

Human Rights Council elections 2023

Questions asked by Civil Society to candidate States during the Pledging Event

6 September 2023

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All States

- In the context of AI-powered surveillance technologies:
 - How does your country plan to ensure that the development and deployment of AI technologies adhere to human rights principles, such as non-discrimination, privacy, and freedom of expression?
 - How does your country plan to address the potential bias and discriminatory outcomes in AI algorithms, particularly when they are used to make decisions that directly affect people's lives, such as criminal justice or job recruitment? - asked to Albania during the event
 - What measures will your country take to protect vulnerable populations, such as children, refugees, and minority groups, from potential abuses or harm from using AI technologies? (Geneva International Center for Justice)
- Why are we not taking more active or effective initiatives to protect human rights? Is it possible to play a stronger role in human rights work? (Md. Moniruzzaman, Executive Director, Aid Organization)
- Comment comptez-vous promouvoir la protection des droits humains universels dans des régions du monde où des violations graves sont fréquentes, tout en respectant la souveraineté nationale? (Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How do you intend to promote the protection of universal human rights in regions of the world where serious violations are frequent, while respecting national sovereignty?*
- Comment envisagez-vous de renforcer la coopération internationale pour lutter contre les pratiques discriminatoires et les violations des droits humains, en favorisant le dialogue et la diplomatie?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How do you plan to strengthen international cooperation to combat discriminatory practices and human rights violations, by promoting dialogue and diplomacy*
- Quelles mesures concrètes comptez-vous prendre pour assurer la protection des défenseurs des droits humains et des journalistes, qui font souvent l'objet de menaces et de représailles pour leur travail?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *What concrete measures do you intend to take to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, who often face threats and reprisals for their work?* - asked to Indonesia during the event
- Comment comptez-vous aborder les questions complexes liées aux droits humains dans le contexte de la technologie et du numérique, notamment en ce qui concerne la vie privée et la liberté d'expression en ligne?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How do you intend to address the complex human rights issues in the context of technology and the digital environment, in particular with regard to online privacy and freedom of expression?* - asked to Albania during the event
- Quelles stratégies mettrez-vous en place pour garantir que les droits des minorités, y compris les minorités ethniques, religieuses et sexuelles, soient pleinement respectés et protégés?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *What strategies will you put in place to ensure that the rights of minorities, including ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, are fully respected and protected?*
- Comment prévoyez-vous de lutter contre l'impunité en cas de violations graves des droits humains, notamment en soutenant les mécanismes de justice internationale?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How do you plan to*

combat impunity for serious human rights violations, in particular by supporting international justice mechanisms?

- Comment envisagez-vous de promouvoir l'éducation aux droits humains dans vos politiques nationales et internationales, afin de sensibiliser davantage les citoyens à leurs droits et responsabilités? (Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How do you plan to promote human rights education in your national and international policies, in order to make citizens more aware of their rights and responsibilities?*
- Quelles mesures prendrez-vous pour garantir que les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels soient traités de manière égale aux droits civils et politiques dans votre approche globale des droits humains?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *What steps will you take to ensure that economic, social and cultural rights are treated on an equal footing with civil and political rights in your overall approach to human rights?*
- Comment comptez-vous encourager la participation active de la société civile et des organisations non gouvernementales dans la promotion et la protection des droits humains?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How will you encourage the active participation of civil society and non-governmental organisations in the promotion and protection of human rights?*
- Comment aborderez-vous les défis spécifiques liés à la migration, en veillant à ce que les droits fondamentaux des migrants, y compris le droit à la dignité et à la sécurité, soient respectés?(Dr Waklatsi-William, Observatoire-OISHC) *How will you address the specific challenges related to migration, ensuring that the fundamental rights of migrants, including the right to dignity and security, are respected?* - asked to Bulgaria during the event
- Au nom de la liberté d'association, les mouvements citoyens, constitués des jeunes dont la majorité, l'âge varie de 18-35 ans, sont devenus aujourd'hui des organisations de défense de droit de l'homme réels, incontournables, mais aussi organisés dans le temps et l'espace avec des objectifs précis dans notre société tant international que National, leurs actions sont palpables sur terrain, et vont même parfois au-delà de ce que font les ONGs. Ces mouvements ont beaucoup contribué pour la défense, promotion, protection des droits humains. Cependant les traitements des certains pays sont différents des autres envers cette forme d'organisation, nombreux assimilent juridiquement ces organisations des mouvements subversifs ou insurrectionnels et cela met ces acteurs en danger, certains meurent, d'autres arrêtés, perdent leurs études, leurs liens familiaux et d'amitiés. Qu'est-ce que le conseil des droits de l'homme pense pour une protection uniforme ou égalitaire tendant en reconnaître les mouvements citoyens comme une nouvelle forme d'organisation de la société civile au monde? au même titre que ONG par exemple au nom de la liberté d'association. (Blaise MONDUKA de l'ONG UKUMBUSHO (SOUVENIRS, en français)) *Citizens' movements, made up of young people, have today become real and essential organisations for the defence of human rights. However, some countries treat this type of organisation differently to others and tag them as subversive or insurrectionary movements, which puts these defenders in danger. Do you think the Human Rights Council should recognise and protect citizens' movements?*
- When elected, how do you plan to ensure the protection of civil society space in the Council? (Fabiana Leibl, HRCNet) - asked to Ghana during the event
- A week ahead of the anniversary of the death of Jina Mahsa Amini, and the deadly crackdown against nationwide protests in Iran, what further measures do candidate

States intend to take during their HRC membership to ensure that perpetrators of the crimes committed are identified and held accountable? (Manon Karatas, Justice for Iran)

