



THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION AND POLITICAL INSIGHT ON THE
UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC37: the 37th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Monday 26th February to Friday 23rd March 2018 (4 week session),
Room XX, Palais des Nations

IN BRIEF

● A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to attend HRC37, including, *inter alia*: UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr Miroslav Lajčák, and the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, H.E. Mr Ignazio Cassis. In total, at least 99 officials are currently expected to speak during the three-day High-Level Segment, including five Heads of State or Government, 53 Ministers, and 13 Vice Ministers.

● The following Heads of State or Government will address the Council during its 37th session:

- H.E. Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- H.E. Mr. Alexander van der Bellen, President of Austria
- H.E. Mr. Dragan Čović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nvusi, President of Mozambique
- H.E. Mr. António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal

● On 7th March, H.E. Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will give an oral update on the human rights situation around the world. This will provide the basis for an Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on 8th March.

● During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner

or UN Secretary-General covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: Afghanistan; Cambodia; Colombia; Cyprus; Guatemala; Honduras; the Islamic Republic of Iran; Libya; Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; Occupied Syrian Golan; and Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Burundi; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of Congo; Eritrea; Haiti; Ukraine; and Yemen.

● It will also consider High-Commissioner/UN Secretary-General reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*: the safety of journalists; improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing, and reforming the Treaty Body system; access to justice under article 13 of CRPD; rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; role of economic, social and cultural rights for implementation of the 2030 Agenda; realization of the right to work; protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations; principles and guidance on the protection of human rights in vulnerable situations; and combatting intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief.

● The Council will consider regular reports (including, in some cases, country mission reports) from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 20 Special Procedures mandate-holders (five country-specific and 15 thematic), including those dealing with: foreign debt; adequate housing; human rights

defenders; torture; terrorism; cultural rights; freedom of religion or belief; truth and justice; environment; food; privacy; sale of children; disabilities; albinism; minorities; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Islamic Republic of Iran; Myanmar; Occupied Palestinian Territories; and Mali.

● At the end of the session, Council members will move to take action on between 34 and 42 draft resolutions and other draft texts; and to appoint new mandate-holders for the positions of Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and association; Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; Independent Expert on Mali; Independent Expert on a democratic and equitable international order: three members each from the African States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States for the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; and two members each from Africa and North America for the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

● The Programme of Work is subject to changes dependent on the approval of HRC strengthening measures proposed by the Bureau. The proposals can be found [here](#).



FOR THE FULL DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 37TH SESSION, PLEASE CLICK HERE.

PANEL DEBATES

THE 37TH SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD SIX PANEL DEBATES ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- The promotion and protection of human rights in the light of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism: challenges and opportunities (Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming) (26th February)
- High-level panel discussion on the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (28th February)
- Protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations (Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child) (5 March)

- Article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding access to justice (Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities) (7 March)
- High-level panel on violations of the human rights of children in the Syrian Arab Republic (13 March)
- Debate on promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination (Commemoration of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination) (16 March)



**CONCEPT NOTES ON THESE PANEL DISCUSSIONS
WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE HERE.**

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC37, States will consider 104 reports from the High Commissioner, the Secretary General, Advisory Committee, 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.

**NUMBER¹ – DRAFT
RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER
TEXTS AT HRC37¹**

Based on announcements made during the HRC37 organisational meeting, on the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC34), a number of important draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC37. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

 (Highlighted in pink = Initiative formally announced during HRC37 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution

Lead sponsor[s]²

Expected
agenda item

Vote history³

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor[s] ²	Expected agenda item	Vote history ³
Situation of human rights in Myanmar	Bulgaria (EU)	4	Consensus
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	Albania, Paraguay, United Kingdom, United States of America	4	Consensus
Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Bulgaria (EU), Japan	4	Consensus
Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, United States of America	4	Vote (22-12-13)
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America	4	Vote (27-8-12)
Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Pakistan (OIC), State of Palestine	7	Vote (30-2-15)

1. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number'. 2. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions. 3. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolution

Lead sponsor[s]²

Expected
agenda item

Vote history³

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor[s] ²	Expected agenda item	Vote history ³
Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Pakistan (OIC), State of Palestine	7	Vote (41-2-4)
Human Rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (26-3-18)
Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan (OIC), State of Palestine	7	Vote (36-2-9)
Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	Pakistan (OIC), State of Palestine	7	Vote (43-2-2)
Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus
Cooperation with Georgia	Georgia	10	Vote (18-5-24)
Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to non-discrimination in this context	Brazil, Finland, Germany, Namibia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Contribution of HRC to the application of the joint commitment to effectively combat the global problem of drugs	Albania, Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Uruguay, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Consensus
Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage	Argentina, Cyprus, , Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland, Serbia Switzerland	3	Annual	Consensus
Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia	3	Annual	Vote (28-15-4)
Freedom of religion or belief	Bulgaria (EU)	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights and the environment	Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights and unilateral coercive measures	Venezuela (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-15-1)
Integrity of the judicial system	Russian Federation	3	Biennial	Consensus
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism	Togo (African Group)	3	Triennial	Consensus
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	Cuba	3	Triennial	Consensus
Migrants from North Africa	Togo (African Group)	3	Triennial	Vote (32-14-0)

