

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC43: the 43rd regular session
of the Human Rights Council

Monday 24th February to Friday 20th March 2020
(4 week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations

IN BRIEF

■ Over 100 high-level dignitaries and officials are expected to attend the three-day High-Level Segment of HRC43, including, *inter alia*: H.E. Mr. Milo Đukanović, President of Montenegro, H.E. Ms. Mariella Mularoni and H.E. Mr. Luca Boschi, Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, H.E. Mr. Faiez Mustafa Serraj, President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya, H.E. Ms. Epsy Campbell Barr, Vice-President of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Yousef Al Othaimen, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, H.E. Ms. Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the General Assembly. So far, a total of four heads or deputy heads of State, and 90 ministers or vice-ministers are scheduled to address the Council.

■ On 27 February, H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, 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 27 and 28 February.

■ During the session, the Council will consider country-specific reports by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General covering human rights issues in, *inter alia*: Afghanistan, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the Occupied Syrian Golan. The High Commissioner will deliver oral updates on the situations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of

Congo, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Yemen.

■ The Council will also consider High Commissioner and Secretary-General reports on a number of thematic issues, including *inter alia*:

- combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief;
- implications of the lack of integrity of the judicial system for human rights;
- question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights;
- realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment;
- safety of journalists and the issue of impunity;

■ The Council will consider reports from, and hold interactive dialogues with, 19 Special Procedures (five country-specific and 14 thematic), including those dealing with: persons with disabilities; environment; adequate housing; food; torture; freedom of religion or belief; foreign debt; sale of children; albinism; cultural rights; counter terrorism; human rights defenders; privacy; minority issues; the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Eritrea; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Mali; and Myanmar.

■ The Council is expected to act on between 40 and 45 draft resolutions and other texts. Additionally, it is expected to appoint 19 new mandate-holders¹. More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found [here](#)².

For the full draft programme of work for the 43rd session, please click [here](#)³.

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/sp/pages/welcomepage.aspx>

2. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx>

3. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session43/Documents/POW_HRC43_EN.doc

IMPACT OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEASURES DURING THE HRC

The President has announced that the Council will face several restrictions due to the Special Emergency Measures being imposed as a result of the liquidity crisis in the UN. These will include *inter alia*: the possibility of having to extend the session beyond four weeks depending on the number of speakers and time needed for procedural debates and rights of reply; stringent time management for all agenda items; the starting of all scheduled debates back-to-back, even if there is only sufficient time to present the opening statement; and discouraging the visits of high-level dignitaries outside of the high-level segment. Updates will be provided through SMS alerts and announcements in the room.

MEASURES TO ASSIST SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

As part of the implementation of HRC/PRST/OS/13/1, dated 6 December 2019, the OHCHR will continue running the **HRC Help Desk for SIDS and LDCs**, to facilitate the understanding of issues raised at the HRC and enhance small State delegates' participation in the session. The Help Desk will be held on Tuesday 18th February and every subsequent Wednesday from 26th February until 18th March in the Palais des Nations, Building E, Room E-3064 from 1000-1200hrs. While the Help Desk operates on a walk-in basis, delegates are encouraged to book an appointment by writing to the following email address: HRCdesksmallPM@ohchr.org.

Following a successful trial at the 41st and 42nd session of the HRC, the use of the online tool, E-Delegates, will continue in order to facilitate delegates' work during the HRC. The tool will allow delegates to circulate, table and co-sponsor resolutions, amongst others. It is accessible through the following link: <http://delegate.un.int>.

The OHCHR has also reiterated its commitment to take steps to avoid scheduling concurrent informals, in so far as possible. This will alleviate the burden on small delegations who are unable to cover multiple meetings at the same time.



UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
ANTONIO GUTERRES
ADDRESSING THE UN
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



PANEL DEBATES

The 43rd session is scheduled to hold four panel debates on the following subjects:

- Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming – Thirty years of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: challenges and opportunities (24 February)
- High-level panel discussion commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the fourth World Conference on Women (25 February)
- Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities – Article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on awareness-raising (6 March)
- Debate on the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent (13 March)

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available [here](#)⁴.

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC43, States will consider 88 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](#)⁵.

4. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session43/Pages/43RegularSession.aspx>

5. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session43/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC43⁶

Based on announcements made during the HRC43 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC40), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC43. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

(* = initiative formally announced during HRC43 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ⁷	Expected agenda item	Vote history ^{8,9}
Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including east Jerusalem*	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Vote (23-8-15)
Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua	Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru	2	Vote (23-3-21)
Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*	Croatia (EU)	4	Consensus
Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*	North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, United Kingdom	4	Vote (22-7-18)

6. When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

7. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

8. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

9. Vote results are represented as YES – NO – ABSTAIN

Situation of human rights in Myanmar*	Croatia (EU)	4	Vote (37-3-7)
Situation of human rights in South Sudan*	Albania, Norway, United Kingdom	4	Consensus
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic*	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom	4	Vote (28-5-14)
Human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (26-16-5)
Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (39-3-5)
Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (32-5-10)
Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination*	Pakistan (OIC)	7	Vote (41-3-2)
Cooperation with Georgia*	Georgia	10	Vote (19-3-25)
Technical assistance and capacity building for Mali in the field of human rights*	Burkina Faso (African Group)	10	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya*	Burkina Faso (African Group)	10	Consensus

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ¹⁰	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ¹¹	Vote history ¹²
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
Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law*	Mexico, Turkey	3	Triennial	Consensus
Persons with disabilities – focusing on Articles 8 and 26 of the CRPD	Mexico, New Zealand	3	Biennial	Consensus
Freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*	Canada, the Netherlands	3	Triennial	Consensus
Freedom of religion or belief*	Croatia (EU)	3	Annual	Consensus
Human rights of migrants: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants*	Mexico	3	Triennial	Consensus
Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities*	Austria, Mexico, Slovenia	3	Biennial	Consensus

10. Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

11. Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

12. Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*	Norway	3	Triennial	Consensus
Mental health and human rights*	Brazil, Portugal	3	Triennial	Consensus
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
Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay	3	Biennial	Consensus
Promotion of the enjoyment of cultural rights of everyone and respect of cultural diversity*	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights*	Armenia, Belgium, Mexico, Senegal, Thailand	3	Triennial	Consensus
Right to work*	Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Romania	3	Biennial	Consensus

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 (27-14-6)
The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights*	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote (27-15-5)
The right to food*	Cuba	3	Annual	Consensus
Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: mandate of the Special Rapporteur*	Denmark	3	Triennial	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
Mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action*	Burkina Faso (African Group)	9	Triennial	Vote (46-1-0)
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance*	Burkina Faso (African Group)	9	Triennial	Consensus

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS MICHELLE
BACHELET DURING THE 42ND
SESSION OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL



THE COUNCIL’S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

14 thematic Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs, and Independent Experts) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC43. In addition, five country-specific Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts) 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). On 11th March, Prof. Anita Ramasatry, Chair of the Coordination Committee will also present the annual report of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/ oral updates and interactive dialogue ¹³
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	26th February
Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	6th March
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	9th March
Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran	9th March
Independent Expert on Mali	17th March

13. Dates may be changed depending on latest Programme of Work

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	28th February	Canada Kuwait Norway
Special Rapporteur on torture	28th February	Comoros
Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment	2nd March	Fiji Norway
Independent Expert on foreign debt	2nd March	Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Mongolia
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	2nd March	Netherlands Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children	2nd – 3rd March	Bulgaria
Independent Expert on albinism	3rd March	South Africa
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	3rd March	Azerbaijan Zimbabwe
Special Rapporteur on cultural rights	3rd – 4th March	The Maldives Poland
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders	4th March	Colombia Mongolia
Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism	4th March	Kazakhstan
Special Rapporteur on privacy	4th – 5th March	
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	5th March	France Nigeria
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	11th March	Spain

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

**THE UPR OUTCOME
REPORTS OF 14 STATES
WILL BE CONSIDERED
FOR ADOPTION BY THE
COUNCIL DURING HRC43
(EXPECTED 12TH-13TH
MARCH)**

ANGOLA*, BOLIVIA
(PLURINATIONAL STATE OF),
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
FIJI*, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR,
THE GAMBIA, IRAN (ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF), IRAQ, ITALY*,
KAZAKHSTAN, MADAGASCAR,
SAN MARINO, SLOVENIA

* Council Members

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 10 (six female and four male) government officials at HRC43. For all of them it will be their first time participating in a regular session of the Council.

At HRC43 the Trust Fund will support the participation of delegates from the following LDCs and SIDS:

- ANGOLA*
- BANGLADESH*
- BARBADOS
- BURKINA FASO*
- CAMBODIA
- GUYANA
- HAITI
- MALDIVES
- REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS*
- SOLOMON ISLANDS

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC43*



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



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