



# THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC39: the 39th regular session of the Human Rights Council

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Monday 10th September to Friday 28th September 2018 (3 week session),  
Room XX, Palais des Nations

# IN BRIEF

● The new High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Michelle Bachelet will present her first oral update on 10th September on the human rights situation around the world.

● A number of high-level dignitaries are expected to address the Council, including *inter alia*, H.E. Mr Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, and H.E. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations of the United Kingdom.

● During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (in the electoral context), Georgia, and Yemen. The High Commissioner will furthermore deliver oral updates on the situations in Libya, and Ukraine.

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

- right to development;
- question of the death penalty;
- national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- available mechanisms concerned with ensuring

the safety of journalists;

- draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs;
- the promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age, including the responsibility of business enterprises in this regards;
- best practices and specific measures to ensure access to birth registration, particularly for those children most at risk;
- youth and human rights;
- mental health and human rights;
- rights of indigenous peoples;
- the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights;
- cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

● On Friday 14th September the President of ECOSOC will brief the Council on the discussions of the high-level political forum as requested by Council [resolution 37/25](#).

● The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 17 Special Procedures (four country-specific and 13 thematic), including those dealing with: contemporary forms of slavery; international order; rights of older persons; water and sanitation; enforced disappearances; arbitrary

detention; use of mercenaries; hazardous wastes; right to development; unilateral coercive measures; truth, justice and reparations; rights of indigenous peoples; Cambodia; Central African Republic; Somalia; and Sudan.

● The Council is expected to act on between 24 and 31 draft resolutions and other texts. It is expected to appoint new mandate-holders for the positions of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, and a member (from WEOG) to the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.



**FOR THE FULL DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION, PLEASE CLICK HERE.**

# PANEL DEBATES

THE 39TH SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD THREE PANEL DEBATES ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- High-level panel discussion to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (13th September)
- Participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development and implementation of strategies and projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples (19th September)

- Gender integration and human rights investigations: strengthening a victim-centered approach during the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms (24th September)

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 for all delegations and observers.



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

## WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC39, States will consider 74 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.**

## NUMBER<sup>1</sup> – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC39<sup>1</sup>

The draft resolutions and texts tabulated below – based on announcements made during the HRC39 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC36) – are expected to be tabled during HRC39. 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 HRC39 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>2</sup>	Expected agenda item	Vote history <sup>3</sup>
<b>Mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the human rights situation and accountability in Burundi</b>	Togo (African Group, minus Botswana and Rwanda)	2	Vote (23-14-9)
<b>Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar</b>	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Consensus
<b>Renewal of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi</b>	European Union	4	Vote (22-11-14)
<b>Situation of human rights in Myanmar</b>	European Union	4	Vote (32-5-10)
<b>The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic</b>	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom	4	Vote (26-5-15)

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 resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>4</sup>	Expected agenda item	Vote history <sup>6</sup>
<b>Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights</b>	Australia, Italy, Togo (African Group), Turkey, United Kingdom	10	Consensus
<b>Human rights, technical assistance and capacitybuilding in Yemen</b>	Egypt (Arab Group)	10	Consensus
<b>Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic</b>	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus
<b>Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	Togo (African Group)	10	Vote (45-1-1)
<b>Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Sudan</b>	Togo (African Group)	10	Consensus

## THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) <sup>4</sup>	Expected agenda item	Periodicity <sup>5</sup>	Vote history <sup>6</sup>
<b>Equal participation in political and public affairs</b>	Botswana, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Netherlands, Peru	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Human rights and indigenous people</b>	Guatemala, Mexico	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>Human rights and transitional justice</b>	Argentina, Morocco, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Vote (29-1-17)
<b>Human rights and unilateral coercive measures</b>	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (30-15-1)
<b>Impact of arms transfers on human rights</b>	Ecuador, Peru	3	Annual	Vote (32-5-10)
<b>The Impacts of the control systems on the International Watercourse on the Rights of Safe Water, Food and Environment and Its Influence on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.</b>	Iraq	3	New initiative	N/A
<b>Local government and human rights</b>	Chile, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Romania	3	Biennial	Consensus
<b>Mental health and human rights</b>	Brazil, Portugal	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights</b>	Burkina Faso, Colombia, Estonia, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
<b>Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order</b>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-15-0)
<b>Right to development</b>	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (31-11-4)
<b>The full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda</b>	Brazil (Community of Portuguese speaking countries)	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>The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation</b>	Germany, Spain	3	Biennial	Vote (42-1-4)
<b>The safety of journalists</b>	Austria, Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus
<b>The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination</b>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (32-15-0)
<b>Unaccompanied migrant children</b>	El Salvador	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>World Programme for Human Rights Education</b>	Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand	3	Annual	Consensus
<b>Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas</b>	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, South Africa	5	Annual	Vote (34-2-11)
<b>National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights</b>	Australia	8	Biennial	Consensus
<b>Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights</b>	Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey	10	Annual	Consensus
<b>National policies and human rights</b>	Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, Romania, Thailand	10	Annual	Consensus
<b>Promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms, and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b>	Brazil, Paraguay	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 five (three female and two male) government officials at HRC39. One of them does not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva (Tuvalu).

## WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS FROM:

1. AFGHANISTAN\*
2. BHUTAN
3. NIGER
4. THE GAMBIA
5. TUVALU

\* Council Member

# SPECIAL PROCEDURES

13 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC 39. 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 Cambodia</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Independent Expert on Somalia</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Independent Expert on Sudan</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Independent Expert on Central African Republic</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> September

## THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
<b>Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September	Paraguay
<b>Independent Expert on international order</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September	Venezuela, Ecuador
<b>Independent Expert on the rights of older persons</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Georgia, Montenegro
<b>Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> September	India, Mongolia

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

# THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate

Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue

Country mission reports

<b>Working Group on enforced disappearances</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September	The Gambia
<b>Working Group on arbitrary detention</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September	Argentina, Sri Lanka
<b>Working Group on use of mercenaries</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September	Ghana
<b>Special Rapporteur on hazardous wastes</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September	Sierra Leone, Denmark and Greenland
<b>Special Rapporteur on the right to development</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September	
<b>Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September	European Union
<b>Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparation</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Sri Lanka
<b>Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples</b>	19 <sup>st</sup> September	Mexico, Guatemala
<b>Working Group of experts on People of African Descent</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> September	Guyana, Spain

## MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC39\*



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

# UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

THE UPR OUTCOME REPORTS OF 14 STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL DURING HRC39

20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

TURKMENISTAN  
BURKINA FASO  
CABO VERDE  
COLOMBIA

UZBEKISTAN  
TUVALU  
GERMANY\*  
DJIBOUTI

CANADA  
BANGLADESH  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
AZERBAIJAN

CAMEROON  
CUBA\*

\* Council Members



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