4. Based on 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.

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions

Lead sponsor(s)⁴

Expected
agenda
item

Periodicity⁵

Vote history⁶

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Need for an integrated approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the full enjoyment of human rights	South Africa	3	New initiative	N/A
Operationalizing synergies between the promotion and protection of all human rights, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Chile, Denmark	3	New initiative	N/A
Prevention of genocide	Armenia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic Ideal	Brazil, China, Congo, Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation	3	Biennial	Consensus
Promoting human rights and SDGs through transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kenya, Thailand, Turkey	3	New initiative	
Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social, and cultural rights	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities	Austria, Senegal, Slovenia	3	Biennial	Consensus
Rights of the Child in humanitarian situations	Bulgaria (EU), Uruguay (GRULAC)	3	Annual	Consensus
Right to Privacy in the Digital Age	Austria, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico	3	Triennial	Consensus
Right to work	Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Romania	3	Annual	Consensus

4. Based on 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.

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
The 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	Vote (31-16-0)
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	Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Togo (African Group)	3	Annual	Vote (30-1-16)
The rights of persons with disabilities	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
The right to food	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (45-1-1)
The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights	Australia, Chile, Poland, Republic of Korea, South Africa	3	Biennial	Consensus
Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Denmark	3	Biennial	Consensus
Combatting intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief	Pakistan (OIC)	9	Annual	Consensus
Elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Togo (African Group)	9	Annual	Vote (31-4-12)

4. Based on 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.

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC37*



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

TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF LDCS AND SIDS

The Trust Fund for the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council, which was set up in 2012, will fund the participation at HRC37 of 12 (four female and eight male) government officials. One-third of the beneficiaries are coming from States that are members of the Human Rights Council.

WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS FROM:

1. AFGHANISTAN*
2. ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
3. BAHAMAS
4. BANGLADESH*
5. BURUNDI
6. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
7. HAITI
8. MOZAMBIQUE
9. NEPAL*
10. SOUTH SUDAN*
11. SAINT-VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
12. YEMEN

* New beneficiaries of the Trust Fund

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

15 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts) will present reports exploring issues and questions related to their mandate. Many of these thematic Special Procedures will also present country mission reports (in addendum to their main reports). In addition, five country-specific Special Procedures 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
Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	12 th March
Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran	12 th March
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	12 th March
Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967	19 th March
Independent Expert on Mali	20 th March

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Independent Expert on foreign debt	28 th February	Tunisia, Panama, Switzerland
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	28 th February	
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	1 st March	Mexico, Australia
Special Rapporteur on torture	1 st March	Turkey

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on terrorism	1 st March	Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on cultural rights	1 st March	Serbia and Kosovo
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	2 nd March	Albania, Uzbekistan
Special Rapporteur on truth, justice and reparation	2 nd March	
Special Rapporteur on environment	2 nd March	Uruguay, Mongolia
Special Rapporteur on food	2 nd March	Zambia
Special Rapporteur on privacy	5 th March	
Special Rapporteur on the sale and of children	5 th March	Dominican Republic
Special Rapporteur on persons with disabilities	6 th March	Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan
Independent Expert on albinism	6 th March	United Republic of Tanzania
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	14 th March	

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

15TH MARCH

CZECHIA
ARGENTINA
GABON
GHANA
PERU*
GUATEMALA
SWITZERLAND*
REPUBLIC OF KOREA*

16TH MARCH

BENIN
PAKISTAN*
ZAMBIA
JAPAN*
UKRAINE*
SRI LANKA

* Council Members

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL STRENGTHENING

Since taking office in January the President and Bureau have begun conducting broad consultations with the aim of presenting measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. To this end the President has appointed three teams of two co-facilitators to hold consultations throughout the year in order to identify longterm measures to: improve the annual programme of work; rationalise resolutions and initiatives; and utilise modern technology.

Concurrently, the President has put forward proposals for short-term efficiency measures, with the aim of reducing the number of regular session meetings in 2018. The President's proposals seek to cluster and stagger general debates over the year, and to reduce the duration of panel discussions. These measures, which are still being deliberated at the time of print, would produce savings of approximately 11 meetings per year.



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