

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC53: the 53rd regular session
of the Human Rights Council

Monday 19th June to Friday 14th July 2023
(4-week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Václav Bálek, President of the Human Rights Council, 52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva.
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IN BRIEF

- On **19th June**, Mr. Volker Türk, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC53 with the presentation of his annual report on the human rights situation around the world, followed by an interactive dialogue on his report on State response to pandemics. The presentation of his annual report will provide the basis for an interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on **20th and 21st June**.
- During the session, the Council will consider **country-specific reports** by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: **Iran** (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Sudan, Ukraine (in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol), and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Additionally, the High Commissioner will deliver oral updates on the follow-up to the resolution Cooperation with **Georgia**; on the promotion and protection of human rights in **Nicaragua**; and on the findings of the periodic report of OHCHR on the situation of human rights in **Ukraine**.
- Other oral updates on country situations by Special Procedures mandate holders will focus on the situation of human rights in Burundi, the Central African Republic, and Myanmar.
- It will also consider High Commissioner's and Secretary-General's reports on a number of **thematic issues**, including *inter alia*:
 - Adverse impact of climate change on the full realisation of the right to food;
 - Impact of casualty recording on the promotion and protection of human rights;
 - Impact of technological advances on prevention of genocide efforts and on the risks of the perpetration of genocide;
 - Impact of the civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms



52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva.
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- [Implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights](#); and
 - The way forward to improve technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.
- The Council will consider reports from and hold interactive dialogues with **22 Special Procedures** (four country-specific and 18 thematic), including those dealing with: Afghanistan; Belarus; Eritrea; the Occupied Palestinian Territory; climate change; discrimination against women and girls; education; extreme poverty; freedom of opinion and expression; independence of judges and lawyers; internally displaced persons; international solidarity; migrants; freedoms of peaceful assembly and association; persons with leprosy; racism; right to health; sexual orientation and gender identity; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; trafficking; transnational corporations (two reports); and violence against women and girls.
 - In addition, the Council will also hold interactive dialogues with three investigative mechanisms: the Fact-Finding Mission on Iran (Islamic Republic of); the Commission on Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in Israel; and the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.
- As per [PRST OS/16/1](#), there will be no general debates during HRC53. Therefore, the reports and oral updates of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General as well as subsidiary bodies to be presented during HRC53 will be considered during the relevant general debate at HRC54, unless they are mandated to be considered in the context of an interactive dialogue.
 - The Council is expected to act on around **27 draft resolutions** and other texts. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1 PM on 5th July 2023**.
 - Additionally, it is expected to appoint **four** new mandate-holders, including the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; Special Rapporteur on minority issues; and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found [here](#)¹.

For the full draft programme of work for HRC53, please click [here](#)².

1 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc53>

2 <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session53/POW-HRC53-EN.doc>

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

- The 53rd session of the Human Rights Council will take place in Room XX, which since session HRC50 can be used at full capacity.
- Following the Council President's meetings in New York and the UN Secretary General's agreement with maintaining hybrid modalities the 53rd and 54th sessions, the Bureau agreed that the modalities for the 53rd session should be the same as during the 52nd session to ensure inclusivity. The Bureau noted that UNOG continues to operate under business continuity, and that there was broad support among delegations and civil society for maintaining hybrid modalities. States will be able to participate either in person or virtually through Zoom or pre-recorded video messages, throughout the 53rd Session.
- NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and NHRIs with "A" status would have the possibility to deliver their statements in person or via pre-recorded video statements.
- NGOs wishing to participate in the session are invited to register and to indicate their method of participation (in-person or via video statement) through the online registration system (<https://ngoreg.ohchr.org>), which opens on **Tuesday, 13 June at 2 p.m.** The method of participation can be amended at a later stage for interactive dialogues, panel discussions and adoption of UPR outcomes.
- The **deadline** to upload a video statement or to confirm the speaking slot in case of an in-person intervention is at **6 p.m. on the working day before** the debate is scheduled to start).
- Due to a UN holiday on Thursday, 29th June, no meetings will be organised nor technical support will be offered during that day.
- 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 in Room XXI. 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. 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'.
- The Secretariat has implemented a feature that allows NGOs to co-sponsor other NGOs' statements directly through the online registration system (<https://ngoreg.ohchr.org>). The previous method, i.e. sending the co-sponsorship form via email, will no longer be accepted. Only NGOs with the ECOSOC status and a valid annual designation with the United Nations Office at Geneva can sponsor a statement made by other NGOs.
- As implemented at the 51st and 52nd sessions of the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat intends to allocate some space for side events at a reduced level compared to the pre-COVID-19 period due to the ongoing renovations under the Strategic Heritage Plan and their impact on the availability of meeting rooms at Palais des Nations. Hence only a reduced number of side events may be organised and a maximum of one side event per NGO may be requested. Please note that deadline to request an NGO parallel event has passed.
- Each side event will last a maximum of one hour. The same requirements and practices as in the pre-COVID-19 period will apply. The calendar of NGO side events will be made available on HRC Extranet and in the Sched application. NGOs are requested to inform the Civil Society Team about cancelations or any other modifications in their side events at the latest 72 hours before the announced time of their events.
- Since Monday May 22, 2023, all Pass services & identification badges are provided from Pavillon Pregny and no longer at Villa les Feuillantines.

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-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](#)³.

