

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC51: the 51st regular session
of the Human Rights Council

Monday 12 September – 7 October 2022
(4-week session), Room XX, Palais des Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Ambassador Federico Villegas (Argentina)
President of the 16th Cycle of the Human Rights Council

IN BRIEF

- On **12th September**, Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC51 with an **oral update on the human rights situation around the world**. This oral update together with other country specific oral updates given by the Deputy High Commissioner will provide the basis for the general debate under Item 2 on 13th and 14th September.

- During the session, the Council will consider **country-specific reports** submitted by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General covering human rights issues in, inter alia: Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Nicaragua, Philippines and Yemen. Additionally, the Deputy High Commissioner will also deliver an **oral update** on Belarus, Myanmar and Ukraine.

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

- [Civil society space: COVID-19: the road to recovery and the essential role of civil society](#)
- Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights
- [Human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people](#)
- [Local government and human rights](#)
- [National human rights institutions](#)
- [Negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit](#)

[origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation](#)

- [Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

- [Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers](#)

- Question of the death penalty

- [Right to development](#)

- [Rights of indigenous peoples](#)

- [Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity](#)

- The Council will hold **20 interactive dialogues with Special Procedures** (14 thematic and six country-specific), including those dealing with: arbitrary detention; enforced disappearances; hazardous substances and wastes; international order; mercenaries; older persons; people of African Descent; right to development (Special Rapporteur and Expert Mechanism); rights of indigenous peoples; slavery; truth, justice and reparation; unilateral coercive measures; water and sanitation; Afghanistan; Burundi; Cambodia; Central African Republic; Myanmar (oral progress report); and Somalia.

- In addition, the Council will also hold **four interactive dialogues with a number of investigative mechanisms**, including the International Commission of Human Experts on Ethiopia, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, the Commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, and the Fact-finding mission on Venezuela.

- The Council will also hold **four enhanced interactive dialogues** with the High Commissioner and the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement, on the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, on report of the High Commissioner and experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo, and on the High Commissioner's report on the Philippines.

- In accordance with [HRC/PRST/OS/13/1](#) all the Interactive Dialogues will be individual.

- The Council is expected to act on around 41 draft resolutions. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set **on the 28th September 2022 at 13h00 CEST**. Moreover, the President of the Human Rights Council will present a Presidential draft decision during the 51st session on appropriate support to the Council. The President highlighted that it would contain purely practical elements aiming to provide the Council providing it with the adequate resources to be able to carry out its work.

- Additionally, it is expected to appoint **four new mandate-holders to Special Procedures** (the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons,¹ the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, and one member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (member from Eastern European States).² More information on the appointment process and the candidates can be found [here](#).³

- Three elections will be held to elect **nine members of the Advisory Committee** at the 51st session of the Human Rights Council. The regular election to elect seven members of the Advisory Committee, to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 30 September 2022 (two members from the African Group, two members from the Asia Pacific Group, one member from the Eastern European Group, one member from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and one member from the Western European and Others Group). Furthermore, two by-elections will be held to fill two casual vacancies.

- At the 51st session of the Human Rights Council no UPR was concluded. At the 51st session of the Human Rights Council no UPR outcome report will be considered for adoption. The fourth cycle of the UPR is expected to commence in October/November 2022.

For the full draft programme of work for HRC51, please click [here](#).⁴

1 The appointment of the mandate holder will be made provided the mandate itself is extended by the Human Rights Council.

2 The appointment of the mandate holder will be made provided the mandate itself is extended by the Human Rights Council.

3 <http://ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc51>

4 <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/regularsession/session51/2022-08-22/POW-HRC51-E-22-aout-2022.doc>

IMPACT OF THE SPECIAL MEASURES TO COMBAT COVID-19 DURING THE HRC

- The 51st session of the Human Rights Council is scheduled to take place in room XX of the Palais des Nations from 12 September to 7 October 2022. As per the previous session, the capacity of room XX is no longer restricted.

- There continues to be broad interest in maintaining hybrid modalities for the 51st session in order to ensure inclusivity. States and NGOs with consultative status with ECOSOC should be able to participate in the session either in person from room XX or virtually through Zoom or pre-recorded video messages.

- NGOs with consultative status with the ECOSOC and active Designations with UNOG will be able to choose their preferred method of participation, either in-person or by a video message, for all debates through the online registration system (<https://ngoreg.ohchr.org>), which opens on 6 September at 16h00 CEST. The method of participation can be amended at a later stage for interactive dialogues and panel discussions. This change will not affect the position on the list of speakers. However, this will not be possible, for technical reasons, for General debates.

- For both methods of participation (i.e., in-person or by video message), it is mandatory to upload a transcript.

