

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC58: the 58th regular session
of the Human Rights Council

24 February to 4 April 2025
(6 week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



A general view of participants at the 16th regular session of the Human Rights Council, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland - 21 March 2011.

Credit: UN Photo by Jean-Marc Ferré

IN BRIEF

- **104** high-level dignitaries and officials are expected to deliver statements during the four-day High-Level Segment of HRC58, which will take place in a hybrid manner. So far, a total of eleven heads or deputy heads of government, and 83 ministers or vice-ministers are scheduled to address the Council. Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr António Guterres, Human Rights Council President H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, as well as the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang (Cameroon), will also be delivering an address at the start of the High-Level Segment.
- On **3 March**, Mr. Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC58 with an **oral global 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 3 and 4 March.
- 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: **Cyprus; Guatemala; Honduras; Colombia; Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; Sudan; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Syrian Golan; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; and Haiti**.
- Concerning technical assistance and capacity building (item 10), the Council will consider **two reports by the High Commissioner** (one on

technical assistance and capacity-building (for **South Sudan**, and one technical assistance and capacity-building to improve the situation of human rights in **Haiti**, in connection with a request from the authorities of Haiti for coordinated and targeted international action), and will hear **four oral updates/presentations by the High Commissioner** (one on cooperation with and assistance to **Ukraine** in the field of human rights; one on cooperation with **Georgia**; one technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**; and one on **enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights**).

- Additionally, the High Commissioner will deliver oral updates on the human rights situations (items 2 and 4) in **Myanmar; Nicaragua; and Venezuela** (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

- Measures taken to implement Human Rights Council resolution 9/8 and obstacles to its implementation, including recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing and reforming the treaty body system ([SG's report](#)).
- United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture ([SG's report](#)).
- Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([SG's report](#)).

- Intersessional workshop on cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage ([HC's report](#)).
 - Human rights and transitional justice (HC's report).
 - Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights ([SG's report](#)).
 - Mental health and human rights (HC's report).
 - Comprehensive study on the use of digital technologies to achieve universal birth registration (HC's report).
 - Panel discussion on ensuring livelihood resilience in the context of the risk of loss and damage relating to the adverse effects of climate change for achieving progressively the full realization of all human rights and ways forward to address the challenges thereto on the basis of equity and climate justice ([HC's report](#)).
 - Human rights dimension of care and support (HC's report).
- During the session, the Council will hold:
- **22 Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures mandate-holders, including 15 with thematic mandate holders** dealing with counter-terrorism and human rights; right to food; freedom of religion or belief; adequate housing; effects of foreign

debt; sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children; human rights defenders; minority issues (two reports); torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; rights of persons with disabilities; albinism; right to privacy; the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and cultural rights; as well as **seven with country-specific mandate holders** on the Islamic Republic of Iran; Myanmar; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Afghanistan (two reports); and Mali.

- **Five Enhanced Interactive Dialogues** on: **Eritrea**; High Commissioner's report on **Sudan**; report of the Commission of Human Rights in **South Sudan**; OHCHR report on **transitional justice**; and oral update of High Commissioner and team of experts on **DRC**.
- **Two Interactive Dialogues with the UN Special Representatives of the Secretary-General** on violence against children and for children and armed conflict.
- **Six Interactive Dialogues with Human Rights Council-mandated Investigative Bodies**, including the Group of Human Rights Experts on **Nicaragua**; Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of **Iran**; Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the **Syrian Arab Republic**; Independent International Commission of Inquiry on **Ukraine**; and the Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in **Belarus**.

- In accordance with [HRC/PRST/OS/13/1](#) all the Interactive Dialogues will be individual.
- Based on the initiatives formally announced at the HRC58 organisational meeting, the Council is expected to act on around **28 draft resolutions**. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1:00 PM on Friday, 21 March 2025**.
- The Council will also adopt the **UPR outcome reports of 14 States**: [Albania](#), [Bhutan](#), [Brunei Darussalam](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Democratic People's Republic of Korea](#), [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Dominica](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Qatar](#), [Portugal](#), [Nicaragua](#), and [Norway](#).
- Additionally, it is expected to appoint **three vacancies of mandate holder: one member to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (from Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia); **and two members to Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (one from Central and South America, and the Caribbean and one from the Pacific)**. More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found [here](#).
- Due to a UN holiday, no meetings will be organised nor technical support will be offered on Monday 31 March 2025.

For the full draft programme of work for HRC58, please click [here](#).



