

Welcome to the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former [United Nations Commission on Human Rights](#).

History

The Council was created by the United Nations [General Assembly](#) on 15 March 2006 by resolution [60/251](#). Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its "[Institution-building package](#)" to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.

Among them were the [Universal Periodic Review](#) mechanism which serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States, the [Advisory Committee](#) which serves as the Council's "think tank" providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues and the [Complaint Procedure](#) which allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

The Human Rights Council also works with the UN [Special Procedures](#) established by the former Commission on Human Rights and now assumed by the Council. These are made up of special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups that monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on thematic issues or human rights situations in specific countries.

Review of the Council

When creating the Human Rights Council in March 2006 the United Nations General Assembly decided that the Council's work and functioning should be reviewed five years after it had come into existence at the level of the General Assembly. More information about the review and its 2011 outcome are [available here](#).

10th Anniversary of the Council

In June 2016, the Council marked its tenth anniversary through [several events](#).

Efficiency measures of the Council

In an effort to uphold and increase the efficiency of the Council while addressing financial and time constraints, the Council adopted President's statements at its organizational sessions of [3 December 2018](#) and [6 December 2019](#), containing concrete measures.

Task Force on Secretariat services, accessibility and use of information technology

The Task Force on Secretariat services, accessibility and use of information technology was established in July 2011. It is mandated to study issues related to the improvement of the secretariat services to the Council and its mechanisms, the accessibility to the Council's work for persons with disabilities and the feasibility of the use of information technology.

During the 22nd session of the Council in March 2013, additional measures were put in place to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities to the Human Rights Council, such as improved signage to access room XX and accessible toilets, as well as a priority access lane for persons with disabilities to enter the Palais the Nations at the Pregny gate.

The annual interactive debate of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities is made accessible by providing English captioning and simultaneous sign language interpretation in international sign. In addition, another panel among those held by the Human Rights Council is made accessible at each session, through funds that are raised or identified on an ad-hoc basis. For a list of all Human Rights Council panels that have been made accessible so far with links to the webcast archives, please click [here](#).

In 2014, the task force held a consultation with States, stakeholders, as well as with UN staff, **on existing practices on providing "reasonable accommodation" to persons with disabilities for their participation** to meetings in the areas of information and communication technology, internet resources and documents, as well as access to buildings. The results of this consultation informed the work of the Task Force and fed into an awareness-raising training/workshop for UN staff members involved in the work of the Human Rights Council (Task Force recommendation, 30 e) in A/HRC/23/CRP.2). For a summary of the consultation, please click [here](#).
See more info [here](#).

[Accessibility to the Human Rights Council discussions](#)

Public Exhibitions and Special Events

States and International Organisations can organise public exhibitions and special events at the UN premises in Geneva, Switzerland. When such exhibitions coincide with Human Rights Council meetings, their content require prior review and approval by the Council Secretariat. In essence, exhibitions must be compatible with the values, purposes and principles of the UN, shall not be of a profit-generating or otherwise commercial nature,

shall be of an artistic and/or cultural nature rather than political nature, in particular, the content must not depict an issue being addressed by the Human Rights Council; shall not single out or refer to any other State without that State's consent, and the content must not be too graphic in nature. For the Human Rights Council guidelines on exhibitions, please click [here](#)

Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition

The [Nelson Mandela Moot Court Competition](#), co-organized by the Human Rights Council Branch, is the only moot court competition for students from all around the world that is explicitly dedicated to human rights.

Booklets



[Human Rights Council](#)



[HRC Advisory Committee](#)



[HRC Complaint Procedure](#)

Key Documents

GA Rules of Procedures

- [General Assembly rules of procedure](#)
- [Amendment 1](#)
- [Amendment 2](#)
- [Amendment to rule 1](#)
- [Background Documents](#)

About the Council

- [About the Human Rights Council\(easy to read*\)](#)

HRC briefing note

- [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

Infographic

- [Arabic](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Russian](#) | [Chinese](#)

Session documents

- [Regular session documents and resolutions](#)
- [Annual reports of the Human Rights Council](#)
- [Charter-based body document search](#)
- [UN Official Document System \(ODS\)](#)

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