

Human Rights Council elections 2026
Questions asked by civil society to candidate States during the
Pledging Event
3 September 2026

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Questions to all candidates

- If elected to the UN Human Rights Council, what three specific, measurable commitments will your government make within the first year of its mandate to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders, ensure meaningful participation of civil society—including persons with disabilities, women, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ persons, and other marginalized communities—and fully cooperate with UN Special Procedures by issuing standing invitations, responding promptly to communications, and implementing their recommendations? How will you publicly report on your progress and ensure independent accountability for these commitments? (Dean Bordode from Canada)

- How does your country's domestic human rights record support its candidacy? What steps has your government taken to implement recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)? How does your country engage with civil society and human rights defenders? How will your country ensure transparency and accountability during its membership? (Anonymous HRD from Mauritius)
- As candidate States pledge to uphold the highest standards in human rights to secure membership, what concrete, verifiable mechanisms will your governments establish to protect Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and frontline civil society representatives—particularly those from accredited international CSOs—from reprisals and administrative barriers when engaging with HRC mechanisms and reporting protocols? (International Human Rights Commission -IHRCB-CEC)
- What do you make of a state that captures the President of another country and imprisons him along with his wife? Where, then, are human rights? Does respect for rights only apply to those who are stronger? (Cameroon Regional Centre for Support and Development of Women's Initiatives -CRADIF)
- If elected to the UN Human Rights Council, what concrete steps will your government take to protect human rights defenders, journalists, civil society organisations and other individuals who cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms—including those who submit information to Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and the Human Rights Council—from intimidation, reprisals, surveillance, criminalisation or other forms of retaliation, including where such abuses are carried out by state or non-state actors with the support, tolerance or acquiescence of public authorities? (Dean Bordode from Canada)
- More specifically, will your government commit to publicly reporting on allegations of reprisals and to ensuring that those responsible are investigated and held accountable? In addition, will your government make measurable, time-bound commitments—not merely statements of principle—regarding the concrete actions it will take during its term on the Human Rights Council when another State is credibly alleged to have committed or enabled reprisals against a human rights defender, including how it will raise the case, seek accountability, and report publicly on its response? (Dean Bordode from Canada)
- In the intersection between the economic system and human rights globally, What would be your strategy to advance the business and human rights agenda while at your seat at the HRC and what is your position on the protection and guarantees of human rights of rural, peasant, indigenous, and black communities, workers in value chains, and women, children, and LGBTQ+ people in all these groups in the urgency to approve and ratify the Legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises in order to incorporate its provisions in national laws? (PODER)
- Given the threat to universal human rights posed by the rise of right wing extremism globally, how does the candidate propose to protect and promote the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including ethnic, religious, and lgbtq+ minorities, refugees, and migrant communities?(UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab)

- How will your government ensure that children, including girls, can meaningfully participate in the work of the Human Rights Council and other UN mechanisms during your membership? (Plan International)
- What commitments will your government make to place gender equality and girls' empowerment at the heart of your Human Rights Council membership?(Plan International)
- What measures will you take to protect and support child and youth human rights defenders, especially girls, who face risks when engaging with UN processes?(Plan International)
- How will you ensure that civil society — including child- and youth-led organizations — can engage freely and safely with the Human Rights Council?(Plan International)
- If elected to the Human Rights Council, how will your delegation engage constructively in the Intergovernmental Working Group on the rights of older persons during the next phase of negotiations? Will your government support the full, meaningful and effective participation of older persons and their representative organizations throughout the process? (AARP)
- What is your response to the recent surge in anti-lgbtq and women's rights across Africa and the Middle East? (Christian Sugar from Zimbabwe)
- Women and girls affected by conflict and gender-based violence often carry long-term emotional and psychological trauma. How will your state ensure sustained, trauma-informed, community-based support for survivors? (Tarinna Terrell-Soul Collective from the United States)
- ¿Cuáles son sus prioridades en términos de los principales problemas relacionados con los Derechos Humanos hoy día? (Morella Aranda from Colombia)
- What and how do you intend to help those dealing with severe state actor violence? How will or do you intend to help them fleeing and ensure their voices are heard and they're protected as needed. Will you help recognise those people's essential need for protection under human rights law when seeking safety elsewhere. (Rachel O'Connor from the UK)

Questions for specific countries

Brazil

Questions asked during the event

- The Committee noted with appreciation that Brazil accepted recommendations made during its fourth Universal Periodic Review, held on 14 November 2022, regarding the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). The Committee also welcomes key measures taken by the Government to implement this laudable commitment. The Committee would appreciate receiving updated information on the process of the ratification of the Convention by the