H.E. Jürg Lauber, President of the 19th cycle of the UN Human Rights Council at the 37th special session of the UN Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

February 7, 2025. UN web TV

MODALITIES FOR THE 58TH SESSION

- The 58th session of the Human Rights Council will take place in Room XX.
- As of 22 January 2024, the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) introduced restrictions relating to the management of official UN meetings and conferences, including restrictions on lunchtime meetings and the use of remote participation and hybrid modalities. Virtual live participation in meetings (e.g. on Zoom, Webex, Interprefy etc.) are not allowed, but pre-recorded video statements are still accepted, of course alongside in-person participation. UN Web TV will also continue to livestream the Council's meetings. This follows the request from the Council to the General Assembly, through its April 2024 decision 55/116, to authorise the Council to continue using remote participation modalities.
- Following on from the previous Council session, informal negotiations, side events and other informal meetings taking place on the sidelines of HRC58 would be able to benefit from audio-visual services as well as the use of WebEx on a cost-recovery basis.
- The online registration platform for the 58th session, 'Events,' can be found at: <https://events.ohchr.org>.
 - For **States**, inscription to the list of speakers via the 'Events' platform for all interactive dialogues and panel discussions will open on Monday, 17 February at 4 PM and will close 24 hours before the 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 list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate. For the adoption of UPR outcomes, States' registration for the list of speakers will open on Monday, 10 March at 9 AM and will close on Thursday, 13 March at 6 PM. No inscriptions will be possible after this deadline.
 - **For national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations:**
 - The list of speakers for oral statements during the session will open on Tuesday, 18 February at 2 PM and close at 6 PM. on the working day before the debate is scheduled to. NHRIs with 'A' status and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status will have the possibility to deliver their statements in person or via pre-recorded video-statements for all debates (i.e., interactive dialogues, panel discussions, and UPR adoptions). Registration, indication of method of participation, and uploading of video statements will be through the 'Events' platform and the uploading of transcripts is mandatory irrespective of the method of participation. The deadline for all participants (whether in person or via

video statement) to upload the transcripts and video statements with transcripts (as applicable) is 6 PM on the working day before the debate is scheduled to start, and will constitute confirmation of participation.

- The schedule of opening and closing dates for the online submission of NGO Written Statements at the 58th session of the Council will be as follows:
 - › Registration of NGO Written Statements for General Debates under all agenda items of the 58th session will open from Monday, 20 January 2025, at 12:00 PM CEST and close on Monday, 27 January 2025, at 12:00 PM.
 - › Registration of NGO Written Statements for the other debates under agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 4 (excluding General Debates) of the 58th session will open from Monday 27 January 2025, at 12:00

PM and close Monday, 3 February 2025, at 12:00 PM.

- › Registration of NGO Written Statements for the other debates under agenda items 6, 9 and 10 (excluding General Debates) will open from Monday, 3 February 2025, at 12:00 PM and close Monday, 10 February 2025, at 12:00 PM.
- As in the previous sessions, the Secretariat has implemented a feature that allows NGOs to co-sponsor other NGOs' statements directly through the [online registration system](#). The previous method, i.e. sending the co-sponsorship form via email, will no longer be accepted.
- The 58th session during Ramadan will be adjusted in the same manner as at the 55th session in March 2024. Namely, the meetings will be held from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and from 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM.



General view of the 32nd session of the UN Human Right Council. Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva, Switzerland. June 2017.

UN Photo by Jean-Marc Ferré

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 allow delegates to circulate, table and co-sponsor resolutions, amongst others. It is accessible through the following [link](#).

Delegates will be able to use the Sched meeting application to personalise their agendas. HRC58 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

HRC58 is scheduled to hold **nine panel discussions** on the following subjects:

- Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming on the theme "Thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" (24 February, [concept note](#)).
- Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty on the theme "Contribution of the judiciary to the advancement of human rights and the question of the death penalty" (25 February, [concept note](#)).
- Panel discussion on early warning and genocide prevention (5 March, [concept note](#)).
- Panel discussion on the realization of human rights in sustaining and increasing the gains made in the HIV response and leaving no one behind (6 March, [concept note](#)).
- Panel discussion on the realization of the rights to work and to social security in the informal economy (7 March, [concept note](#)).

- Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities on the theme “Rights of persons with disabilities: digital and assistive technologies, countering cyberbullying, and digital inclusion” (10 March, [concept note](#)).
- Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child. Two panels under the theme “Early childhood development” (13 March, [concept note](#)).
- Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the theme “Sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination” (27 March, [concept note](#)).

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



Allée des drapeaux of the United Nations in Geneva. 9 April 2015.

UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC58, 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](#).

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC58¹

Based on announcements made during the HRC58 organisational meeting (10 February 2025), the following **28 draft resolutions** are expected to be tabled during HRC58. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.



A general view of Ariana Park headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva. 31 July 2013.

UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ²	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ³
1	<u>Advancing human rights in South Sudan</u>	United Kingdom, Albania, Norway	2	Vote (<u>21-18-08</u>)
2	<u>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</u>	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	2	Vote (<u>36-3-8</u>)
3	<u>Mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic</u>	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Qatar, Türkiye	4	Vote (<u>27-15-5</u>)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY
4	Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath	European Union	4	Vote (26-21-6)
5	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	European Union, Australia	4	Consensus
6	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	Iceland, Germany, Moldova, North Macedonia, United Kingdom	4	Vote (24-15-8)
7	Mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine	Ukraine	4	Vote (23-17-3)
8	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	7	Vote (29-4-14)

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY
9	<u>Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan</u>	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	7	Vote (<u>36-8-3</u>)
10	<u>Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination</u>	Pakistan (OIC, except Albania)	7	Vote (<u>42-3-2</u>)
11	<u>Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights</u>	Ghana (on behalf of the African Group)	10	Consensus
12	<u>Technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan</u>	Ghana (on behalf of the African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ⁴	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ⁵	VOTE HISTORY ⁶
1	Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage	Cyprus, Argentina, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland and Serbia	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
2	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	Cuba	3	Annual resolution	Vote (31-4-2)
3	Freedom of religion or belief	European Union	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
4	Human rights, democracy and the rule of law	Romania, Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
5	<u>Human rights defenders and new and emerging technologies</u>	Norway	3	Triennial	Vote (39-8-0)
6	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism</u>	Mexico	3	Triennial	Consensus
7	<u>Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food</u>	Cuba	3	Annual resolution	Consensus
8	<u>Neurotechnology and human rights</u>	Greece, Chile, Singapore, Switzerland	3	Triennial resolution	Consensus
9	<u>Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity</u>	Cuba	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
10	<u>The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment</u>	Maldives, Costa Rica, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
11	The impact of anti-personnel mines on the enjoyment of human rights	Algeria, South Africa, Croatia, Mozambique, the United Kingdom, Peru, Vanuatu	3	New initiative	N/A
12	<u>The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation</u>	Ghana (on behalf of the Group of African States)	3	Biennial resolution	Vote <u>(32-2-13)</u>
13	<u>The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights</u>	Uganda (NAM)	3	Annual resolution	Vote <u>(32-1-14)</u>

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
14	<u>Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights</u>	Portugal	3	Biennial resolution	Consensus
15	Women in diplomacy and human rights	Morocco, Chile, Maldives, Mexico, Spain, Slovenia	3	New initiative	N/A
16	<u>Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief</u>	Pakistan (OIC)	9	Annual resolution	Consensus

THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

16 thematic mandate-holders (i.e., Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC58. In addition, **6 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 ⁷
1	<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran</u>	18 March
2	<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar</u>	19 March
3	<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea</u>	19 March
4-5	<u>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan</u>	<i>Two reports</i> 28 February
6	<u>Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali</u>	28 March

THEMATIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS	
1	Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights	11 March	N/A
2	Special Rapporteur on the right to food	28 February	Venezuela
3	Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	4 and 5 March	Hungary
4	Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing	7 March	Uzbekistan
5	Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt	10 and 11 March	Angola
6	Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children	13 and 14 March	Australia
7	Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	6 March	Brazil

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS	
8-9	<u>Special Rapporteur on minority issues</u>	(Two reports) 21 March	N/A
10	<u>Special Rapporteur on torture</u>	4 March	<u>Chile</u>
11	<u>Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities</u>	10 March	Kyrgyzstan
12	<u>Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism</u>	7 March	<u>United States of America</u> Lesotho
13	<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy</u>	12 March	Mauritius Australia
14	<u>Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment</u>	<u>14 March</u>	<u>Maldives</u>
15	<u>Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights</u>	6 March	Chile

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 **nine government officials** (five female and four male) to participate in HRC58. The delegates come from:

- Bangladesh*
- Benin*
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic*
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia*
- Maldives*
- Palau

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC58*



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

ENDNOTES

- 1 When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'
- 2 Based on the main sponsors of previous resolutions.
- 3 Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – ABSTAIN – NO).
- 4 Based on the 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. Vote results are represented as (YES – ABSTAIN – NO).
- 7 Dates liable to change.

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