

THE INSIDE TRACK

CONCISE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Inside Track HRC56: the 56th regular session
of the Human Rights Council

Tuesday, 18th June to Friday, 12th July 2024 (4-week session),
Room XX, Palais des Nations

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Mr Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the opening of the 55th regular session of the Human Rights Council – 26 February 2024.

UN Photo / Elma Okic

IN BRIEF

- On **18th June**, H.E. Mr. Volker Türk, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will open HRC56 with the presentation of his annual report on the human rights situation around the world. The presentation of his annual report will provide the basis for an interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on **19th and 20th June**.
- 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*: (Bolivarian Republic of) **Venezuela**, **Colombia**, Islamic Republic of **Iran**, **Myanmar**, and **Ukraine** (including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol). Additionally, the High Commissioner will deliver oral updates/presentations on the promotion and protection of human rights in **Nicaragua** and on the situation of human rights in **Ukraine**.
- Other oral updates on country situations by Special Procedures mandate holders will focus on the situation of human rights in **Burundi**, the **Central African Republic**, and **Myanmar**.
- It will also consider High Commissioner's and Secretary-General's reports on a number of **thematic issues**, including *inter alia*:
 - Cross-border and transnational female genital mutilation.
 - [Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.](#)
 - Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in Colombia to implement the recommendations of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition.
 - [Implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights.](#)
 - 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.
- The Council will hold **24** interactive dialogues with Special Procedures mandate-holders, including **18** thematic mandate holders dealing with: climate change; discrimination against women and girls (Working Group); education; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; extreme poverty; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; health; independence of judges and lawyers; internally displaced persons; international solidarity; leprosy; migrants; racism; sexual orientation and gender identity; trafficking; transnational corporations; violence against women and girls; as well as **6** country-specific mandate holders on Afghanistan; Belarus; Burundi; Central African Republic; Eritrea; Myanmar.
- In addition, the Council will also hold interactive dialogues with **3** investigative mechanisms: the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the **Sudan**; the Commission of Inquiry on the **Syrian Arab Republic**; and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the **Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel**.

- Pursuant to President's statement [PRST OS/17/1](#) of 8th December 2023, no general debates will be held at the Council's June session. Therefore, the reports and oral updates of the High Commissioner, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies to be presented during HRC56 will be considered during the relevant general debate at HRC57, unless they are mandated to be considered in the context of an interactive dialogue.
 - Based on the initiatives formally announced during the HRC56 organisational meeting, the Council is expected to act on around **19 draft resolutions and other texts**. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions has been set at **1 PM on Tuesday, 2nd July 2024**.
 - At the 56th session, the Council will adopt UPR outcome reports of 14 States ([Belize](#), [Central African Republic](#), [Chad](#), [China](#),* [Congo](#), [Jordan](#), [Malaysia](#),* [Malta](#), [Mauritius](#), [Mexico](#), [Monaco](#), [Nigeria](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), and [Senegal](#)).
 - Additionally, it is expected to appoint **three** new mandate-holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; a member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (Eastern European States); and a member of the 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 (Western European and other States).
- On 3rd June 2024, the President released the list of proposed candidates for the first two vacancies above. A recommendation for the third vacancy is expected as an addendum once quorum is reached in the Consultative Group upon appointment of members from respective regional groups. More information on the upcoming appointments and the candidates can be found [here](#).
- The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, nominated the Permanent Representative of Honduras, H.E. Mr Marcela Arias, for Vice-President. The proposed nomination was approved at the Council's organisational meeting held on 3rd June 2024.
 - On 20th June 2024, **the high-level Presidential discussion on the link between climate change, food security and health security** is scheduled to take place from 12 PM to 3 PM in room XX. In this regard, the Council on 20th June would meet, exceptionally, from 9 AM to 12 PM and from 3 PM to 6 PM to accommodate the three-hour Presidential discussion.
 - The first celebration of the International Day of Women and Diplomacy in Geneva will take place on Monday, 24th June from 1 PM to 3 PM in room XX, co-organised by the Presidency, the Gender Focal Point, and UN Women.
- For the full draft programme of work for HRC56, please click [here](#).



H.E. Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of Morocco during the 54th regular session of the Human Rights Council - 11 September 2023.