- Can you please describe your commitment/s to enhance the domestic judicial system, including ensure - de jure and de facto - effective judicial independence, uphold international fair trial standards, improve access to justice and access to a lawyer, promote and enhance protection and independence of lawyers, bar associations, and all legal professions. (International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute) - asked to Côte d'Ivoire during the event
- Su país se compromete, de quedar electo como miembro del consejo, a darle continuidad y renovar los mandatos de los diversos mecanismos de investigación que tiene el Consejo en países con situaciones de violación a los derechos humanos, por ejemplo la Misión Internacional Independiente para la Determinación de los Hechos en Venezuela? (Julio Morón Pulido / Civilis Derechos Humanos)
Should your country be elected as a member of the Council, does it commit itself to give continuity to and renew the mandates of the various investigation mechanisms that the Council has in countries with situations of human rights violations, for example the International Independent Fact-Finding Mission in Venezuela? - asked to Japan during the event
- What are your specific commitments to promoting and protecting human rights? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- How will you ensure that your national human rights institutions are independent and effective? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What will you do to prevent human rights violations, such as torture, arbitrary detention, and discrimination? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- How will you work to prevent human rights abuses in other countries? How will you hold accountable those who violate human rights? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What is your position on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- How will you contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- If you are elected to the Human Rights Council, will you cooperate with independent human rights mechanisms, such as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- Will you support the work of special rapporteurs and other human rights experts? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- Will you speak out against human rights violations, even if they are committed by your allies? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- Will you work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Human Rights Council? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What is your government doing to address the following human rights issues in your country: * Discrimination against women and girls * Torture and other ill-treatment *

Arbitrary detention * Enforced disappearances * The death penalty - Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada

- What is your government's position on the following human rights challenges: * The conflict in Yemen * The Rohingya crisis * The climate crisis - Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- How will your government promote and protect the rights of all people, including minorities, refugees, and people with disabilities? How will you work to improve the lives of marginalised groups, such as women, children, and people with disabilities? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What is your experience in promoting and protecting human rights? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What is your commitment to funding human rights work? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What are your plans to cooperate with other countries on human rights issues? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- What concrete steps will you take to address the human rights challenges that your countries face? Are you willing to be held accountable for your human rights record? Dean Bordode, Human Rights Defender from Canada
- For all candidates, how has the UPR process been beneficial for the Council to advance its mandates, and do you have ideas for further strengthening the implementation of accepted recommendations? (Muhammad Farrel Alviansyah, HRD from Indonesia)
- For all candidates, if elected, how will you strengthen HRC's capacities for technical assistance and capacity building? (Rahman Rahardjo, HRD from Indonesia)
- ¿No habría que incorporar al inciso 8 de la resolución que creó el Consejo de Derechos Humanos, un requisito más exigente sobre el compromiso de los países que integran el organismo? Por ejemplo, extender invitaciones abiertas y permanentes a todos los procedimientos especiales de la ONU, y/o haber ratificado el Pacto de Derechos Civiles y Políticos, y el Pacto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales. (Human rights defender wishes to remain anonymous).
Shouldn't a more demanding requirement on the commitment of the countries that make up the body be incorporated into paragraph 8 of the resolution that created the Human Rights Council? For example, extending open and standing invitations to all UN special procedures, and/or having ratified the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- An estimated 49.6 million people are currently subject to forced marriage and forced labour. This includes Turkmenistan and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China, where forced labour is imposed by the state; countries in West Africa, where people are still born into descent-based slavery; and global supply chains, where labour exploitation and bonded labour is rife.... If elected, how will your Government actively address both its own role in this systematic violation of human rights - and those of other human rights council members? (Anti-Slavery International) - asked to Côte d'Ivoire during the event
- If elected, how will your Government actively address the displacement of people due to climate change and embed human rights principles in its approach to a just transition? How will this account for the fact that such displacement amplifies poverty

and discrimination, and increases the risk of labour exploitation and modern slavery? (Anti-Slavery International) - asked to Ghana during the event

- Is there any plans for any work to be done on the rights of persons with mental illnesses? (Monirul Islam)
- Will candidates consider the rights of persons with Disability in all walks of their life and implementation of CRPD to make the right real? (Abdul Baseer Toryalai)
- As new and additional forms of finance for addressing loss and damage caused by climate change are essential to protecting human and peoples rights in many non-UNFCCC-Annex-I countries, can the Netherlands, France, and Japan commit to ensuring adequate new and additional climate financing for loss and damage that is not loans or based on risk insurance? (International-Lawyers.org)
- Comment allez-vous protéger les droits des ex-Musulmans? Dans moins de 12 pays ils risquent la peine de mort et dans plus de 20 pays il ne peut pas vivre sans des menaces d'imprisonnement ou d'autre pénalités. Et aussi dans autre pays, il y a des autre acteurs qu'ils les menacent (Hulda Fahmi, Set my People Free) *How are you going to protect the rights of ex-Muslims? In less than 12 countries they risk the death penalty, and in more than 20 countries they can't live without threats of imprisonment or other penalties. And in other countries, too, there are other actors who threaten them.*
- How is the situation of the cobalt extraction workers in candidate countries ? Are the Big Companies respecting their human rights and the environment ? (Nicola Maurizio Palumbo)
- What can be done to improve the dignity of labour and the dignity of the Human Person in the Military? (Uddin Joseph Oluwasegun)

Albania

- Could you kindly give an overview of plans the Government may have to amend the Law for the Registration of Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to further protect civic space and avoid over-regulation of NPOs? More in general, what are the actions the Government intends to take to uphold the right to freedom of association? (human rights organisation wishes to remain anonymous)
- Albania is an example Muslim-majority country in its recognition of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief for all its citizens without discrimination; specifically by not punishing apostasy. How will the State of Albania prioritise these freedoms at the Human Rights Council? (Hulda Fahmi)

Brazil

- Brazilian weapons are found in regions with highly critical human rights violations. How does Brazil perceive the challenges of human rights related to arms exports, and the commitments made through the Arms Trade Treaty? (DHESARME: Brazilian Action for Humanitarian Disarmament (UNILA - Federal University for the Latin American Integration))

