take place in a hybrid manner. So far, a total of four heads or deputy heads of State, eleven heads or deputy heads of government, and 97 ministers or vice-ministers are scheduled to address the Council. Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr António Guterres, as well as the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, will also be delivering an address at the start of the High-Level Segment.
- On **7th March**, Mr. Volker Türk, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC52 with an **oral update on the human rights situation around the world**. This oral update together with other country specific oral updates given by the High Commissioner will provide the basis for the general debate under Item 2 on 7th and 8th March.
- During the session, the Council will **consider country-specific reports** submitted by the High Commissioner covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*:
 - Colombia
 - Guatemala
 - Honduras
 - Myanmar
 - Occupied Syrian Golan
- Additionally, the High Commissioner will also deliver **oral updates** on:
 - Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Nicaragua
 - Sudan
- The Council will also consider the High Commissioner's and Secretary General's reports on a number of **thematic issues**, including *inter alia*:
 - [Disinformation](#)
 - [Good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 - [HRC resolution 9/8 Effective implementation of international human rights instruments](#)
 - Intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatisation of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief
 - [Overview of all the reports presented by special procedure mandate holders in 2022](#)
 - [Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights](#)

- [Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)
 - [Technical cooperation and capacity-building in promoting and protecting the human rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalised situations in recovery efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 - [UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture](#)
 - [Universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- The Council will also consider the following High Commissioner's and Secretary General's **country-specific reports**:
- Accountability in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 - Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath
 - Human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice
 - Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan
- [Root causes of human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar](#)
- The Council will hold **20 interactive dialogues with Special Procedures** (14 thematic and **six** country-specific), including those dealing with: albinism; counter-terrorism; cultural rights; disabilities; environment; food; foreign debt; freedom of religion; housing; human rights defenders; minorities; privacy; sale of children; torture; Afghanistan; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Eritrea; Islamic Republic of Iran; Mali; and Myanmar.
- In addition, the Council will also hold **eight interactive dialogues with a number of investigative mechanisms**, including the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**; the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on **Ethiopia**; the International Team of Experts on the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**; the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on **Libya**; the Group of Human Rights Experts on **Nicaragua**; **Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan**; the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic; and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on **Ukraine**.
- In accordance with [HRC/PRST/OS/13/1](#), all Interactive Dialogues will be held as standalone engagements.

- The Council is expected to act on around **39 draft resolutions**. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set on the **23th March 2023 at 13:00 CEST**.
- Additionally, it is expected to appoint ten new Special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, one member to the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (from Asia-Pacific States), four members to the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (one member from African States, one from Asia-Pacific States, one from Eastern European States and one from Western European and other States), two members to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (one from Asia and one from the Arctic), and one member to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (one member from Latin American and Caribbean States). More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found [here](#).^[3]
- The UPR outcome report of 14 States (Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom) will be considered for adoption.

For the full draft programme of work for HRC52, please click [here](#).^[4]



The 51st session of the Human Rights Council, at Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. September 12, 2022. UN Photo by Pierre Albouy

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

- Given that there continues to be broad support among delegations and civil society for maintaining hybrid modalities, the Bureau agreed that the 52nd session of the Council should apply hybrid modalities in a similar manner as was done for its 51st session in September 2022.
- Effective 9 January 2023, meeting participants and personnel will no longer be required to wear masks on all UN Geneva premises. The Office encourages everyone to maintain other protective hygiene measures.
- States and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status should be able to participate in the session either in person from room XX or virtually through Zoom or pre-recorded video messages.
- Delegations will be able to exercise their right of reply remotely in the same manner as during the 51st regular session, by sending a request by email by sending a request to ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org. The Secretariat would 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.
- Special procedures mandate holders, members of investigative mechanisms and panellists who are unable to travel to Geneva will be able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.
- NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status and active Designations with UNOG will be able to choose their preferred method of participation, either in-person or by a video message, for all debates through the online registration system (<https://ngoreg.ohchr.org>), which opens on 21 February at 14:00 CEST. In order to balance the importance of inclusivity and what is feasible in terms of time and resources, the list of speakers for NGOs for each of the general debates will be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the debates in the previous three sessions of the Council in March.
- These modalities do not serve as a precedent for future HRC sessions.
- The online system for inscription by States on the list of speakers for all general debates, interactive dialogues and panel discussions will open on Monday, February the 20th at 16:00 and will close 24 hours before the meeting in which each debate is scheduled to start. After the online inscription has closed, delegations may still inscribe or withdraw by sending an email to the address OHCHR-hrclistofspeakers@un.org. The online system for inscription on the list of speakers for the adoption of UPR outcomes will open on Monday 13th of March at 9:00 and will close on Thursday 16th March at 18:00. No inscriptions will be possible after this deadline. For national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations, the list of speakers for all debates taking place during the session will open online on Tuesday 21st February at 14:00.

MEASURES TO ASSIST SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

The HRC Helpdesk for SIDS and LDCs is meant to 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 (ohchr-hrcdesksmallpm@un.org) or phone/WhatsApp +41 (0) 79 500 0032. The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund is also available for 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 co-sponsor resolutions, amongst others. It is accessible through the following [link](#).^[5]

Delegates will be able to use the [Sched](#) meeting application to personalise their agendas and synchronise with their calendars. HRC52 Sched provides details on plenary meetings as well as other meetings scheduled in parallel to the HRC session at the Palais des Nations.