Delegates will be able to continue using the Sched app to personalize their agendas and synchronize with their calendars. 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 DISCUSSIONS

HRC53 is scheduled to hold 5 panel debates on the following subjects:

- [Panel discussion on the measures necessary to find durable solutions to the Rohingya crisis and to end all forms of human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar](#) (21st June)
- Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women (30th June)
 - Panel 1: [Gender-based violence against women and girls in public and political life](#)
 - Panel 2: [Social protection: women's participation and leadership](#)
- [Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. Theme: Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food](#) (3rd July)
- [Panel discussion on the role of digital, media and information literacy in the promotion and enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression](#) (3rd July)

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available [here](#)⁴.

3 <https://edelegate.un.int>
 4 <https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/53/Pages/Panel%20discussions.aspx>

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

(* = Initiative formally announced during HRC53 organisational meeting)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ⁷	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ⁸
1	Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea*	EU	2	Vote (21-10-16)
2	Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar*	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Consensus
3	Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus*	EU	4	Vote (23-6-18)
4	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 (26-6-16)
5	Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights*	Ukraine	10	Vote (19-8-20)

⁷ Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

⁸ Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN).

Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

(* =Initiative formally announced during HRC53 organisational meeting)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ⁹	VOTE HISTORY
1	<u>Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls*</u>	Canada	3	Biennial	Consensus
2	<u>Child, early and forced marriage*</u>	Argentina, Canada, Honduras, Italy, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay	3	Biennial	Consensus
3	<u>Civil society space*</u>	Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus
4	<u>Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights*</u>	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (29-16-2)
5	<u>Human rights and climate change*</u>	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	3	Annual	Consensus
6	<u>Impact of arms transfers on human rights*</u>	Ecuador, Peru	3	Biennial	Consensus
7	<u>Mandate of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity*</u>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-14-1)

9 Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
8	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions*</u>	Finland, Sweden	3	Triennial	Consensus
9	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights*</u>	Albania, Belgium, Chile, France, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Senegal	3	Triennial	Consensus
10	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members*</u>	Brazil, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Japan, Morocco, Portugal	3	Triennial	Consensus
11	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers*</u>	Australia, Botswana, Hungary, Maldives, Mexico, Thailand	3	Last adopted in 2022	Consensus
12	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities*</u>	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Last adopted in 2022	Consensus
13	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children*</u>	Argentina, Germany, Jordan, Philippines	3	Triennial	Consensus
14	<u>Mandate of the Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*</u>	Argentina, Ghana, Russian Federation, Switzerland	3	Triennial	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
15	New and emerging digital technologies and human rights*	Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Singapore	3	Biennial	Vote (44-0-3)
16	Realisation of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl*	United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom	3	Triennial	Consensus
17	Social Forum*	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus
18	The human rights of migrants*	Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
19	The incompatibility between democracy and racism*	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay	9	Last adopted in 2018	Consensus
20	The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights*	Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom	3	Biennial	Consensus
21	The right to a nationality*	Algeria, Australia, Botswana, Colombia, Mexico, Slovakia, Turkey, United States of America	3	Last adopted in 2016	Consensus
22	The right to education*	Portugal	3	Biennial	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 HRC53. In addition, 7 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 ¹⁰
<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (submitted along with the Working Group on discrimination against women)</u>	19th June
<u>Special Rapporteur on Eritrea</u>	19th June
<u>Special Rapporteur on Belarus</u>	5th July
<u>Special Rapporteur on Burundi</u>	6th July
<u>Special Rapporteur on Myanmar</u>	6th July
<u>Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territory</u>	10th and 11th July
<u>Independent Expert on the Central African Republic</u>	11th July

THEMATIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
<u>Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity</u>	21st June	N/A
<u>Working Group on discrimination against women and girls</u>	21st and 22nd June	Situation of human rights in Afghanistan (submitted along with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan) <u>Kyrgyzstan</u> <u>Maldives</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to health</u>	22nd June	N/A
<u>Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls</u>	22nd and 23rd June	Türkiye <u>Libya</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on leprosy</u>	23rd June	Angola Bangladesh
<u>Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression</u>	23rd June	N/A
<u>Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers</u>	26th June	N/A

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
<u>Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions</u>	<u>26th June</u>	Argentina
<u>Special Rapporteur on migrants</u>	<u>26th June</u>	<u>Poland</u> Belarus Bangladesh
<u>Working Group on Business and Human Rights</u>	26th and 27th June	<u>Liberia</u> <u>Luxembourg</u> Argentina
<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to education</u>	27th June	UNESCO
<u>Special Rapporteur on climate change</u>	<u>27th June</u>	Bangladesh
<u>Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly</u>	28th June	Brazil
<u>Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children</u>	28th June	<u>Bangladesh</u> South Sudan
<u>Independent Expert on international solidarity</u>	<u>28th June</u>	Costa Rica
<u>Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty</u>	<u>28th and 30th June</u>	Kyrgyzstan
<u>Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons</u>	<u>4th July</u>	Japan Mexico
<u>Special Rapporteur on racism</u>	11th July	N/A

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The UPR outcome reports of 13 States will be considered for adoption by the Council during HRC53 (expected 6th – 10th July).

- Argentina*
- Benin*
- Czechia*
- Gabon*
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Japan
- Pakistan*
- Peru
- Republic of Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Switzerland
- Zambia

*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 be supporting 13 government officials (eight female and five male) to participate in HRC53. They come from:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Benin
- Gambia (Republic of The)*
- Guinea-Bissau
- Madagascar
- Malawi*
- Maldives*
- Mali
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Nauru
- Suriname
- Togo
- United Republic of Tanzania.

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC52*



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



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