- How does Brazil perceive the coherence between the principles that guides the country in its international relations, such as the prevalence of human rights (article 4, II in Brazilian Constitution), and its continuous production, exports and stockpile of cluster munitions (a weapon highly stigmatised by humanitarian organisations), already banned by 112 states (number of states parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions)? (DHESARME: Brazilian Action for Humanitarian Disarmament (UNILA - Federal University for the Latin American Integration))
- As a future member of the Human Rights Council, how does Brazil intend to deal with violations of human rights and armed conflicts, arised by explosive remnants of war, considering that Brasil still stockpiles, produces and exports cluster munitions? (DHESARME: Brazilian Action for Humanitarian Disarmament (UNILA - Federal University for the Latin American Integration))
- In its voluntary pledges document, the Brazilian State highlighted the relevance and commitment to projects that defend women's and girls' rights, with the promotion of gender equality and the strengthening of the active participation of women in all instances of power and decision-making. In this regard, we ask the delegation the following questions: i) How does the Brazilian State intend to strengthen the active participation of women in all instances of power if there is no articulation of the government group in the National Congress to prevent the approval of the Proposed Amendment to the Constitution (PEC) N° 09/2023, which provides amnesty for political parties that failed to reserve resources for the candidacies of women and black people, in the 2022 and previous elections? ii) Based on this same commitment, will President Lula, responsible for nominating a new person to occupy the Minister of the Federal Supreme Court (STF) position, consider the social demand to nominate a black minister to the STF? It is worth mentioning that, in more than 130 years of existence, with 167 nominated ministers, the Brazilian Supreme Court only had three black ministers, three white women, and no black woman occupying the position. (Connectas Direitos Humanos)
- In the document of commitments, the Brazilian State highlighted its relevance and commitment to draft resolutions on human rights on the Internet, the right to privacy, and others. In this regard, we ask the delegation the following questions: i) How does the Brazilian State intend to coordinate its international action in relation to these issues and the national commitment to their application? We are aware of the existence of various software that allows government vigilantism, violating the right to privacy of all citizens, from which they are unable to obtain information about their effectiveness, use, execution, and scope; ii) How does the Brazilian State intend to act in the Council regarding the issue of combating hate speech, Fake News, and other public manifestations of human rights in the digital environment, considering the current national impasses for the advancement of the issue internally? (Connectas Direitos Humanos)
- Regarding the commitment to “promote and protect the rights of women, including through actions related to the promotion of the right to health and sexual and reproductive rights”, how does the Brazilian government intend to guarantee compliance with the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture, after the country's review in May of this year, which suggests the decriminalization of voluntary termination of pregnancy - also considering the guidelines of the World Health Organization on the subject? Is there an increase in the effectiveness, elaboration, or implementation of public policies in different areas (such as health, social assistance, and education) that guarantee access to legal abortion and related care? It is important to emphasise that unsafe abortions are one of Brazil's main

causes of maternal mortality; the main victims are black women and girls.
(Connectas Direitos Humanos)

- Police abuse is a chronic problem in #Brazil. In a month, police killed +60 people in three states. What reforms is Brazil planning to put an end to police violence? Will it support the UN mechanism on racial justice in law enforcement and its renewal?
(Human Rights Watch)
- If elected as an #HRC member, #Brazil will be expected to demonstrate a principled defence of human rights. Will Brazil consistently speak out against abuses happening in Latin American countries—regardless of the ideology of any particular government? (Human Rights Watch)
- #Brazil talks about peace. But while more than half the world's countries have signed or ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Brazil has not. When will it ban cluster munitions? And how will it address abuses in armed conflicts at the #HRC?
(Human Rights Watch)
- Last year, #Brazil helped #China whitewash its abuses by abstaining on a resolution to secure a discussion on the situation in Xinjiang. Will Brazil support independent investigations into UN allegations of possible crimes against humanity in China?
(Human Rights Watch)
- The murders of religious leaders, rural leaders and human rights defenders, have intensified in recent years in our tragic history of killings in the countryside. These people are mostly black and indigenous leaders. What does the Brazilian state have in place to effectively protect them and their communities? (Maria José Menezes, Black Coalition for Rights)
- Throughout the country, slum dwellers have suffered systematic violations of their fundamental rights through police operations, many of which are illegal because they do not comply with ADPF 635. These operations have resulted in massacres, with the deaths of residents, mainly children and young people, almost all of whom are Afro-descendants. How can these communities be protected from police lethality?(Maria José Menezes, Black Coalition for Rights)
- In its voluntary pledges document, the Brazilian State highlighted the relevance and commitment to projects that defend women's and girls' rights, with the promotion of gender equality and the strengthening of the active participation of women in all instances of power and decision-making. In this regard, we ask the delegation: will President Lula, responsible for nominating a new person to occupy the Minister of the Federal Supreme Court (STF) position, consider the social demand to nominate a black woman as minister to the STF? It is worth mentioning that, in more than 130 years of existence, the Brazilian Supreme Court only had three black ministers, three white women, and no black woman occupying the position (Conectas)
- As members of the International Freedom of Religion and Belief Alliance how will you work to prioritise freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief? Specifically working for the repeal of anti-apostasy and anti-blasphemy laws, noting that at least 12 countries maintain the death penalty for apostasy/blasphemy? (Hulda Fahmi, Jubilee Campaign)

- What are Brazil's plans for Human Rights defenders, especially Afghan? (Alliance of Human Rights Defender AHRD)

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria: On the basis of express references and conclusions of the United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT/C/BGR/CO/6, paragraph 21) and the European Court of Human Rights (29447/17, 20 July 2021), The internal deportation process adopted by Bulgaria in practice prevents asylum seekers from submitting a complaint to international human rights mechanisms after the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court to reject the asylum application, that do not allow asylum seekers to seize the international mechanisms. How does Bulgaria intend to adjust its internal legal and administrative orders in the near future to remedy such situations and to comply with its international commitments in this specific area? (International Association for Human Rights Advocacy in Geneva)
- How will you address the specific challenges related to migration, ensuring that the fundamental rights of migrants, including the right to dignity and security are respected (Dr Waklatsi of the Observatoire OISHC)