- The deadline to upload a video statement or to confirm the speaking slot in case of an in-person intervention is at 6 p.m. on the day before the debate is scheduled to start.

- In order to balance the importance of inclusivity and what is feasible in terms of time and resources, the list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates would be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous three September session (the 42nd, the 45th and the 48th sessions, respectively). Moreover, NGOs would be provided the opportunity to indicate their priority when making their registration in order to ensure placement in their preferred general debates.

- Delegations participating remotely would be able to raise a point of order by prompting the raise hand feature in the Zoom platform, which would be recognized by the Secretariat at the podium. The Chair would then stop the dialogue or debate and give the floor, through the Zoom platform, to the delegation that has raised the point of order.

- Delegations would be able to exercise their right of reply remotely, in the same manner as during the 50th regular session, by sending a request to ohchr-hrclistofspeakers@un.org. The Secretariat would register the request and inform the representative of the estimated time for the right of reply segment. The delegation will then be called upon during the right of reply segment, in the order in which requests have been registered.

- Special procedures mandate holders, members of investigative mechanisms and panellists who are unable to travel to Geneva would be able to send pre-recorded video messages for their initial presentations and participate in interactive dialogues or panel discussions via Zoom.

- In accordance with the IB package, at least one informal open-ended consultation needs to be held on each draft resolution and/or decision before it is considered for action by the Council.



- The main sponsors of draft resolutions are invited to organise informal meetings virtually or in person. Delegations can write to the relevant focal point of the Council Secretariat (mkumar@ohchr.org) for assistance to set up virtual participation in the informal rooms via the platform WebEx. If informal consultations are organised virtually, Core Groups should notify the HRC Secretariat in order for the meeting to be included in the online application 'Sched'.

- In addition to room XX, UNOG had allocated to the Council three meeting rooms for the holding of informal consultations and side events.

- In-person official side-events at Palais des Nations will be re-instated at the 51st session of the HRC. As a result of the impact of the Strategic Heritage Plan on the availability of rooms, the time slots for side events will be allocated according to availability and on a first-come, first-served basis. To accommodate as many requests as possible, only one side event per requesting organizer will be accommodated, and each side event will be limited to one hour in duration. These measures will be implemented at the 51st session on a pilot basis. The platform to request an NGO side event (<https://ngoreg.ohchr.org/>) for HRC51 opened on 26 August 2022, at 09:00 (Geneva time). The deadline for submitting such requests is 31 August 2022, at 17:00 (Geneva time). Information on NGO side-events will be made available on HRC Extranet and in the Sched application.

MEASURES TO ASSIST SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

The HRC Helpdesk for SIDS and LDCs is meant to facilitate the understanding of issues raised at the HRC and enhance small State delegates' participation in the session. The Help Desk can be reached before, during and after the session by email (ohchr-hrcdesksmallpm@un.org) or phone/WhatsApp +41 (0) 79 500 0032. The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund is also available for consultations upon request.

The use of the online tool e-deleGATE 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.⁵

Delegates will be able to use the Sched meeting application to personalize their agendas and synchronize with their calendars. HRC51 Sched provides details on plenary meetings as well as other meetings scheduled in parallel to the HRC session at the Palais des Nations.

PANEL DEBATES

HRC51 is scheduled to hold five panel debates on the following subjects:

- Biennial panel discussion on the right to development, on the theme “35 years on: policy pathways to operationalizing the right to development” (15th September)
- Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms, on the theme “Overcoming gender-based barriers to freedom of opinion and expression” (26th September)
- Panel discussion on the future of the right to work in connection with climate change actions, responses and impacts in the context of sustainable and inclusive economies (27th September)
- Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples, on the theme “Impact of social and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context on indigenous peoples, with a special focus on food security” (28th September)
- Panel discussion on the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights (28th September)

Concept notes on these panel discussions will be made available [here](#).⁶

WHAT’S IN PRINT?

During HRC51, States will consider 64 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](#).⁷

6 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session51/regular-session>
7 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session51/list-reports>

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC51⁸

Based on announcements made during the HRC51 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC45), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC51. 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 HRC51 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s) ⁹	Expected agenda item	Vote history ¹⁰
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan *	Slovenia (EU)	2	Vote (28-5-14)
Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka *	Canada, Germany, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, United Kingdom, United States	2	Vote (22-11-14)
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi *	Slovenia (EU)	4	Vote (21-15-11)

⁸ When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

⁹ Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

¹⁰ Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)

Focus of resolution	Lead sponsor(s)	Expected agenda item	Vote history
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic*	France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America	4	Vote (27-6-13)
Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights	Somalia, United Kingdom	10	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights*	Egypt (Group of Arab States)	10	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*	Cameroon (African Group)	10	Consensus
Mandate of the International Commission on human rights experts on the situation of human rights in Ethiopia*	Slovenia (EU)	N/A	Vote (21-15-10)

