



# THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION  
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC38: the 38<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council

---

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (3 week session),  
Room XX, Palais des Nations

# IN BRIEF

● On 18<sup>th</sup> June, H.E. Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC38 with his last oral update as High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation around the world. The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will appoint a new High Commissioner in the summer.

● A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to address the Council, including *inter alia*, H.E. Mr Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia; H.E. Mr Boris Johnson, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom; H.E. Mr Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy of Qatar; and H.E. Ms Eva Kjer Hansen, Minister for Fisheries and Equal Opportunities and Minister for Nordic Cooperation of Denmark.

● During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: Haiti (development of a national action plan to implement recommendations of human rights mechanisms); and the Kasai regions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Myanmar; Ukraine; Burundi; and Georgia.

● It will also consider High Commissioner reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*:

- civil society engagement with international and

regional organisations;

- accountability and access to remedy of victims of business-related human rights abuses;
- human rights protection gaps in the context of migration due to climate change;
- engaging men and boys for gender equality;
- operations of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the UPR;
- how UN human rights bodies and mechanisms, country teams and agencies can, through effective, coherent and coordinated technical assistance and capacity-building in the promotion and protection of human rights support States in the realisation of the 2030 Agenda;
- contributions of the right to health framework to the effective implementation and achievement to the health-related SDGs.

● The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 18 Special Procedures (four country-specific and 14 thematic), including those dealing with: sexual orientation and gender identity; peaceful assembly and association; health; leprosy; international solidarity; freedom of expression; violence against women; discrimination against women; extreme poverty; Belarus; Eritrea; and the Central African Republic.

● The Council is expected to act on between 25 and 35 draft resolutions and other texts. It is expected to appoint new mandate-holders for the positions of Special Rapporteur on human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; two members of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (one from African States and the other from the Eastern European States); and a member of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means to violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (from Western European and Other States).



**FOR THE FULL DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION, PLEASE CLICK HERE.**

# PANEL DEBATES

THE 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD FOUR PANEL DEBATES ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- The impact of violence against women human rights defenders and women's organisations in digital spaces during the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women (21<sup>st</sup> June)
- Advancing women's rights through access and participation in information and communication technologies (ICTs) during the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women (22<sup>nd</sup> June)
- Panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (26<sup>th</sup> June)

- Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals: enhancing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building to contribute to the effective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights (4<sup>th</sup> July)

As a result of the adopted short-term efficiency measures, each Panel Discussion will be limited to 2 hours, with speaking times of 2 minutes.



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

## WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC38, States will consider 54 reports from the 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.**

**NUMBER<sup>1</sup> – DRAFT  
RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER  
TEXTS AT HRC38<sup>1</sup>**

The draft resolutions and texts tabulated below – based on announcements made during the HRC38 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC35) – are expected to be tabled during HRC38. 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 HRC38 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>2</sup>	Expected agenda item	Vote history <sup>3</sup>
<b>Situation of human rights in Belarus</b>	European Union	4	Vote (18-8-21)
<b>Situation of human rights in Eritrea</b>	Djibouti, Somalia	4	Consensus
<b>The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic</b>	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA	4	Vote (27-4-16)
<b>Cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights</b>	Ukraine	10	Vote (22-6-19)
<b>Technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions</b>	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus

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.

# THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>4</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>5</sup>	Vote history <sup>6</sup>
<b>Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women</b>	Canada	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Business and human rights</b>	Argentina, Ghana, Norway, Russian Federation	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Civil Society Space</b>	Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Vote (31-7-9)
<b>Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members</b>	Brazil, Ethiopia, Fiji, Japan, Morocco	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Elimination of discrimination against women and girls</b>	Colombia, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Elimination of female genital mutilation</b>	Togo (African Group)	3	Biennial	Consensus
<b>Elaboration of international legally binding instrument on TNCs and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights</b>	Ecuador, South Africa	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights</b>	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (32-2-13)
<b>Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality</b>	Russian Federation	3	Biennial	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) <sup>4</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>5</sup>	Vote history <sup>6</sup>
<b>Human rights and climate change</b>	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Human rights and international solidarity</b>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-15-0)
<b>Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and the use of firearms</b>	Ecuador, Peru	3	Annual	Vote (32-5-10)
<b>Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity</b>	Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay	3	Biennial	Vote (23-18-6)
<b>Operationalization of the Human Rights Council's prevention mandate</b>	Colombia, Norway, Sierra Leone, Switzerland	3	New initiative	N/A
<b>Promotion of the right to peace</b>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-11-4)
<b>Protection of the family</b>	Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia	3	Annual	Vote (30-12-5)
<b>Right to education</b>	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health</b>	Brazil, Mozambique, Paraguay, Portugal, Thailand	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) <sup>4</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>5</sup>	Vote history <sup>6</sup>
<b>Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association</b>	Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Maldives, Mexico, United States of America	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Social Forum</b>	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests</b>	Costa Rica, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Vote (31-5-10)
<b>The protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)</b>	Brazil, Colombia, Mozambique, Portugal, Thailand	3	Triennial	Consensus
<b>The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the internet</b>	Brazil, Nigeria, Sweden, Tunisia, United States of America	3	Biennial	Consensus
<b>Contribution of parliaments to the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review</b>	Ecuador, Italy, the Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Spain	5	Annual	Consensus
<b>The incompatibility between democracy and racism</b>	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay	9	Triennial	Consensus
<b>Consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African Descent</b>	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru, Togo (African Group)	9	Annual	Consensus
<b>National policies and human rights</b>	Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, Romania, Thailand	10	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.

# 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 support the participation of eight (seven female and one male) government officials at HRC38. Three of them do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva (Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tonga). For all of them, it will be their first time attending a regular session of the Council.

Since it became operational in 2014, the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has supported 105 Delegates and Fellows (62 women, 43 men) who came from 69 LDCs/SIDS (33 from Africa, 22 from Asia & the Pacific, 14 from the Caribbean and Latin America). The Trust Fund has now supported the participation of all eligible LDCs/SIDS from Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America in the Council.

The Trust Fund will celebrate its 100th Beneficiary delegate this Session and welcome participants from:

## WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS FROM:

- |    |                  |    |            |
|----|------------------|----|------------|
| 1. | JAMAICA          | 5. | SEYCHELLES |
| 2. | MARSHALL ISLANDS | 6. | SUDAN      |
| 3. | MAURITIUS        | 7. | TONGA      |
| 4. | SAMOA            | 8. | ZAMBIA     |



# SPECIAL PROCEDURES

14 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC 38. In addition, four 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 <sup>10</sup>
<b>Special Rapporteur on Belarus</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Special Rapporteur on Eritrea</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Special Rapporteur on Myanmar</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Independent Expert on Central African Republic</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> July

## THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
<b>Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June	Argentina
<b>Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly and association</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June	
<b>Special Rapporteur on health</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June	Armenia, Indonesia
<b>Special Rapporteur on leprosy</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June	

<sup>10</sup> Dates liable to change

# THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
<b>Special Rapporteur on international solidarity</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Cuba
<b>Special Rapporteur on right to education</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Côte d'Ivoire
<b>Special Rapporteur on summary executions</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> June	El Salvador, Iraq
<b>Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Mexico
<b>Special Rapporteur on violence against women</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Australia, Bahamas
<b>Special Rapporteur on migrants</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Nepal
<b>Working Group discrimination against women</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Chad, Samoa
<b>Special Rapporteur on trafficking</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Cuba
<b>Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> June	Ghana, United States of America
<b>Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> June	El Salvador, Libya, Niger
<b>Working Group on transnational corporations and human rights</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Canada, Peru
<b>Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Poland
<b>Special Rapporteur on racism</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	

# UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL DURING HRC38

28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

FRANCE  
TONGA  
ROMANIA  
MALI

BOTSWANA  
BAHAMAS,  
BURUNDI\*

29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

LUXEMBOURG  
BARBADOS  
MONTENEGRO  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES\*

ISRAEL  
LIECHTENSTEIN  
SERBIA

\* Council Members

## MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC38\*



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



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA

---



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP

The content of this document does not represent the official position of the Permanent Mission of Singapore