Burundi

- Le respect des droits humains au Burundi est-il une priorité des dirigeants? (HRD from Burundi wishes to remain anonymous) *Is respect for human rights a priority for Burundi's leaders?*
- Le Burundi est connu comme un Etat qui ne respecte pas les droits humains, qui laisse plusieurs milliers de réfugiés à l'extérieur dont plusieurs centaines d'acteurs de la société civile, journalistes et acteurs politiques, un pays qui produit encore des centaines de réfugiés vers l'Europe et principalement la Belgique. Est-ce que vous auriez des garanties qu'en tant que pays membres vous profiterez de cette occasion pour changer la donne et assainir l' image diplomatique du pays? (APRODH) - *Burundi is known as a state that doesn't respect human rights, that leaves thousands of refugees outside the country, including hundreds of civil society actors, journalists and politicians, a country that still produces hundreds of refugees for Europe, mainly Belgium. Do you have any guarantees that, as member countries, you will take advantage of this opportunity to change the situation and clean up its diplomatic image?*
- Le président de la république (qui n'est plus nouveau président car 3 ans), est-il capable d'accompagner les paroles aux actes ? Si oui, pour la corruption qui persiste, les assassinats, l'espace civique verrouillé, l'opposition politique Nyakurisé, l'impunité exagérée, etc ? Si non, qui le bloque et qu'est ce qui pourrait être fait pour qu'il passe à l'action de ses promesses ? (APRODH) - *Is the President of the Republic (who shouldn't be at the presidency after 3 years) capable of backing up his words with deeds? If so, why is corruption persisting, assassinations, civic space locked, political opposition Nyakurized, impunity exaggerated, etc.? If not, who is blocking him, and what can be done to make him act on his promises?*
- Could you kindly give a brief overview of tangible and sustainable progress that has been made in relation to civic space? In particular, could you please explain whether

structural reforms have been implemented or are envisioned in the environment in which independent human rights organisations operate? (Human Rights NGO wishes to remain anonymous)

- Le Burundi n'a pas participé à la dernière session du Comité des droits de l'homme suite à la présence d'un DDH en exil. Le Burundi a condamné en 2020 in absentia une douzaine de défenseurs et journalistes pour atteinte à la sécurité intérieure de l'Etat suite à leur activisme même les DDHs qui sont restés au pays restent menacés par exemple la récente condamnation et emprisonnement de la journaliste Floriane Irangabiye ainsi que l'appel par le Ministère Public face à l'acquiescement et la libération des 5 DDHS de l'AFJB et APDH. Que comptez-vous faire pour garantir les droits des DDHs et l'amélioration de l'espace civique ? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous) - *Burundi did not participate in the last session of the Human Rights Committee due to the presence of a HRD in exile. Burundi sentenced in 2020 in absentia a dozen defenders and journalists for undermining the internal security of the State as a result of their activism. Even HRDs who remained in the country remain under threat, for example the recent conviction and imprisonment of journalist Floriane Irangabiye and the appeal by the Public Prosecutor's Office against the acquittal and release of 5 HRDs from AFJB and APDH. What do you intend to do to guarantee the rights of HRDs and improve civic space?*
- A quand l'acceptation par le Burundi du mandat de Rapporteur Spécial si son mandat est renouvelé par le Conseil des droits de l'homme? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous) - *When will Burundi accept the mandate of Special Rapporteur if it is renewed by the Human Rights Council?*
- A quand le déverrouillage de l'espace démocratique si on s'en tient aux lois liberticides régissant les ASBLs, les partis politiques et la presse? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous) - *When will the democratic space be unlocked if we stick to the liberticidal laws governing ASBLs, political parties and the press?*
- Le Burundi évolue bientôt aux élections 2025-2027 au moment où de nombreux burundais dont des DDHs et des opposants politiques sont toujours en exil suite à la crise politique de 2015 avec non-respect de l'Accord d'Arusha pour la paix et la réconciliation signé en 2000 par les protagonistes burundais. A quand la mise en application de l'arrêt rendu par la Cour de l'Afrique de l'Est pour ce qui est de l'illégalité du 3eme mandat du feu président Pierre Nkurunziza et les conséquences qui ont suivi?(HRD wishes to remain anonymous) - *Burundi will soon be moving towards elections 2025-2027, at a time when many Burundians, including HRDs and political opponents, are still in exile following the political crisis of 2015 and the failure of the Burundian protagonists to respect the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in 2000. When will the East African Court's ruling on the illegality of the late president Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term in office and its consequences be implemented?*
- A quand la mise en œuvre des recommandations émises par le Rapporteur Spécial sur l'Indépendance de la magistrature d'autant plus que le Président de la République se plaint lui-même du dysfonctionnement de la Justice? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous) - *When will the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judiciary be implemented, especially as the President of the Republic himself complains about the dysfunction of the Judiciary?*

China

- Vous engagerez-vous à promouvoir et à protéger les droits de la défense dans le monde en général et particulièrement dans vos pays ? Si oui, comment ? (Drapeau Blanc) - *Will you commit to promoting and protecting the rights of the defence in the world in general and in your countries in particular? If so, how?*
- Please provide specific examples of steps you have taken to improve human rights in China since your last term on the council? (Chung Lun, ISHR)
- How will China engage with civil society to promote transparency, accountability, and the protection of human rights? (Chung Lun, ISHR)
- China has faced criticism for its treatment of ethnic and religious minority groups, including Uyghurs and Tibetans. What measures will you take to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of these communities? (Chung Lun, ISHR)
- China ranks among the top three perpetrators of reprisals at the UN, according to data from the Secretary-General's annual report on reprisals. What actions has China taken to acknowledge, hold perpetrators accountable and provide adequate reparations, in the emblematic case of reprisals against Cao Shunli, who died in custody 10 years ago after being detained on her way to attend China's UPR in Geneva, and for all other cases included in the Secretary-General's report, including those from Hong Kong? (Defenders from Hong Kong wish to remain anonymous and ISHR)
- Will China commit to granting immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Tibet for UN independent human rights observers, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights? (Tibet Advocacy Coalition)
- Three years ago, UN independent human rights experts spoke out against Chinese government sexual violence, abuse of counterterrorism and national security laws, and hostility towards human rights defenders. The experts urged "the international community to act collectively and decisively to ensure China respects human rights and abides by its international obligations." Beijing continues to block requests by these experts for unfettered visits and has doubled down on repression. How can this be consistent with HRC membership? (Human Rights Watch)
- Last year, OHCHR issued a report documenting Chinese authorities' own policies of targeting of cultural and religious practices, family separation, mass arbitrary arrests and detention, rape, torture, and enforced disappearances, across Xinjiang. The report concludes that "the extent of these practices may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity." Just last week, the High Commissioner's spokesperson confirmed that these laws and policies "are still in place" and demand accountability. A state committing crimes against humanity in violation of the standards set out by the GA should not be elected to the Human Rights Council. Will China agree to a discussion of the report by the Human Rights Council, and an independent international investigation, and commit to urgently implement all recommendations in the OHCHR Xinjiang report and the CERD Urgent Action on Xinjiang, including in relation to the clarification of whereabouts of those disappeared and ensure safe communication channels with their relatives? (Human Rights Watch and The Rights Practice)
- La liberté de pensée et la liberté d'association sont des droits universels. Peut-on exercer librement ces droits dans votre pays sans être poursuivi pour "incitation à la subversion" ou "atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat" ? Si oui, comment cela est-il possible ?

