



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee

Thirtieth session

7–11 August 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

## Provisional agenda and annotations

### Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions and currently under consideration by the Committee:
  - (a) Integration of a gender perspective;
  - (b) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;
  - (c) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities;
  - (d) Neurotechnology and human rights;
  - (e) Human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain.
3. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21:
  - (a) Review of methods of work;
  - (b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities;
  - (c) Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications.
4. Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirtieth session.

### Annotations

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

##### *Adoption of the agenda*

The Advisory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda (A/HRC/AC/30/1).

##### *Organization of work*

Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee “shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and



the number of meetings to be allocated to each item” (see A/520/Rev.17). Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will have before it, for its consideration and approval, a draft timetable prepared by the Secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting time for each agenda item/segment of its programme of work for the thirtieth session.

#### *Composition of the Advisory Committee*

In its decision 18/121, the Human Rights Council decided that the cycle of the Advisory Committee would be adjusted to run from 1 October to 30 September. The terms of membership will therefore end on 30 September of each year.

The current composition of the Advisory Committee and the term of membership of each expert are as follows:\* Nurah Alamro (Saudi Arabia, 2024); Noor Al-Jehani (Qatar, 2025); Buhm-Suk Baek (Republic of Korea, 2023); Nadia Amal Bernoussi (Morocco, 2023); Rabah Boudache (Algeria, 2025); Aldo de Campos Costa (Brazil, 2024); Milena Costas Trascasas (Spain, 2025); Sebastião Da Silva Isata (Angola, 2025); Jewel Major (Bahamas, 2023); Ajai Malhotra (India, 2023); Javier Palummo (Uruguay, 2025); Vasilka Sancin (Slovenia, 2025); Patrycja Sasnal (Poland, 2023); Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius, 2023); Vassilis Tzevelekos (Greece, 2024); Catherine Van de Heyning (Belgium, 2023); Frans Viljoen (South Africa, 2024); and Yue Zhang (China, 2025).

## **2. Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming from Human Rights Council resolutions and currently under consideration by the Committee**

### **(a) Integration of a gender perspective**

In its resolution 6/30, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to regularly and systematically integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate, including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against women, and to include in its reports information on and a qualitative analysis of the human rights of women and girls.

### **(b) Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order**

In its resolutions 8/5 and 18/6, the Human Rights Council requested, inter alia, the Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within its respective mandate, to the resolutions and to make contributions towards their implementation. In its resolution 18/6, the Council also decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedure mandate of Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. The mandate has been renewed periodically and most recently through Council resolution 45/4. The most recent report on the mandate is contained in document [A/HRC/51/32](#).<sup>1</sup>

### **(c) Integration of the perspective of persons with disabilities**

In its resolution 7/9, the Human Rights Council encouraged the Advisory Committee and other mechanisms of the Council to integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, in carrying out their work and in their recommendations in order to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council. In its resolution 26/20, the Council decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedure mandate of Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. The mandate has been renewed periodically and most recently through Council resolution 44/10. The most recent reports on the topic are contained in documents [A/HRC/52/32](#) and [A/77/203](#).

### **(d) Neurotechnology and human rights**

In its resolution 51/3, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study in an accessible format, including an easy-to-read version, on the impact, opportunities and challenges of neurotechnology with regard to the promotion and protection

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\* The year in which the term of membership expires is shown in parentheses.

<sup>1</sup> See also [A/77/180](#).

of all human rights, including recommendations on how human rights opportunities, challenges and gaps arising from neurotechnology could be addressed by the Human Rights Council and its special procedures and subsidiary bodies in a coherent, holistic, inclusive and action-oriented manner, and to present the study to the Council at its fifty-seventh session.

In resolution 51/3, the Human Rights Council also requested the Advisory Committee, when preparing the above-mentioned study, to seek the views and inputs from, and to take into account the relevant work already done by, stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, medical and technical communities, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Advisory Committee held meetings to discuss this topic and designated a drafting group for the preparation of a report thereon to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session. The drafting group currently comprises Nurah Alamro, Noor Al-Jehani, Buhm-Suk Baek, Milena Costas Trascasas (Rapporteur), Jewel Major, Ajai Malhotra, Javier Palummo, Vasilka Sancin, Patrycja Sasnal, Dheerujall Seetulsingh, Vassilis Tzevelekos (Chair), Catherine Van de Heyning, Frans Viljoen and Yue Zhang.

At the same session, the Committee decided to seek the views of and inputs from stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, medical and technical communities, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders. It also requested the drafting group to submit a preliminary draft of the report at its thirtieth session, taking into account the discussions held at the twenty-ninth session.

