



THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC38: the 38th regular session of the Human Rights Council

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

IN BRIEF

● On 18th 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 38TH SESSION, PLEASE CLICK HERE.

PANEL DEBATES

THE 38TH 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 (21st 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 (22nd June)
- Panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (26th 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 (4th 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.

NUMBER¹ – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC38¹

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) ²	Expected agenda item	Vote history ³
Situation of human rights in Belarus	European Union	4	Vote (18-8-21)
Situation of human rights in Eritrea	Djibouti, Somalia	4	Consensus
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA	4	Vote (27-4-16)
Cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights	Ukraine	10	Vote (22-6-19)
Technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions	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) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women	Canada	3	Annual	Consensus
Business and human rights	Argentina, Ghana, Norway, Russian Federation	3	Annual	Consensus
Civil Society Space	Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Vote (31-7-9)
Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members	Brazil, Ethiopia, Fiji, Japan, Morocco	3	Annual	Consensus
Elimination of discrimination against women and girls	Colombia, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
Elimination of female genital mutilation	Togo (African Group)	3	Biennial	Consensus
Elaboration of international legally binding instrument on TNCs and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights	Ecuador, South Africa	3	Annual	Consensus
Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (32-2-13)
Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality	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) ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Human rights and climate change	Bangladesh, Philippines, Viet Nam	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights and international solidarity	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-15-0)
Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and the use of firearms	Ecuador, Peru	3	Annual	Vote (32-5-10)
Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity	Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay	3	Biennial	Vote (23-18-6)
Operationalization of the Human Rights Council's prevention mandate	Colombia, Norway, Sierra Leone, Switzerland	3	New initiative	N/A
Promotion of the right to peace	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-11-4)
Protection of the family	Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia	3	Annual	Vote (30-12-5)
Right to education	Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	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] ⁴	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ⁵	Vote history ⁶
Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Maldives, Mexico, United States of America	3	Annual	Consensus
Social Forum	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests	Costa Rica, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Vote (31-5-10)
The protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	Brazil, Colombia, Mozambique, Portugal, Thailand	3	Triennial	Consensus
The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the internet	Brazil, Nigeria, Sweden, Tunisia, United States of America	3	Biennial	Consensus
Contribution of parliaments to the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review	Ecuador, Italy, the Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Spain	5	Annual	Consensus
The incompatibility between democracy and racism	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay	9	Triennial	Consensus
Consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African Descent	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru, Togo (African Group)	9	Annual	Consensus
National policies and human rights	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 | | |

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 dialogue¹⁰

Special Rapporteur on Belarus	25 th June
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	25 th – 26 th June
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	27 th June
Independent Expert on Central African Republic	4 th July

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate

Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue

Country mission reports

Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity	18 th June	Argentina
Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly and association	18 th June	
Special Rapporteur on health	18 th June	Armenia, Indonesia
Special Rapporteur on leprosy	18 th June	

¹⁰ Dates liable to change

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate

Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue

Country mission reports

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

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

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

28TH JUNE

FRANCE
TONGA
ROMANIA
MALI

BOTSWANA
BAHAMAS,
BURUNDI*

29TH JUNE

LUXEMBOURG
BARBADOS
MONTENEGRO
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES*

ISRAEL
LIECHTENSTEIN
SERBIA

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC38*



A word cloud of common themes from HRC38. The word 'Women' is the largest and most prominent, centered in green. Other words include 'health' (blue), 'transnational corporations' (orange), 'technology/digital/internet' (orange), 'peaceful assembly and association' (teal), 'internally displaced persons' (teal), 'summary executions' (teal), 'leprosy' (teal), 'parliaments' (teal), 'SDGs' (orange), 'Racism' (orange), 'Syria' (orange), 'SOGI' (orange), 'migrants' (orange), 'Civil Society Space' (orange), 'International solidarity' (teal), 'right to education' (teal), 'business and human rights' (teal), 'human rights defenders' (teal), 'Myanmar' (teal), 'Eritrea' (teal), and 'Belarus' (teal). The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central 'Women' word.

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



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