(Drapeau Blanc) - *Freedom of thought and freedom of association are universal rights. Is it possible to exercise these rights freely in your country without being prosecuted for "incitement to subversion" or "undermining state security"? If so, how is this possible?*

- In addition to the already and well-documented serious violations by the Communist Party of China — not least the genocidal acts towards Uyghur and other religious minorities - there are reports that China is actively re-fouling North Korean refugees in violation of ius cogens norms. Have states raised with China as they petition to join the HRC? (Hulda Fahmi, Jubilee campaign)
- How will China work to immediately cease authorities' re-fouling of North Korean refugees, occurring in violation of ius cogens norms? How will China work to recognise freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief to all its citizens? How will China address continued practices of arbitrarily detaining Tibetan buddhists, Uyghur Muslims and Christians, the denial of the rights of children to attend church or places of worship or members of the CCP, amongst some concerns. (Jubilee Campaign)

Côte d'Ivoire

- Si vous êtes élu(e), que ferez-vous pour promouvoir et protéger les défenseurs des droits de l'Homme partout dans le monde ? (ONG Drapeau Blanc) - *If elected, what will you do to promote and protect human rights defenders around the world?*

Cuba

- ¿Puede proporcionar información específica sobre las medidas adoptadas por el gobierno para garantizar la libertad de expresión y la protesta pacífica, así como para prevenir detenciones y juicios arbitrarios? (Cubalex) - *Can you provide specific information on the measures taken by the government to guarantee freedom of expression and peaceful protest, as well as to prevent arbitrary arrests and trials?*
- ¿qué medidas concretas ha tomado para promover el respeto a la libertad de expresión y el derecho a la protesta pacífica sin discriminación por motivos de la opinión política? (Cubalex) - *What concrete measures have you taken to promote respect for freedom of expression and the right to peaceful protest without discrimination on the basis of political opinion?*
- In recent days a series of alarming reports compiled by civil society organisations were submitted at the UPR pre-sessions in Geneva. These reports clearly detail how state officials from the Cuban state have been involved in mass human rights violations involving the use of violence against ordinary citizens and activists. Therefore, what is the Cuban state doing to end these violations and repressive practices, and how consequent is to have Cuba in the Human Rights council when there is so much evidence of its disregard for human rights and civil and political rights? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous)
- Vous engagerez-vous à promouvoir et à protéger les droits de la défense dans le monde en général et particulièrement dans vos pays ? Si oui, comment ? (Drapeau Blanc) - *Will you commit to promoting and protecting the rights of the defence in the world in general and in your countries in particular? If so, how?*

- En materia de violencia de género, si bien Cuba ha ratificado la Convención para la Eliminación de todas las formas de Discriminación contra la Mujer, todavía no cuenta con una ley específica sobre violencia de género y el número de feminicidios sigue en aumento, ¿qué medidas planea tomar el Estado para proteger a las víctimas de violencia de género? (Plataforma Femenina) - *In terms of gender-based violence, although Cuba has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, it still does not have a specific law on gender-based violence and the number of femicides continues to rise. What measures does the State plan to take to protect victims of gender-based violence?*
- Teniendo en cuenta los compromisos asumidos por el Estado en materia de derechos humanos ¿está previsto que Cuba ratifique instrumentos básicos como el Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos y el Pacto Internacional sobre Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales? (CELIDE) - *Taking into account the State's human rights commitments, is Cuba expected to ratify basic instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ?*
- Considerando la gran cantidad de personas defensoras de derechos humanos que se encuentran impedidas de salir o entrar al país ¿de qué manera el Estado garantiza los derechos a la libre circulación, residencia, entrada y salida del país de personas defensoras de derechos humanos? (Consejería Jurídica e Instrucción Cívica) - *Considering the large number of human rights defenders who are prevented from leaving or entering the country, how does the State guarantee the rights of human rights defenders to freedom of movement, residence, entry and exit the country?*
- A pesar de la aprobación del Código de las Familias de Cuba, la población LGBTI continúa siendo discriminada y acosada, ¿qué medidas planea tomar el Estado para proteger a la población LGBTI teniendo en cuenta que en Cuba no existe ley que condene los crímenes de odio y la discriminación sobre estas personas? (Federación Latinoamericana de Mujeres Rurales (FLAMUR) - *Despite the approval of the Cuban Family Code, the LGBTI population continues to be discriminated against and harassed. What measures does the State plan to take to protect the LGBTI population, bearing in mind that in Cuba there is no law condemning hate crimes and discrimination against these people?*
- Los feminicidios son la máxima expresión de la violencia contra las mujeres y para enfrentar el aumento de casos en Cuba se requiere una ley y enfoque integrales que involucren a la sociedad civil, gobierno y comunidad internacional. ¿De qué manera planea enfrentar el Estado el número creciente de feminicidios en Cuba y qué lugar ocuparán las organizaciones no gubernamentales? (Red en Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (RDDHCuba) - *Femicides are the ultimate expression of violence against women and to address the increase in cases in Cuba requires a comprehensive law and approach involving civil society, government and the international community. How does the State plan to address the growing number of femicides in Cuba and what place will non-governmental organisations play?*
- El Estado de Cuba ratificó la Convención Internacional sobre la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación Racial y en 2019 aprobó como decreto presidencial el Programa contra el Racismo y la Discriminación Racial ¿Cuáles son las instituciones responsables de la implementación de medidas contra la discriminación racial y de qué manera se dialoga y coordina con actores de la sociedad civil para esta implementación? (Comité Ciudadanos por la Integración Racial (CIR) - *The State of Cuba ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and in 2019 approved the*

Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination as a presidential decree. Which institutions are responsible for the implementation of measures against racial discrimination and how is there dialogue and coordination with civil society actors for this implementation?