PANEL DEBATES

HRC52 is scheduled to hold nine panel discussions on the following subjects:

- Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming on the theme "A reflection on five years of the United Nations Youth Strategy (Youth 2030): mapping a blueprint for the next steps" (27th February, [concept note](#))
- Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty on the theme, "Human rights violations relating to the use of the death penalty, in particular with respect to limiting the death penalty to the most serious crimes" (28th February, [concept note](#))
- High-level meeting commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development (28th February, two accessible meetings, [concept note](#))
- High-level panel discussion on the achievements, good practices and lessons learned by the voluntary funds for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council (1st March, [concept note](#))

PANEL DEBATES

- Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child on the theme “Rights of the child and the digital environment” (8th March, two accessible meetings, [concept note](#))
- Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities on the theme “Support systems to ensure community inclusion of persons with disabilities, including as a means of building forward better after the COVID-19 pandemic” (13th March, [concept note](#))
- Debate in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the theme “The urgency of combating racism and racial discrimination 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (30th of March)

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available [here](#).^[6]

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC52, States will consider 80 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](#).^[7]

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC52 ^[8]

Based on announcements made during the HRC52 organisational meeting (13th February), the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC49), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC52. 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 HRC52 organisational meeting)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[9]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ^[10]
1	Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression*	Ukraine	1	Vote (32-2-13)
2	Advancing human rights in South Sudan*	Albania, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America	2	Vote (19-11-17)
3	Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania and Cameroon)	2	Vote (37-7-3)
4	Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua	Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru	2	Vote (20-7-20)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ²	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ³
5	Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath*	Sweden (EU)	4	Vote (22-6-19)
6	Situation of human rights in Myanmar*	Sweden (EU)	4	Consensus
7	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*	Sweden (EU)	4	Consensus
8	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*	Iceland, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, United Kingdom	4	Vote (19-12-16)
9	Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic*	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Türkiye, United States of America	4	Vote (25-6-16)
10	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania and Cameroon)	7	Vote (29-15-3)
11	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania and Cameroon)	7	Vote (38-4-5)
12	Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination*	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania and Cameroon)	7	Vote (41-3-3)
13	Cooperation with Georgia*	Georgia	10	Vote (19-6-20)
14	Technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan	Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

(* =Initiative formally announced during HRC52 organisational meeting)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[11]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ^[12]	VOTE HISTORY ^[13]
1	<u>Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context*</u>	Brazil, Finland, Germany, Namibia	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
2	<u>Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law*</u>	Mexico, Turkey	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
3	<u>Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights*</u>	Albania, Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay	3	Follow-up to resolution 37/42	Vote (<u>26-10-11</u>)
4	<u>Effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights*</u>	Cuba	3	Annual resolution	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[11]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ^[12]	VOTE HISTORY ^[13]
5	<u>Freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*</u>	Canada, Netherlands	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
6	<u>Freedom of religion or belief*</u>	Sweden (EU)	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
7	<u>Human rights and the environment*</u>	Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
8	<u>Human rights of migrants: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants*</u>	Mexico	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
9	<u>Human rights, democracy and the rule of law*</u>	Morocco, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Tunisia	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
10	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material*</u>	Croatia (European Union), Uruguay (GRULAC)	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
11	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*</u>	Norway	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[11]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ^[12]	VOTE HISTORY ^[13]
12	Mental health and human rights*	Brazil, Portugal	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
13	Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Pakistan, South Africa	3	Annual resolution	Vote (31-14-2)
14	Promoting human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public services delivery*	Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Georgia, Kenya, Malaysia, Thailand, Türkiye	3	New resolution tabled as a follow up to HRC resolution 37/7	New resolution
15	Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
16	Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity*	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
17	Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights*	Portugal	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
18	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights*	Armenia, Belgium, Mexico, Senegal, Thailand	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ^[11]	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ^[12]	VOTE HISTORY ^[13]
19	<u>Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues*</u>	Austria, Mexico, Slovenia	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
20	<u>The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation*</u>	Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)	3	Biennial resolution	Vote (<u>31-14-2</u>)
21	<u>The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights*</u>	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual resolution	Vote (<u>27-14-6</u>)
22	<u>The right to food*</u>	Cuba	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
23	<u>Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*</u>	Denmark	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
24	<u>Combating intolerance based on religion or belief*</u>	Pakistan (OIC)	9	Annual resolution	Consensus
25	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*</u>	Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)	9	Triennial resolution	Consensus

THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

14 thematic Special Procedures (i.e., Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC52. In addition, six 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
<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea</u>	3rd March (enhanced interactive dialogue)
<u>Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan</u>	6th March
<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar</u>	20th March
<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran</u>	20th March
<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea</u>	20th March
<u>Independent Expert on Mali</u>	30th March

THEMATIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights	8th March	Maldives
Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children	8th March	Mauritius
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	8th March	South Africa
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	9th March	
Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment	9th March	Portugal Slovenia
Independent Expert on the rights of persons with albinism	10th March	
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	13th March	European Union Jordan
Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing	13th March	

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
Special Rapporteur on torture	14th March	
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	14th March	
Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt	14th March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International financial obligations, digital systems and human rights • Non-binding set of practical guidelines for efficient asset recovery 	Argentina
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	15th March	
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	15th March	Greece
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	23rd March	

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 14 government officials (eighth female and six male) to participate in HRC52. The delegates come from:

- Belize
- Benin*
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Chad
- Maldives*
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Nepal*
- Sudan*
- Timor-Leste
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Republic of Tanzania

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC52*



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

ENDNOTES

1. The appointment of the mandate holder will be made provided the mandate itself is extended by the Human Rights Council.
2. The appointment of the mandate holder will be made provided the mandate itself is extended by the Human Rights Council.
3. <http://ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc51>
4. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/regularsession/session51/2022-08-22/POW-HRC51-E-22-aout-2022.doc>
5. <https://edelegate.un.int>
6. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session51/regular-session>
7. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session51/list-reports>
8. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'
9. Based on the main sponsors of previous resolutions.
10. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)
11. Based on the main sponsors of previous resolutions.
12. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.
13. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)
14. Dates liable to change



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