



The Inside Track

**Concise information and political
insight on the upcoming session
of the Human Rights Council**

**HRC30: the 30th regular session of
the Council**

Monday 14th September to Friday 2nd October 2015
(3 week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations

In brief

- A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to attend HRC30, including Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium, and the Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom.
- On 14th September,¹ the High Commissioner for Human Rights (High Commissioner) will present his regular update on the human rights situation around the world.
- The Council will consider a report of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. It will also hold a panel discussion on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).
- During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner or Secretary-General covering issues in: Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Sri Lanka, Yemen, and countries affected by the actions of Boko Haram. The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Libya and Ukraine.
- It will also consider High Commissioner/Secretary-General reports on a number of thematic issues including inter alia: the right to development, capital punishment, over-incarceration, the prevention of violations, participation in public affairs, cooperation with the UN and its mechanisms, the world drug problem, and the safety of journalists.
- The Council will consider regular reports (including, in some cases, country mission reports) from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 16 Special Procedures mandate-holders (4 country-specific and 12 thematic), including those dealing with: Cambodia, Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR), Somalia, contemporary forms of slavery, enforced disappearances, transitional justice, arbitrary detention, and the right to water and sanitation.
- The 30th session is expected to see the adoption of 14 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcome reports, including of: Andorra, Belarus, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, and the US.
- At the end of the session, Council members will move to take action on around 35 draft resolutions and other texts; and to appoint a new member for the Working Group on enforced disappearances, a new member for the Working Group of Experts on people of African descent, and 4 new members of the Advisory Committee (the Council's think tank).

One year ago...

HRC27:
8.09-26.09 2014

The 27th session of the Council (8th September to 26th September 2014) saw intense and often polarised debate on sexual orientation and gender identity, and on civil society space.

Regarding the former, a large number of Islamic countries (members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation – OIC) and African states continued to raise objections to the notion that the Council has a mandate to discuss discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation. The relevant resolution was, however, eventually adopted by vote, with 25 in favour, 14 against and 7 abstentions.

Negotiations on the resolution on 'civil society space' likewise saw divisions in the Council, with a group of states submitting amendments from the floor to delete mention of (in their view) controversial earlier resolutions on the subject. These divisions centred on differences of opinion over whether some states were clamping down on freedom of association and NGO activity, under the pretext of preventing outside interference in domestic policymaking.

In terms of outcomes, the 27th session saw the establishment of a new Special Procedures mandate on 'the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures (i.e. sanctions) on human rights,' and the adoption of 32 resolutions (22% of which were adopted by vote) plus 4 presidential statements.

[A detailed report of the outcome of the 27th session can be read here.](#)

¹. All dates are subject to change

For your diary²

14.09

update by the High Commissioner

15.09

annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective

16.09

biennial panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures

21.09

report of the COI on the Syrian Arab Republic
panel discussion on the situation of the human rights in the DPRK

22.09

annual half-day panel discussion on the right of
indigenous peoples

24.09

panel discussion on good governance in public service
adoption of the UPR reports of Belarus, Malawi, Maldives,
Mongolia, Panama and the US

25.09

adoption of the UPR reports of Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia,
Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya and the Marshall Islands

28.09

panel on the impact of the world drug problem on human rights

29-30.09

High Commissioner oral updates on Libya and Ukraine, and
reports on DRC and Sri Lanka

01-02.10

action on draft resolutions and decisions, appointment of new mandate-holders.

For the full draft programme of work for the 30th session, [please click here](#).

Global human rights situation

On the first day of HRC30², the High Commissioner will present his regular update on the human rights situation around the world. His statement, which is usually circulated to delegations the Friday before the start of the session, provides the basis for a general debate under item 2.

Panel debates

The 30th session is scheduled to hold six panel debates on the following subjects:

- The integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Council and its mechanisms – with a focus on gender parity.
- Unilateral coercive measures and human rights.
- The situation of human rights in the DPRK, including the issue of international abductions, enforced disappearances and related matters.
- The rights of indigenous peoples.
- A human rights-based approach to good governance in public service.
- The impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights.