- Las y los ciudadanos cubanos, y muy especialmente las personas defensoras de derechos humanos, se enfrentan a un contexto de múltiples violaciones a sus derechos de libre movimiento, reunión, asociación, manifestación y expresión ¿Con qué medidas concretas planea el Estado cubano garantizar esos mismos derechos, consagrados en la propia Constitución Nacional y en los tratados internacionales aprobados por el Estado, de modo que resulten efectivos para toda la población y, en particular, para las personas defensoras de derechos humanos? (Consejo para la Transición Democrática) - *Cuban citizens, and especially human rights defenders, face a context of multiple violations of their rights to freedom of movement, assembly, association, demonstration and expression. With what concrete measures does the Cuban state plan to guarantee these same rights, enshrined in the National Constitution and in international treaties approved by the state, so that they are effective for the entire population and, in particular, for human rights defenders?*
- UN experts, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Committee Against Torture, have identified evidence of systematic arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture in Cuba. What steps will the Cuban government take to stop these abuses and take senior officers responsible for violations to justice? (Human Rights Watch)
- Non-governmental human rights organisations have documented hundreds of cases of political prisoners in Cuba. Victims include protesters, critics, journalists, independent artists and opposition leaders. Prisoners Defenders says that 1.047 political prisoners remain detained while Justicia11J counts 784 people arrested in connection with the July 11, 2021, protests who are still behind bars. What steps will the Cuban government adopt to release people who have been arbitrarily detained? (Human Rights Watch)
- Cuba is among the small minority of countries around the globe that have not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) nor the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Will the government commit to ratifying these core international human rights instruments? (Human Rights Watch)

Dominican Republic

- ¿Qué medidas está contemplando el Gobierno de la República Dominicana para mejorar significativamente la calidad de vida y las condiciones laborales de las personas haitianas y de ascendencia haitiana que trabajan en los campos de caña de azúcar? ¿Cuáles son las acciones que promoverá en la materia desde el Consejo de Derechos Humanos? (Dominicans for Justice and Peace) - *What measures is the Government of the Dominican Republic contemplating to significantly improve the quality of life and working conditions of Haitians and people of Haitian descent who work in the sugar cane fields? What actions will it promote in this area through the Human Rights Council?*
- ¿Cómo concilia el Estado dominicano su aspiración de formar parte del Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la ONU con su reiterativa actitud desafiante contra la vigencia y universalidad de los derechos humanos y la labor de instancias como el

Alto Comisionado de la ONU para los Derechos Humanos, la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, expresada en el desconocimiento de los fallos y recomendaciones de estas instancias para poner fin a la discriminación racial sistemática en contra de personas dominicanas de ascendencia haitiana e inmigrantes haitanos, así como la reivindicación de políticas violatorias de derechos humanos sobre la base de una supuesta defensa de la soberanía nacional, especialmente en materia migratoria y de apatridia? (Movimiento Reconoci.do) - *How does the Dominican State reconcile its aspiration to join the UN Human Rights Council with its repeated defiance of the validity and universality of human rights and the work of bodies such as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights? expressed in the disregard of the rulings and recommendations of these bodies to put an end to the systematic racial discrimination against Dominicans of Haitian descent and Haitian immigrants, as well as the vindication of policies that violate human rights on the basis of a supposed defence of national sovereignty, especially in the area of migration and statelessness?*

- Tomando en cuenta que el destierro no está previsto en la legislación dominicana y es una gravísima violación a los derechos humanos, ¿qué medidas ha tomado o pretende tomar el gobierno dominicano para impedir que continúen las numerosas detenciones arbitrarias de personas dominicanas de ascendencia haitiana en los operativos migratorios que se han desplegado como parte de la campaña de deportaciones masivas desde el año 2021? (Movimiento Reconoci.do) - *Taking into account that banishment is not provided for in Dominican legislation and is a very serious violation of human rights, what measures has the Dominican government taken or does it intend to take to prevent the continuation of the numerous arbitrary detentions of Dominicans of Haitian descent in the migration operations that have been deployed as part of the campaign of mass deportations from the year 2021?*

France

- As an #HRC member expected to uphold the highest human rights standards, what reforms is #France planning to put an end to longstanding discriminatory policing targeting Black and Arab youth, and to ensure that these abuses are properly investigated & sanctioned? (Human Rights Watch)
- As an #HRC member expected to uphold the highest human rights standards, how #France will ensure that the critical work of organisations seeking to end discrimination, defend migrant rights, protect the environment is encouraged, not hampered by restrictions on civil society? (Human Rights Watch)
- What measures is France going to take to guarantee the right to peaceful protest? (Human Rights Watch)
- La France dénonce les conséquences de l'exploitation minière en Amazonie sur l'environnement et les peuples autochtones. Pourquoi n'interdit-elle définitivement pas les activités minières et industrielles sur son propre territoire en Guyane française ? (Organisation des Nations Autochtones de Guyane française) *France denounces the consequences of mining in Amazonia for the environment and indigenous peoples. Why doesn't it ban mining and industrial activities on its own territory in French Guiana?*

- Why is France reluctant to accept the request for an official visit in France of Clément Voulé, UN SR on freedom of peaceful demonstration and speech, who tried already thrice without getting any answer ? (human rights organisation wishes to remain anonymous)
- France has signed three Optional Protocols on CRC. According to HRW, police have summarily expelled dozens of unaccompanied migrant children to Italy each month despite their right to asylum. What is the plan to address this as per recommendation from the ECHR? (@apostatemommy)
- What will France do to further environmental justice? (Mahendra Khanal)
- How is France balancing its commitment to freedom of expression and religion with its policies regarding the use of abaya and access to education for children wearing it? (Manuel Vega)

Ghana

- Given recent legislative developments concerning matters related to sexual orientation and gender identity, and in particular the draft anti-LGBT law that is being considered. How do you propose to (a) protect the rights of all of your citizens, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, (b) Do you intend to stand by the principle of universality of human rights as a member of the Human Rights Council and ensure that all persons are protected from violence and discrimination? (The Global Interfaith Network (GIN SSOGIE))
- How is possible Ghana is promoting and protecting human rights of all Whilst this inhuman anti LGBTQI+ in the Parliament of Ghana on it's why of making it Law (the protection of proper human sexual life and Ghanaian family values 2021 bill) that bill seeks to criminalise every activity of the LGBTQI+ Person in Ghana if passed. So what is Ghana doing about that Bill? (Ibrahim Abdul Karim)

