
Towards 2026: Perspectives on the future of the Human Rights Council

Programme

On 27-28 May 2019, the Government of Switzerland, supported by the Universal Rights Group, and in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Botswana, Fiji, Iceland, Mexico and Thailand, will host the 6th edition of the Glion Human Rights Dialogue designed to provide an open platform for dialogue and fresh thinking on the future of the Human Rights Council. The Dialogue will take place at the Hotel Le Mirador in Chardonne (near Vevey), Switzerland.

The title of the 2019 Glion Human Rights Dialogue (‘Glion VI’) is:

Towards 2026: Perspectives on the future of the Human Rights Council

The Glion Human Rights Dialogue is a retreat-style event bringing together around 60 human rights practitioners and thinkers. It is designed to provide an optimal atmosphere for honest and frank exchange, and new and innovative thinking. The meeting is held under the ‘Chatham House rule.’

Monday 27th May

11h30-13h30: Registration

12h30-13h30: Lunch for all participants (buffet)
13h45-15h10: **Opening plenary**  
(Interpretation EN-FR provided)  
*Room: Montreux*

**Chair:** H.E. Mr. Valentin ZELLWEGER, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Switzerland

13h50-14h00: **Welcome and introductory remarks**  
H.E. Mr. Frank GRÜTTER, Ambassador, Head of the United Nations and International Organisations Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

14h00-14h30: **Keynote addresses:** ‘Towards 2026: Perspectives on the future of the Human Rights Council’

**Keynote addresses:**  
H.E. Mr. Coly SECK, President of the Human Rights Council  
H.E. Ms. Kate GILMORE, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights  
H.E. Mr. Fabrizio HOCHSCHILD, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination, United Nations

14h30-15h10: **Q&A with the four speakers**

15h15-18h30: **Parallel breakout groups**  
*(Including short coffee break at around 16h45)*
Participants will divide into three parallel breakout groups for more in-depth interactive discussion. Each will start with a short presentation of key themes and ideas generated by the four pre-Glion policy dialogues, convened by the Permanent Missions of Botswana, Iceland, Mexico and Thailand.

Each breakout group will include around 20 participants and will be chaired by a facilitator-rapporteur.

Each group will be asked to produce a short summary of key conclusions together with three 'headline' goals and six specific, precise and achievable recommendations. The summaries will be presented during the closing plenary session (morning of Tuesday 28 May) by the three facilitator-rapporteurs.

The three parallel breakout groups are:

1. The contribution of the Human Rights Council to the General Assembly’s (GA) 2021-2026 review of the Council’s status (interpretation EN-FR provided)
   a. Does the broad sense, evident at Glion V, that the Council and ‘Geneva’ should contribute to the GA’s ‘2021-2026’ status review still hold and, if so, what should be the nature of that contribution?
   b. How should such a contribution be elaborated and made available to the GA?
   c. What are the main messages the Council and ‘Geneva’ would like to communicate to the GA?

Room: Vevey
Facilitator-rapporteur: Ms. Barbara SCHEDLER FISCHER, Minister, Deputy Head of Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Short summary of main conclusions and proposed actions from the 2nd May policy dialogue hosted by the Permanent Mission of Botswana and the 9th May policy dialogue hosted by the Permanent Mission of Iceland in New York

Key discussants: Mr. Eric TISTOUNET, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR

H.E. Mr. Morten JESPERSEN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Denmark

Ms. Chahinda Emadeldin Hussein MOHAMED, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Egypt

Mr. Phil LYNCH, Director, International Service for Human Rights

2. Implementation support and follow-up by the international human rights system

   a. How do Special Procedures currently follow-up on the implementation of their recommendations, track and measure progress, and mobilise ‘implementation support’ to those States that so request it?

   b. How is the UPR’s ‘in-built’ follow-up mechanism working in practice (i.e. subsequent UPR reports updating the UPR Working Group on the implementation of previous recommendations)? Are national reports, UN system reports, and ‘other stakeholder’ reports proving equally effective as follow-up mechanisms? How do reviewing States follow-up on and,
potentially, support the implementation of recommendations they have extended?

c. Is the UN human rights system well equipped to ensure follow-up to the important quantity of thematic and country-specific resolutions adopted at each session?

d. How do OHCHR and other relevant UN programmes and agencies follow-up with States to support them, where requested, with the domestic implementation of recommendations from the Council’s two main mechanisms – Special Procedures and the UPR, (perhaps also in combination with Treaty Body recommendations)? How do different UN programmes and agencies ensure coherence and avoid duplication in the delivery of implementation support?

Room: Chardonne 1-3

Facilitator-rapporteur: Mr. Sam ZARIFI, Secretary-General, International Commission of Jurists

Short summary of main conclusions and proposed actions from the 8th May policy dialogue hosted by the Permanent Mission of Thailand

Key discussants: Ms. Hawla DIDI, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives

Mr. Dainius PŪRAS, Chair, Coordination Committee of Special Procedures

Mr. Gianni MAGAZENNI, Chief, UPR Branch, OHCHR

Professor Bongani Christopher MAJOLA, Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission
3. Emerging issues and developing effective Council responses

a. What are the key human rights trends, and emerging issues and challenges likely to occupy the Council’s attention by 2026?

b. Has the Council already considered [some or all of] these issues, what responses has it designed to address them, and how effective have those responses been?

c. Is there a need to think ‘outside the box’ with regard to the human rights dimensions of these issues, and develop new mind-sets and approaches?

d. What is the impact of new trends, such as the further development and spread of digital technologies and fora (e.g. big data, artificial intelligence), on the Council’s agenda and functioning?

Room: Boardroom One

Facilitator-rapporteur: H.E. Nazhat Shameem KHAN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Fiji

Short summary of main conclusions and proposed actions from the 11th April policy dialogue hosted by the Permanent Mission of Mexico

Key discussants: H.E. Ms. Ji-Ah PAIK, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Brett SOLOMON, Executive Director, Access Now

Ms. Eli Ane LUND, Head of the Secretariat, Council on Ethics, Government Pension Fund of Norway

Mr. Yves LADOR, Geneva Representative, EarthJustice
19h30: Reception

20h15: Dinner

Tuesday 28th May

08h00-09h30: Breakfast and checkout

09h30-11h30: Closing plenary – reporting back, panel discussion, conclusions and recommendations (Interpretation EN-FR provided)
Room: Vevey-Montreux

Chair: H.E. Mr Valentin ZELLWEGER, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Switzerland

09h30-09h45: Welcome by the Chair

09h45-11h30: Reporting back and panel discussion

Ms. Barbara SCHEDLER FISCHER, Deputy Head of Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Sam ZARIFI, Secretary-General, ICJ

H.E. Ms Nazhat Shameem KHAN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Fiji
Mr. Anders PEDERSEN, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN in Jordan

Ms. Marthe COULIBALY, National Coordinator, Coalition Ivoirienne des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CIDDH)

*Interactive discussion*

**11h30-12h00: Conclusions and next steps**

H.E. Mr. Valentin ZELLWEGER, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Switzerland

**12h00: End of Glion Human Rights Dialogue**