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

'L number' – draft resolutions and other texts at HRC30³

Based on announcements made during the HRC30 organisational meeting, on the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC27), a number of important draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC30. 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 HRC30 organisational meeting

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Vote history ⁵
Technical assistance for Cambodia	Japan	10	Consensus
Technical assistance in DRC	African Group	10	Consensus
Technical assistance in Libya	African Group		Consensus
Assistance to Somalia	Australia and cross-regional group		Consensus
Reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka	UK, US	2	Adopted by vote (23-12-12)
Technical assistance in Sudan	African Group	10	Consensus
The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	UK and cross-regional group	10	Adopted by vote (29-6-12)
Technical assistance for Yemen	Netherlands, Yemen	10	Consensus

Resolution in focus

The 30th session is expected to see the tabling and adoption of an important new resolution on preventing and countering violent extremism (CVE). The resolution is part of a new global strategy spearheaded by the US and announced at a White House summit in February 2015. The resolution, led by Morocco, will be introduced by a cross-regional group of states including Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, France, Iraq, Mali, Peru, Tunisia, Turkey and the US. It follows on from the delivery of two cross-regional statements on the subject at the 28th and 29th sessions. The resolution is part of a dual-track multilateral strategy that will see steps taken in Geneva and in New York. On 29th September, New York will host a CVE Leaders Summit during the 70th session of the GA.

³ When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

⁴ Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

⁵ Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

Thematic resolutions

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁶	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁷	Vote history ⁸
Preventing and countering violent extremism (CVE).	Morocco, US and cross-regional group	3	New initiative	N/A
Participation in political and public affairs	Czech Republic and cross-regional group	3	Annual	Consensus
Technical cooperation (human rights of migrants)	Thailand and core group	10	Annual	Consensus
From rhetoric to reality: concrete action against racism	African Group	10	Annual	Adopted by vote (32-2-13)
Transitional justice	Switzerland	3	Biennial	Consensus
Human rights of indigenous people	Guatemala, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
Terrorist hostage-taking	African Group	3	Annual	Consensus
Unilateral coercive measures	NAM	3	Annual	Adopted by vote (31-14-2)
Administration of justice	Austria	3	Biennial	Consensus
National policies	Algeria and cross-regional group	3	Annual	Consensus
National human rights institutions (NHRIs)	Australia	3	Biennial	Consensus
The right to peace	Cuba	3	Annual	Adopted by vote (33-9-5)
The human rights of peasants	Bolivia and core group	3		Adopted by vote (29-5-13)
Maternal mortality	Burkina Faso, Colombia, New Zealand	3	Annual	Consensus
Regional arrangements	Belgium and core group	3	Biennial	Consensus
The question of the death penalty	Belgium, Switzerland and cross-regional group	3	Annual	Adopted by vote (29-10-8)
The role of Parliaments	Ecuador, Spain	3	Annual	Consensus
The right to development	NAM	3	Annual	Adopted by vote (42-1-4)
The role of prevention	Hungary and core group	3	Annual	Consensus
World Programme for human rights education	Costa Rica, Morocco and cross-regional group		Annual	Consensus

6. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

7. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

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

During the 30th session, states will consider a number of reports by the High Commissioner and/or the Secretary-General. These reports, which were commissioned by the Council through earlier resolutions, cover, inter alia, the following subjects.

Thematic reports: **capital punishment**; the world **drug problem**; rights of **indigenous peoples**; enhancement of **international cooperation** in the UN human rights machinery; **over-incarceration**; the right to **participate in public affairs**; the **prevention** of human rights violations; cooperation with the UN and its mechanisms (**reprisals**); the **right to development**; **safety of journalists**; and the implementation of the **World Programme for Human Rights Education**.

Country-specific reports: violations committed by **Boko Haram** in affected countries; role of OHCHR in assisting **Cambodia**; capacity building in the **DRC**; situation in the **DRC**; human rights in **Iraq**; promoting reconciliation and accountability in **Sri Lanka**; situation in **Yemen**;

Summary reports of previous panel debates: the question of the **death penalty**; **national policies** and human rights; towards better investment in the **rights of the child**; realising the **right to education of every girl**; the **rights of women**; and the effects of **terrorism** on the enjoyment of human rights.

[All reports, when published, will be made available here.](#)

What's in print?

Special Procedures

Over the course of the 30th session, 12 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs) will present reports exploring issues and questions related to their mandate. Many of these thematic Special Rapporteurs will also present country mission reports (in addendum to their main reports). In addition, 4 country-specific Special Procedures will present reports on the human rights situation in the countries covered by their mandates and their engagement with the concerned state(s).