UN Photo / Jean Marc Ferré

MODALITIES FOR THE 56TH SESSION

- The 56th session of the Human Rights Council will take place in Room XX.
- Effective from 22nd January 2024, the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) placed restrictions relating to the management of official UN meetings and conferences including restrictions on lunchtime meetings and the use of remote participation and hybrid modalities. The decision to cease services for hybrid and virtual meetings (on any platform, system, or tool including Zoom, Webex, Interprefy etc.) only applies to remote live participation. Pre-recorded video statements are still an accepted form of participation, alongside in-person participation. UN Web TV will also continue to livestream the Council's meetings.
- At the meeting of the Bureau on 30th May 2024, the Director of Administration of UNOG in their briefing informed the Bureau that the current restrictions in place would likely continue until at least October 2024. The Director indicated that the informal negotiations, side events and other informal meetings taking place on the sidelines of the HRC56 would be able to benefit from audio-visual services as well as the use of WebEx, on a cost-recovery basis (i.e. the organisers of the meetings and events would be responsible to cover the costs of requested services). This followed the meeting on the 10th May 2024, wherein the Secretariat informed the Bureau that in light of the ongoing liquidity crisis, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would not be in a position to cover the costs associated with the use of WebEx for informal consultations on draft proposals and side events during the 56th session and that organisers seeking to utilise WebEx services for informal consultations and side events would be required to cover the associated costs.
- The new online registration platform for the 56th session, 'Events,' can be found on the following website: <https://events.ohchr.org>.
 - For **States**, inscription to the **list of speakers for all interactive dialogues and panel discussions** will open on **Monday, 10th June at 4 PM and will close 24 hours before the debate is scheduled to start**. The list of speakers will close approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of each debate. After the online inscription has closed, delegations may still inscribe or withdraw by sending an email to the address OHCHR-hrlistofspeakers@un.org. States' registration for the **list of speakers for adoption of UPR outcomes** will open on **Monday, 24th June at 9 AM and will close on Thursday, 27th June at 6 PM**. No inscriptions will be possible after this deadline.

- For **national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations**, the list of speakers for all debates during the session will open on **Tuesday, 11th June at 2 PM**. NHRIs with 'A' status and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will have the possibility to deliver their statements in person in Room XX or via pre-recorded video-statements for all interactive dialogues, panel discussions, and UPR adoptions. Registration, indication of method of participation and uploading of video statements for NGOs will also be through the new 'Events' platform and uploading of transcripts is mandatory irrespective of the method of participation. The deadline for in-person participants to upload the transcripts and the deadline for participants through

video message to upload video statements with transcripts, as confirmation of participation, is 6 PM on the working day before the debate is scheduled to start.

- The Secretariat has also implemented a feature that allows NGOs to co-sponsor other NGOs' statements directly through the new online platform. The previous method, i.e. sending the co-sponsorship form via email, will no longer be accepted.
- 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.



Participants during the 54th regular session of the Human Rights Council — 11 September 2023.

UN Photo / Jean Marc Ferré

MEASURES TO ASSIST SMALL DELEGATIONS DURING THE HRC

The HRC Helpdesk for SIDS and LDCs is meant to virtually 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 hrcdesksmallpm@ohchr.org or phone/WhatsApp +41 (0) 79 500 00 32. The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund is also available for in-person meetings or virtual consultations upon request.

The use of the online tool, E-Delegate, will continue in order to facilitate delegates' work on resolutions during the HRC. The tool will allow delegates to circulate, table and co-sponsor resolutions, amongst others. It is accessible through the following [link](#).

Delegates will be able to continue using the Sched app to personalise their agendas and synchronise with their calendars. Sched provides details on plenary meetings as well as other meetings scheduled in parallel to the HRC session at the Palais des Nations. Please note that meeting details may be subject to change and will be updated daily.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

HRC56 is scheduled to hold five panel discussions on the following subjects:

- 1-2. Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women
 - Panel 1: Economic violence against women and girls (28th June; [concept note](#)).
 - Panel 2: Human rights economy and women's rights (28th June; [concept note](#)).
3. Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal. *Theme: Promoting inclusiveness in and through sports* (1st July; [concept note](#)).
4. 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* (1st July; [concept note](#)).
5. 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* (9th July; [concept note](#)).

WHAT'S IN PRINT?

During HRC56, States will consider 50 reports from the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and his Office, and/or the Special Procedures mandate-holders.¹

These UN reports, which were commissioned by the Council through earlier resolutions, when published, will be made available [here](#).

'L NUMBER' – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER TEXTS AT HRC56²

Based on announcements made during the HRC56 organisational meeting, the voluntary calendar of regular initiatives, and on recurring initiatives from one year previously (HRC53), the following draft resolutions and other texts are expected to be tabled during HRC56. Before adoption, these texts would be subject to at least one round of open informal consultations with interested delegations.



Mr António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, at the opening of the 55th regular session of the Human Rights Council. — 28 February 2024.

UN Photo / Elma Okic

¹ Additionally, the Council will consider and adopt 14 outcome reports of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.
² When tabled before the Council, draft resolutions (and other texts) are given an 'L number.'

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

**The table below only includes initiatives formally announced during the HRC56 organisational meeting.*

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ³	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	VOTE HISTORY ⁴
1	<u>Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea</u>	EU	2	Vote (<u>18-07-21</u>)
2	<u>Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar</u>	Pakistan (OIC)	2	Consensus
3	<u>Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in Colombia to implement the recommendations of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition</u>	Colombia	10	Vote (<u>28-0-19</u>)

³ Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

⁴ Vote results from the last time the resolution was adopted by the Council. Vote results are represented as (YES – NO – ABSTAIN)

THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

*The table below only includes initiatives formally announced during the HRC56 organisational meeting.