Indonesia

- The National Commission on Violence Against Women revealed 73 mandatory hijab regulations in August 2023. How will Indonesia review, and possibly revoke, all these discriminatory regulations? (Human Rights Watch)
- In 2013, Human Rights Watch released a report about four state institutions which facilitate these discriminations including the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Indonesian Ulama Council, the blasphemy law office (Bakorpakem) and the Religious Harmony Forum. The government is now reviewing the Religious Harmony Forum regulation. What will the government do to review the other three institutions? (Human Rights Watch)
- President Jokowi promised to open West Papua in 2015 but it remains restricted. What will the government do to review many regulations that make West Papua different from other 32 provinces in Indonesia? (Human Rights Watch)
- We are concerned about the shrinking space for civil society and harassment of human rights defenders. Indonesia is also repeatedly included in the Secretary General's reports on reprisals among the countries that perpetrate reprisals against

those who cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms. What steps will Indonesia take to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders in the country, and to ensure that human rights defenders can engage with UN mechanisms without fear of reprisals? (Forum Asia)

- Human rights and humanitarian situation in West Papua region remains dire especially with increasing militarisation and resulting internal displacement together with the systematic restrictions on fundamental freedoms. During the UPR Indonesia accepted a number of recommendations to investigate allegations of violations in Papua and ensure accountability. However, despite the lack of public confidence in the national processes, the government did not agree to allow independent monitoring of the situation including by the High Commissioner and special procedures. Will the government commit to provide unfettered access to Papua region by the High Commissioner, and relevant special procedures and other independent experts, including by facilitating a visit by the High Commissioner in line with President Jokowi's 2018 invitation to the former high commissioner to visit Papua? (Forum Asia)
- Indonesia has so far been reluctant to take action at the Human Rights Council on country specific situations based on their merit and objective criteria. The best illustration of this is Indonesia's rejection of an initiative to hold a debate at the Council on the overwhelming and credible evidence of possible crimes against humanity in China documented in the High Commissioner's report. Can Indonesia elaborate on the criteria it currently follows when considering action on country specific situations at the Council, and will Indonesia commit to address the situations of human rights at the Council based on the objective criteria? (Forum Asia)
- Considering the current state of 5PC implementation in Myanmar, what can Indonesia contribute to strengthening the promotion of human rights in the region and making progress in Myanmar? (HRD from Indonesia wishes to remain anonymous)
- What steps have you taken to eradicate torture in Indonesia? Will you put priorities on this issue when elected to the Council? (HRD from Indonesia wishes to remain anonymous)
- What will be Indonesia's priorities or plans in the Council to ensure full implementation of the UDHR, fulfilling the fundamental rights of all? @ISHRglobal #HRCelelections2023 (@laaicaa)
- As we have seen globally, the anti-rights movement has become more vocal and emboldened in Indonesia. The recent example of online attacks and harassment surrounding organisers of the ASEAN Queer advocacy week in Jakarta that was meant to be held in July is a clear example. What is Indonesia's position on the existence of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities in Indonesia, identities that existed long before independence or colonisation? What is Indonesia doing to ensure the safety of all of its citizens including human rights defenders working to promote gender equality and the rights of LGBTQIA communities? (ASEAN SOGI Caucus)
- How will Indonesia work to grant freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief to all its citizens? There have been numerous concerning reports of government officials denying the right to worship to Christians in West Sumatra. (Jubilee Campaign)
- The Ambassador of Indonesia mentioned the "spirit of dialogue". Will the government of Indonesia accept a visit of the UN HCHR to its country, as recommended during

the recent UPR of Indonesia and asked for by Indonesian cNGOs and human rights activists? (Silke Voss-Kyeck)

- The Association of SouthEast Asian Nations just completed its heads of government meeting and has issued a declaration on the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue. However, as Chair of ASEAN in 2023, we have seen a total failure of dialogue in bringing about any positive change in the human rights situation in Myanmar. To what extent does Indonesia believe the promotion of mere dialogue, without more, can actually lead to positive changes in the human rights situation around the world? (Andrew Khoo)
- What will Indonesia do to address increasing cases of attacks against human rights defenders, including criminalization under vague provisions, such as the ITE Law, as well as intimidation, harassment and threats that hinder their activities in promoting and defending human rights? (Marguerite Afra Sapiie)

Japan

- Q about the hostage justice system; In Japan,1) criminal authorities (police and prosecutors) question suspects without a lawyer. In East Asia, it is only North Korea and China, apart from Japan, which does not allow lawyers to be present at interrogation. 2) Investigators press suspects to answer questions and confess to the alleged crimes even if they invoke the right to remain silent. Does Japan commit to reform its criminal justice system including the access to lawyers and the rights to remain silent? (Human Rights Watch)
- Q about national human rights mechanism: Japan does not have a national institution – whether human rights commission, ombudsman, or commissioner, despite numerous recommendations from the UN committees to set up one. When will Japan set up a national human rights institution? (Human Rights Watch)

Kuwait

- Why should states vote for Kuwait when your government has rejected decades of UN treaty body and Special Procedures' calls for Kuwait to end de facto statelessness in the country by creating a fair, UN-approved process for granting nationality to all those who do not have it, known widely as 'Bidoon'? When will you end this injustice that rejects what the UN stands for? (Salam for Democracy and Human Rights)
- There is currently only 1 woman representative in the current Kuwaiti National Assembly. What is Kuwait doing to ensure women participation in the country's decision making process and amend discriminatory policies and laws against women? (Gulf Centre for Human Rights - GCHR)
- The Bidoon community in Kuwait, an underclass of over 150,000 people, continue to be denied citizenship and all the fundamental rights that go with it. Prominent Bidoon activists continue to be arrested and detained for their work defending human rights. What will the government of Kuwait do to address this situation? (Gulf Centre for Human Rights - GCHR)

- Peaceful protesters online and offline continue to be arbitrarily arrested in Kuwait. What steps is the government going to take to ensure the release of all those arbitrarily detained and ensure guarantees of non repetition? (Gulf Centre for Human Rights - GCHR)
- What steps is Kuwait taking to comply with international standards when it comes to the rights of migrant workers, and ensure the establishment of trade unions to protect migrant workers rights? (Gulf Centre for Human Rights - GCHR)
- What action is the Kuwaiti government taking, and within what timeframe, to amend legislation to ensure that Kuwaiti women can confer their nationality on an equal basis with Kuwait men? (Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights)
- How is the new general election commission law going to affect women's participation in running for the national assembly? (Human Rights Watch)