The Council's mechanisms

Country-specific mandates

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue ⁹
Special Rapporteur on Cambodia	29th September
Independent Expert Central African Republic	30th September
Independent Expert on Somalia	30th September
Independent Expert on Sudan	29th September

9. Dates liable to change

Thematic mandates

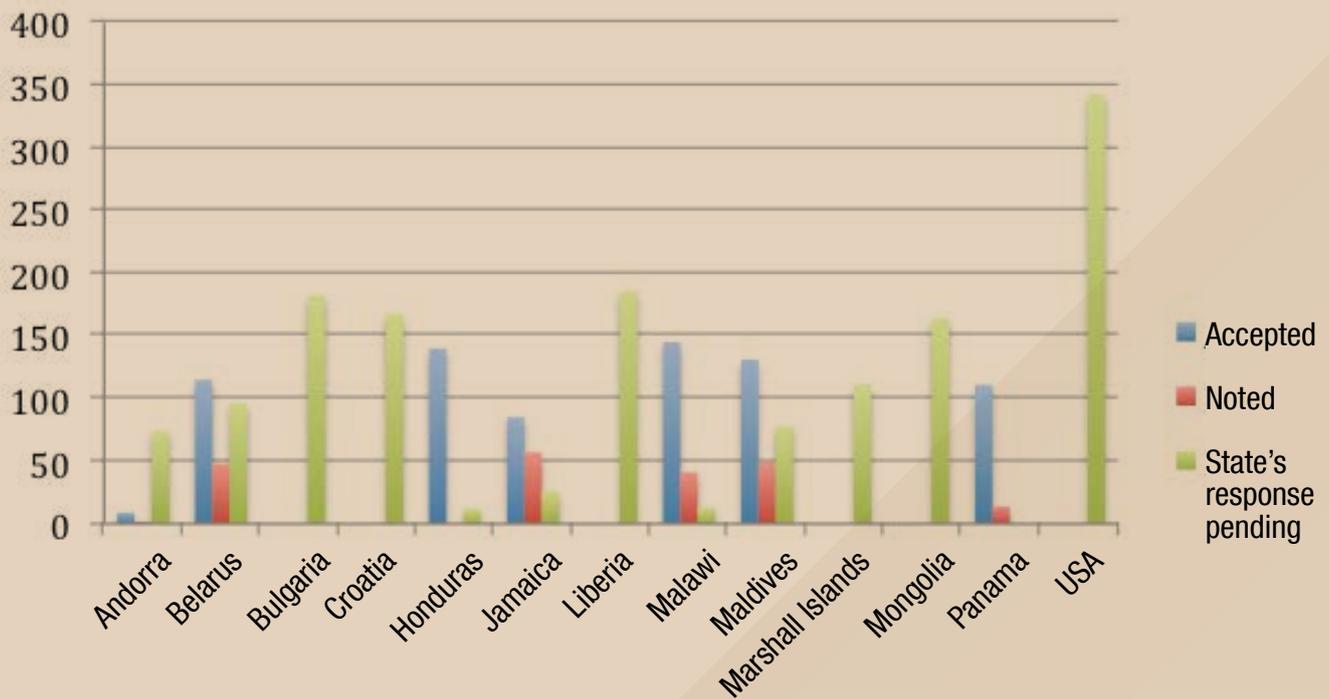
Mandate	Date of presentation reports and clustered interactive dialogue ¹⁰	Country mission reports (in addendum)
Working Group on arbitrary detention	14th September	Germany, New Zealand, Italy
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery	14th September	Niger, Belgium
Independent Expert on a democratic and equitable international order	16th September	
Working Group on enforced disappearances	15th September	Croatia, Mexico, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo, Timor Leste
Special Rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes	16th September	Kazakhstan
Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	22nd September	Paraguay
Independent Expert on the human rights of older persons	16th September	Slovenia, Austria, Mauritius
Working Group on the use of mercenaries	16th September	Côte D'Ivoire
Working Group of Experts on people of African descent	28th September	Netherlands, Sweden
Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation	16th September	Kenya
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation	15th September	Burundi
Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures	16th September	

10. Dates liable to change

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The UPR reports of 13 countries will be considered for adoption by the Council during its 30th session. On 24th September, the Council will consider and move to adopt the reports of Belarus, Malawi, Maldives, Mongolia, Panama and the US. On 25th September, it will consider and take action on the outcome reports of Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya and the Marshall Islands.

A plenary discussion of one hour is allocated for the adoption of each UPR outcome. At that time, the state under review (SuR) is expected to indicate which recommendations it 'accepts' and which it 'notes.' The hour is divided as follows: 20 minutes for the SuR to reply to questions and issues not sufficiently addressed during its review (in the UPR Working Group) and to respond to recommendations made by other states; 20 minutes for other states to take the floor and express their opinion on the outcome of the review; and 20 minutes for civil society, NGOs and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to make general comments, (these stakeholders are not allowed to speak during the actual review in the UPR Working Group - only at the time of adoption in the Council plenary).



From 31st August to 26th November (a period that covers HRC30), the UN Voluntary Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council, will support six 3-month fellowships for government representatives from: Bahamas, Nepal, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone and the Solomon Islands.

The Trust Fund will also help government representatives from Fiji, Grenada, Jamaica and Lesotho travel to Geneva and cover HRC30.

Trust fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS



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