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

(* =Initiative formally announced during HRC51 organisational meeting)

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s) ¹¹	Expected agenda item	Periodicity ¹²	Vote history ¹³
<u>Arbitrary detention*</u>	France	3	Triennial	Consensus
<u>Conscientious objection to military service*</u>	Costa Rica, Croatia, Poland	3	Quadrennial	Consensus
<u>Human Rights and indigenous peoples*</u>	Guatemala, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
<u>Human rights and indigenous peoples: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples*</u>	Guatemala, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
<u>Human rights and transitional justice*</u>	Argentina, Morocco, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Consensus

11 Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

12 Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

13 Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s)	Expected agenda item	Periodicity	Vote history
<u>Local government and human rights*</u>	Chile, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Romania	3	Biennial	Consensus
<u>Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons*</u>	Argentina, Brazil, Slovenia	3	Triennial	Consensus
<u>Mandate Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health</u>	Brazil	3	Triennial	Consensus
<u>Neuro technology and human rights*</u>	Greece	3	New initiative	N/A
<u>Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order</u>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (30-14-3)
<u>Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences*</u>	Australia, United Kingdom	3	Triennial	Consensus
<u>Terrorism and human rights*</u>	Egypt, Mexico	3	Annual	Consensus
<u>The human rights implications of new and emerging digital technologies in the military domain*</u>	Austria, Panama	3	New initiative	N/A

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s)	Expected agenda item	Periodicity	Vote history
<u>The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation*</u>	Germany, Spain	3	Biennial	Consensus
<u>The right to development*</u>	Azerbaijan (NAM)	3	Annual	Vote <u>(29-13-5)</u>
<u>The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights*</u>	Australia, Chile, Poland, Republic of Korea, South Africa	3	Biennial	Consensus
<u>The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights*</u>	Australia, Hungary, Maldives, Morocco, Poland, Ukraine, Uruguay	3	Triennial	Consensus
<u>The safety of journalists*</u>	Austria, Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus
<u>The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination</u>	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote <u>(29-14-4)</u>
<u>World Programme for Human Rights Education*</u>	Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia	3	Triennial	Consensus
<u>Youth and human rights*</u>	Egypt, El Salvador, France, Greece, Italy, Ivory Coast, Moldova, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Tunisia	3	Biennial	Consensus

Focus of resolutions	Lead sponsor(s)	Expected agenda item	Periodicity	Vote history
Submission of voluntary funds to the contribution of States' participation at the UPR and technical and financial assistance*	Argentina, Pakistan, South Africa	6	New initiative	N/A
<u>National human rights institutions*</u>	Australia	8	Biennial	Consensus
<u>From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*</u>	Tunisia (African Group)	9		Consensus
<u>Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights*</u>	Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey	10	Annual	Consensus
<u>Promoting international cooperation to support national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up*</u>	Brazil, Paraguay	10	Biennial	Consensus
Technical assistance and capacity building to address the human rights implications of nuclear legacy*	Marshall Islands	10	New Initiative	N/A

THE COUNCIL'S MECHANISMS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

18 thematic Special Procedures (i.e., Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) will present their reports (including country mission reports) during HRC51. In addition, five country-specific Special Procedures (i.e., 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).

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report/oral updates and interactive dialogue¹⁴
Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan	12th September
Special Rapporteur on Burundi	22nd and 23rd September
Special Rapporteur on Cambodia	5th October
Independent Expert on Somalia	5th October
Independent Expert on the Central African Republic	5th October

THEMATIC MANDATES

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Special Rapporteur on the rights to water and sanitation	14th September	
Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures	14th September	Islamic Republic of Iran Zimbabwe
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery	15th September	Sri Lanka
Special Rapporteur on the right to development	15th and 16th September	
Special Rapporteur on truth, justice and reparation	16th September	Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	19th September	Maldives
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	19th September	Finland
Independent Expert on international order	19th September	

Mandate	Presentation of report and interactive dialogue	Country mission reports
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	20th September	Cyprus
Working Group on the use of mercenaries	20th September	
Working group on the Right to Development	20th September 22nd session 23rd session	
Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	28th and 29th September	Costa Rica
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent	3rd October	Portugal Switzerland

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 be supporting fifteen government officials (seven female and eight male) to participate in HRC51. For twelve of them it will be their first time participating in a regular session of the Council.

At HRC51 the Trust Fund will support the participation of delegates from the following LDCs and SIDS:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Burundi
- Chad
- Malawi*
- Marshall Islands*
- Mauritius
- Nepal*
- Papua New Guinea
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Suriname
- United Republic of Tanzania

* Council Members

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC51*



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



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