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee will have before it the preliminary draft of the report submitted by the drafting group, which will be circulated in the form of a conference room paper.

**(e) Human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain**

In its resolution 51/22, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study examining the human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain, while taking into account ongoing discussions within the United Nations system, and to present the study to the Council at its sixtieth session.

In resolution 51/22, the Human Rights Council also requested the Advisory Committee to seek the views of and inputs from, and to take into account relevant work already done by, stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, entities, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, international and regional organizations, OHCHR, the special procedures of the Council, the treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, multi-stakeholder initiatives and other relevant stakeholders, when preparing the above-mentioned study.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on this topic and designated a drafting group for the preparation of a study thereon to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session. The drafting group currently comprises Buhm-Suk Baek (Chair), Nadia Amal Bernoussi, Aldo de Campos Costa, Milena Costas Trascasas, Jewel Major, Ajai Malhotra, Javier Palummo (Rapporteur), Vasilka Sancin, Vassilis Tzevelekos, Catherine Van de Heyning, Frans Viljoen and Yue Zhang.

At the same session, the Advisory Committee requested the drafting group to prepare a draft questionnaire to seek the views of and inputs from stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, entities, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, international and regional organizations, the Office of the High Commissioner, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, national human rights

institutions, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, multi-stakeholder initiatives and other relevant stakeholders, to be considered by the Committee at its thirtieth session and transmitted thereafter. It also requested the drafting group to submit an outline of the report at its thirtieth session, taking into account the discussions held at the twenty-ninth session.

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee will have before it the outline of the report submitted by the drafting group, which will be circulated in the form of a conference room paper.

**3. Implementation of sections III and IV of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and of section III of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**

**(a) Review of methods of work**

According to paragraph 77 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee may propose within the scope of the work set out by the Council, for the latter's consideration and approval, suggestions for further enhancing its procedural efficiency.

In paragraphs 35 to 39 of section III of the annex to its resolution 16/21, the Human Rights Council made reference to the Advisory Committee. In paragraph 39 of the same resolution, the Council stipulated that the Committee should endeavour to enhance intersessional work between its members in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 81 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1.

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee may therefore address issues related to its methods of work.

**(b) Agenda and annual programme of work, including new priorities**

In paragraph 35 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council stipulated that it should, within existing resources, strengthen its interaction with the Advisory Committee and engage more systematically with it through work formats, such as seminars, panels and working groups, and by sending feedback to the inputs of the Committee.

At its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee decided to produce reflection papers for its own use at each of its sessions, which could be published on the OHCHR website.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Advisory Committee decided to submit for consideration of and approval by the Human Rights Council the following research proposals:

- Rights of the child and climate change
- A human rights-based approach to addressing gendered cyberviolence
- The protection of academic freedom and free flow of research<sup>2</sup>

At the same session, the Advisory Committee requested Buhm-Suk Baek to prepare, on the basis of his reflection paper and taking into account the discussions held at the session, a research proposal on the theme "Right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law", for consideration at its thirtieth session.

The Advisory Committee may decide to continue, during its thirtieth session, its discussions under item 3, including on some of the above-mentioned topics and other new priorities.

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<sup>2</sup> At its twenty-seventh session, the Advisory Committee submitted a previous version of the research proposal to the Human Rights Council; see A/HRC/AC/27/2, annex III.

(c) **Appointment of members of the Working Group on Communications**

In accordance with paragraphs 91 to 93 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Advisory Committee appoints five of its members, one from each regional group, with due consideration to gender balance, to constitute the Working Group on Communications. In the event of a vacancy, the Advisory Committee is to appoint an independent and highly qualified expert from the same regional group. Since there is a need for independent expertise and continuity with regard to the examination and assessment of the communications received, the independent and highly qualified experts of the Working Group are appointed for three years. Their mandate is renewable once only.

The current members of the Working Group on Communications were last appointed by the Advisory Committee at its twenty-sixth session,<sup>3</sup> during the intersessional period of 2022<sup>4</sup> and at its twenty-eighth session.<sup>5</sup>

At its thirtieth session, the Advisory Committee will appointment new members of the Working Group to replace those whose term expires on 30 September 2023.

**4. Report of the Advisory Committee on its thirtieth session**

The Advisory Committee will have before it for adoption a draft report on its thirtieth session, prepared by the Rapporteur.

Pursuant to paragraph 38 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the annual report of the Advisory Committee will be submitted to the Council at its September session and will be the subject of an interactive dialogue with the Committee Chair. The reports of the Committee on its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions will be considered by the Council at its fifty-fourth session.

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/AC/26/2, paras. 23–25.

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/AC/27/2, paras. 24–26.

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/AC/28/2, paras. 23–26.