Malawi

- Human rights for older persons have not been upheld for many years in many countries including Malawi. As a candidate for election to the UN Human Rights Council, what will be your contribution for a UN convention on the Rights of older persons? (Elisha Sibale Mwamkinga)
- In early 2023, the government of Malawi issued a directive that ordered all refugees and asylum seekers living in urban and rural areas to return to the Dzaleka Refugee Camp. Children were among those caught up in the enforcement of this encampment policy. Some of the children were forcibly detained at Maula Central Prison, a maximum-security prison in Lilongwe. What has Malawi done to (a) counsel the children who were held in prison and (b) remedy this violation of international human rights law? (Human Rights Watch)
- The Constitution of Malawi explicitly guarantees the rights of all humans, yet same-sex relations remain a crime punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment. Why does the country still maintain laws that punish the relationships of consenting adults? (Human Rights Watch)
- We welcome Malawi's commitment to take swift action to advance women's equal rights and address gender discrimination. Given the opportunity to show leadership via the HRC, could Malawi please provide information on its plan to reform gender-discriminatory provisions in its nationality law that deny women the right to confer nationality on a noncitizen spouse on an equal basis with men? (Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights)
- On advocating for open civic space, how are you going to enhance the shrinking civic space regarding the fact that we have an obstructed civic space and the Malawi Congress Party is nearing closing it? This is more evident in how state actors are being harassed, intimidated and abducted. Our fellow human rights activists Bon Kalindo was abducted and was almost killed for leading peaceful demonstrations on 30th August 2023 (Goodwell Logeya)

The Netherlands

- We welcome the commitment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in engaging with the UPR process, especially in making recommendations to States under review, and other international human rights mechanisms and instruments. However, we note that when it comes to the implementation of (accepted) UPR recommendations, or concluding observations from Treaty Monitoring Bodies (TMBs) received there has been a lack of full implementation, as visible in e.g. the concluding observations around the rights of intersex persons through CAT in 2018 (CAT/C/NLD/CO/7). Relevantly we ask how does the Kingdom of the Netherlands plan on improving the adequate and full national implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and concluding observations from the expert committees behind ratified treaties? (HIVOS)
- According to international agreements, the Netherlands is supposed to spend 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) on development cooperation. In recent years, the Netherlands has cut back on this and has been unable to meet these international agreements. For the upcoming years, the Netherlands has announced even more budget cuts (500 million in 2023, and in total 3.4 billion until 2026). Development budget is necessary for fulfilling and protecting human rights internationally. How will the Netherlands continue to champion efforts on SRHR, youth and protecting civic space in international UN spaces, while nationally they are falling behind? (CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality)
- How will they continue to ensure NGO participation and access to the HRC? (Rutgers)
- What will the Netherlands do to uphold the principle of indivisibility and universality of human rights, equally applying human rights standards to all states? (Rutgers)

Peru

- El racismo estructural y sistémico, la discriminación étnico racial es uno de los principales problemas que enfrenta el pueblo afroperuano, que afecta principalmente en áreas como educación, salud, empleo que acciones emprenderá para combatirlos, el acceso a la justicia racial y social continua siendo un gran desafío serán temas que harán parte de su agenda. (Cecilia Ramirez Rivas Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer Negra Peruana (CEDEMUNEP)) *Structural and systemic racism, ethnic and racial discrimination is one of the main problems faced by the Afro-Peruvian people, affecting mainly in areas such as education, health, employment, what actions will be taken to combat them, access to racial and social justice continues to be a major challenge will be issues that will be part of its agenda.*
- According to OHCHR, many women/girls in Amazonian Peru are victims of trafficking, with the majority being teenagers trafficked for sex. What will be Peru's priorities to ensure the implementation of CEDAW, as well as the protection of indigenous rights? #HRCElections2023 (@apostatemommy)
- What steps will Peru take to guarantee the full exercise of fundamental freedoms for all Peruvians in the context of social protests? Has Peru considered police and security reforms as a priority to guarantee full protection of human rights for civilians, specially those taking part in social protests? (Peru Support Group)

- Given current's political and institutional crisis, what steps will Peru undertake to preserve and strengthen its institutional democratic framework guarantee the rule of law? (Peru Support Group)
- What practical steps Peru will be taken to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders? (Peru Support Group)

Russia

- Vous engagerez-vous à promouvoir et à protéger les droits de la défense dans le monde en général et particulièrement dans vos pays ? Si oui, comment ? (Drapeau Blanc) *Will you commit to promoting and protecting the rights of the defence in the world in general and in your countries in particular? If so, how?*
- The UNGA, in resolution ES-11/L.04, cited Russia's "violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law" as well as "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" in Ukraine when it voted 93 - 24 to suspend Russia' membership on the Council. In the 12 months since then, the Human Rights Council mandated Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has reported on rape, torture, gender-based violence, indiscriminate attacks on civilians, all carried out by Russian forces in what the Commission has called war crimes. With this documented evidence of severe human rights violations committed by Russia in Ukraine, why should the General Assembly be asked to reconsider Russia's membership on the world's human rights body? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous)
- In the last 25 years, the Russian authorities' systematic rollback of human rights, notably the freedoms of expression & opinion, assembly, and association, created what UN Special Procedures mandate holders described as an enabling environment for the unprovoked attack on Ukraine in February 2022. Since Russia was suspended from the Council, that rollback has only increased and expanded. Nearly 20,000 people have been detained following participation in peaceful demonstrations, hundreds of civil society organisations, including Memorial and the Moscow Helsinki Group, have been forced to close. Political opposition figures are in jail. Independent media outlets are forced to relocate abroad. Does the Russian Federation believe that these are actions which reflect the promotion and protection for human rights which Council members should uphold? (HRD wishes to remain anonymous)
- Seriously, Russia seeking a seat on the UN HRC? How many of its 500+ political prisoners will it release and how many of its new, toxic, repressive laws will it repeal to meet UN human rights standards? (Human Rights Watch)
- Russia was kicked off the HRC just after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. 18 months, countless war crimes, and a tyrannical crackdown at home later, Russia's bidding for the HRC. Are they trolling us? (Human Rights Watch)