

Outcome of the 56th session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva – 18 June to 12 July 2024

The Council held a total of 34 interactive dialogues and one enhanced interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, Working Groups, investigative mechanisms, as well as with Mr. Volker Türk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office. Additionally, the Council held five panel discussions, all under designated agenda items. There was no general debate. The Council also heard 470 statements by NGOs during the session, in person and through video messages.

Item 1 - Organizational and procedural matters

The Council adopted a total of [22 Resolutions and three Decisions](#) and appointed three Special Procedures mandate holders (see below for more information).

Item 2 - Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

The Council held four interactive dialogues with the High Commissioner on: (1) his annual report, (2) his report on the human rights situation in Myanmar, (3) his report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, (4) and his oral update on the situation of human rights in Nicaragua.

The Council also held an enhanced interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan.

Item 3 - Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

The Council held interactive dialogues with the following 17 Special procedures mandate holders:

- Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
- Special Rapporteur on discrimination against persons with leprosy
- Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls
- Special Rapporteur on the right to health
- Special Rapporteur on the right to education
- Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
- Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
- Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
- Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression
- Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons
- Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity
- Working Group on discrimination against women and girls
- Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
- Special Rapporteur on climate change
- Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

The Council also had an interactive dialogue on the report of OHCHR on human rights and new and emerging digital technologies.

Item 4 – Human rights situations that require the Council’s attention

The Council held four interactive dialogues with the following Special procedures and investigative mechanisms:

- Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus
- Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (oral update)
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (oral progress report)
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (oral update)

The Council also had an interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Item 5 - Human rights bodies and mechanisms

The Council heard a presentation of the report of the Forum on Business and Human Rights.

Item 6 - Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Council adopted the UPR outcomes of the following 14 States: [Saudi Arabia](#), [Senegal](#), [China](#), [Nigeria](#), [Mauritius](#), [Mexico](#), [Jordan](#), [Malaysia](#), [Central African Republic](#), [Monaco](#), [Belize](#), [Chad](#), [Congo](#), [Malta](#).

The Council also heard the presentation of the reports of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

Item 9 - Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

The Council held an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism.

Item 10 - Technical assistance and capacity-building

The Council held an interactive dialogue on the OHCHR report on technical assistance in Libya, on the High Commissioner’s report on technical cooperation in Colombia as well as on the oral presentation of the High Commissioner on Ukraine (res. 50/30) and interim report of SG on human rights in Crimea (GA res. 78/221).

The Council also held an interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of Central African Republic on its oral update.

Panel discussions

The Council held five [panel discussions](#):

- **Annual discussion on women’s rights** (2 panels) (*Theme 1: Economic violence against women and girls; Theme 2: Human rights economy and women’s rights*)
- **Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal** (*Theme: Promoting inclusiveness in and through sports*)
- **Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights:** (*Theme: Ensuring livelihood resilience in the context of the risk of loss and damage relating to the adverse effects of climate change*)

- **Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building:** (*Theme: Enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations*)

Appointments of Special Procedures mandate holders

The Council appointed three special procedures mandate holders ([list of newly appointed mandate holders](#))

- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Eastern European States
- Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Western European and other States

The Council also extended for a year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

New activities mandated to the High Commissioner and his Office stemming from resolutions/decisions

- Prepare a report on the work of the OHCHR in the implementation and enhancement of **international cooperation** in the field of human rights, proposing also possible ways to face the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and submit the report to HRC59 (A/HRC/RES/56/2)
- Prepare a report on the impact of the civilian acquisition, possession and use of **firearms** and the underlying root causes and risk factors driving firearms-related violence on the right to participate in cultural life and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, particularly for individuals in vulnerable or marginalized situations, and present the report to HRC59 (A/HRC/RES/56/9)
- Prepare a report on the current status and work of the **human rights adviser programme**, its key achievements, the challenges it faces and the future vision for the programme, including with voluntary submissions made by States and other relevant stakeholders, and present the report to HRC60 (A/HRC/RES/56/15)
- Convene five regional workshops, including through hybrid modalities, to assess the risks to the **safety of the child in the digital environment** and best practices to address these risks in different geographical areas and prepare a report containing a summary of those consultations, in an accessible and child-friendly format to present it to HRC62, to be followed by an interactive dialogue (A/HRC/RES/56/6)
- Conduct a study and prepare a report on the impact of the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights, in particular the right to **freedom of opinion and expression**, in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, present it to HRC63, and convene a half-day expert workshop before HRC59, with webcasting and fully accessible to persons with disabilities (A/HRC/RES/56/7)
- Submit a summary report at HRC61 on the panel discussion on facilitating just transitions in the context of addressing adverse impacts of **climate change** on the full realization of human rights for all people to be held at HRC59, available in accessible formats, including in easy-to-read versions (A/HRC/RES/56/8)

- Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a synthesis report on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to just transition and the full realization of human rights for all people, and submit the report to HRC60, to be followed by an interactive dialogue (A/HRC/RES/56/8)
- Submit a report to HRC64 on progress made in the implementation of Decision 56/116 on Enhancing the support capabilities of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (A/HRC/DEC/56/116)
- Monitor and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the independent international fact-finding mission and present an oral update to HRC61, to be followed by an interactive dialogue, and a report at HRC63, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue with the Independent Mechanism for Myanmar, and report to GA80 (A/HRC/RES/56/1)
- Support country-level application of the practical toolkit for law enforcement officials, through technical cooperation in-country workshops and follow-up in each region, by HRC65 (A/HRC/RES/56/10)
- Prepare a report on good practices identified and problems encountered on menstrual hygiene management and to submit it to HRC62 (A/HRC/RES/56/11)
- Requests the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to strengthen the administrative and substantive support to the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (A/HRC/56/13)

New resolutions adopted by the Council

- Open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the rights to early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education (A/HRC/RES/56/5)
- Safety of the child in the digital environment (A/HRC/RES/56/6)
- Informing the Human Rights Council on the human rights adviser programme (A/HRC/RES/56/15)
- Promoting and protecting the rights of Seafarers (A/HRC/RES/56/18)
- Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (A/HRC/RES/56/19)
- Accelerating progress towards preventing adolescent girls' pregnancy (A/HRC/RES/56/21)
- Strengthening documentation within the Human Rights Council: webcasts, (A/HRC/DEC/56/115)
- Plastic pollution implications on the full enjoyment of human rights (A/HRC/DEC/56/117).