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S) ⁵	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY ⁶	VOTE HISTORY ⁷
1	Freedom of opinion and expression	Canada, Brazil, Fiji, Namibia, Netherlands and Sweden	3	Triennial	Consensus
2	Online gender based and sexual violence	Belgium	3	New initiative	N/A
3	Human rights and climate change	Vietnam, Bangladesh, Philippines	3	Annual	Consensus
4	Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls	Mexico, Chile	3	Biennial	Consensus
5	Human rights and international solidarity	Cuba	3	Annual	Vote (31-13-3)
6	Human rights and the regulation of civilian, acquisition, possession and use of firearms	Ecuador, Peru	3	Biennial	Consensus

5 Based on main sponsors of previous resolutions.

6 Based on the voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions

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

FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY	
7	<u>The right to education</u>	Luxembourg, Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, Armenia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Panama, Romania, The Gambia, Kyrgyzstan	3	Biennial	Consensus
8	<u>The Social Forum</u>	Cuba	5	Annual	Consensus
9	<u>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 through transformative change for racial justice and equality</u>	African Group	9	Annual	Consensus
10	<u>Menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality</u>	African Group	3	Triennial	Consensus
11	<u>Elimination of female genital mutilation</u>	African Group	3	Biennial	Consensus

	FOCUS OF RESOLUTION	LEAD SPONSOR (S)	EXPECTED AGENDA ITEM	PERIODICITY	VOTE HISTORY
12	Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS	Brazil, Colombia, Portugal, Thailand	3	Triennial	Vote (42-0-5)
13	The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protest	Costa Rica, Switzerland	3	Biennial	Consensus
14	Countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence	Pakistan (OIC)	1	Annual	Vote (28-12-07)
15	Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers	Hungary, Botswana, Australia, Maldives, Mexico, Thailand	3	Biennial	Consensus
16	Promotion and protection of the human rights of seafarers	Philippines	3	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 HRC56. In addition, 5 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 DIALOGUE ⁸
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan	18th June
Special Rapporteur on Eritrea	20th June
Special Rapporteur on Belarus	2nd July
Special Rapporteur on Burundi	3rd July
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	3rd July

⁸ Dates liable to change.

THEMATIC MANDATES

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
<u>Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity</u>	20th June	<u>United Kingdom</u> <u>Cambodia</u> <u>United States of America</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons</u>	20th and 21st June	Mozambique
<u>Special Rapporteur on leprosy</u>	21st June	N/A
<u>Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls</u>	21st June	Poland
<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to health</u>	24th June	<u>Luxembourg</u> <u>Costa Rica</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on the right to education</u>	24th June	<u>Finland</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers</u>	24th June	<u>Montenegro</u> <u>Mongolia</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on migrants</u>	25th June	N/A
<u>Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions</u>	25th June	Honduras

MANDATE	PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE	COUNTRY MISSION REPORTS
<u>Working Group on Business and Human Rights</u>	25th and 26th June	<u>Japan</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression</u>	<u>26th June</u>	<u>Honduras</u> <u>Serbia and Kosovo</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children</u>	<u>26th June</u>	<u>Colombia</u> <u>Central African Republic</u>
<u>Independent Expert on international solidarity</u>	<u>26th and 27th June</u>	N/A
<u>Working Group on discrimination against women and girls</u>	27th June	<u>Mauritania</u> <u>Malta</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly</u>	27th June	Peru Algeria
<u>Special Rapporteur on climate change</u>	1st and 2nd July	Honduras Philippines
<u>Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty</u>	<u>2nd July</u>	<u>Bangladesh</u> <u>Ecuador</u>
<u>Special Rapporteur on racism</u>	8th July	<u>United States of America</u>

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The UPR outcome reports of 14 States will be considered for adoption by the Council during HRC56 (expected 4th – 8th July).

- [Belize](#)
- [Central African Republic](#)
- [Chad](#)
- [China*](#)
- [Congo](#)
- [Jordan](#)
- [Malaysia*](#)
- [Malta](#)
- [Mauritius](#)
- [Mexico](#)
- [Monaco](#)
- [Nigeria](#)
- [Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Senegal](#)

*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 be supporting 14 government officials (8 female and 6 male) to participate in HRC56. They come from:

- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bangladesh*
- Barbados
- Belize
- Benin*
- Burkina Faso
- Gambia*
- Guyana
- Maldives*
- Mali
- Somalia*
- Suriname
- Vanuatu

* Council Members

The Trust Fund, together with the Permanent Missions of the Maldives and Mauritius, the co-leads of the HRC resolution that established the Trust Fund, and the Ambassadors of Finland and Malawi, in their capacity as the HRC co-facilitators for SIDS/LDCs, will hold a side event on the margins of the 56th session, on **Friday, 21st June 2024 from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM in room XXIV, Palais des Nations**. The event will highlight the success stories of the Trust Fund.

MOST COMMON THEMES OF HRC56*



*Based on all announced resolutions, interactive dialogues, panel discussions, and reports.

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