Brazilian National Congress. The Committee looks forward to continued dialogue with the authorities of Brazil on this important matter. (Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families)

- Brazil's candidacy states that the country will prioritize initiatives to combat structural racism and State violence, both domestically and internationally. Given the high levels of police violence and fatalities across the Americas, which disproportionately affect people of African descent, which initiatives does Brazil consider most appropriate for advancing this agenda internationally? And domestically, how does Brazil intend to strengthen its engagement with UN human rights mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of recommendations and decisions issued including by EMLER concerning police violence and independent investigations, in order to ensure that this engagement translates into concrete measures and measurable results that address the structural dimensions of this issue including serious flaws in investigations into police abuse leading to impunity? (Merged question from: Human Rights Watch, Conectas, and Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa)

Questions received

- Apart from the possibility of tabling motions of condemnation, what do you, as a candidate country for the Council, believe is essential to do as a first step in response to all the recommendations which, generally speaking, are not implemented by countries? (Katerina Volcov from Brazil)
- Brazilian police killed 6,500+ people in 2025, a record high; the vast majority were Black. Yet Brazil didn't mention police violence in its pledges for the UN HRC candidacy. HRW has documented serious flaws in investigations into police abuse, leading to impunity. How will Brazil curb police abuse and ensure independent investigations into the killings and how does it plan to address the recommendations by the UN Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (EMLER) report? (Human Rights Watch)
- Given the high levels of police violence and fatalities across the Americas, which disproportionately affect people of African descent, how does Brazil intend to make use of international human rights standards and strengthen its engagement with UN human rights mechanisms to address the structural dimensions of this issue domestically? In this context, how does the Government intend to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of recommendations and decisions issued by UN human rights mechanisms concerning police violence, in order to ensure that this engagement translates into concrete measures and measurable results? (Conectas)
- Brazil's candidacy states that the country will prioritize initiatives to combat structural racism and State violence, both domestically and internationally. Which Council forums and initiatives does the delegation consider most appropriate for advancing this agenda, particularly in its international dimension? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- If re-elected to the Human Rights Council, what concrete measures does Brazil intend to promote to strengthen the institutional capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as the Special Procedures and other mechanisms associated with the Council? (Conectas)

- In this scenario of growing challenges to the rule of law, democracy and multilateralism, as well as setbacks in the protection of human rights around the world, what concrete initiatives does Brazil intend to advance through the Human Rights Council to strengthen and defend these principles effectively? (Conectas)
- Recognizing the importance of protecting the territorial rights of Indigenous peoples as a fundamental component of their human rights, how does Brazil intend to apply international human rights standards and strengthen its engagement with UN mechanisms to advance the demarcation and effective protection of Indigenous territories? (Conectas)
- Brazil's candidacy highlights the country's priority of preventing and addressing the "structural causes leading to situations of human rights violations." What types of initiatives within the Council - such as resolutions, panels, reports, or technical cooperation - does Brazil consider most promising for translating this structural approach into concrete results? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- Brazil reaffirms its standing invitation to Special Procedures mandate holders, in place since 2001, as well as its commitment to monitoring and implementing recommendations. How does the delegation intend to further make use of this standing invitation over the next three-year term, including through follow-up on recommendations arising from country visits?(Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- The document expresses a commitment to continue advancing the ratification of international human rights instruments, both universal and Inter-American, by accelerating their consideration within the Executive and Legislative branches. Which instruments does the delegation identify as priorities in this effort, and how can civil society support their advancement?(Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- The document refers to Inter-American instruments, advisory opinions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and Brazil's engagement within the framework of the Organization of American States. How does Brazil intend to explore complementarities between the United Nations and Inter-American human rights systems during its term on the Council?(Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- Among its voluntary pledges and commitments, Brazil mentions strengthening the National System for the Prevention and Combating of Torture and expanding its state-level mechanisms. What strategies for federal coordination - such as technical support, incentives, and cooperation with states - does the delegation consider most promising for enabling this expansion during its term? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- The document cites the Pena Justa Programme as an example of Brazil's commitment to improving its prison system, with a focus on improving prison conditions and ensuring the effective social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty. Does the delegation intend to present this experience in Council-related forums, and would it be open to visits focused on this issue? Which dimensions of the Programme does the delegation consider most relevant to the international debate? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- The voluntary pledges and commitments devote specific attention to several groups in situations of vulnerability. In light of the document's references to prison conditions and social reintegration, does the delegation see scope for the rights of persons deprived of liberty to receive dedicated attention within the Council's agenda during its term? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)

- Brazil's candidacy expresses its intention to establish a National Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmental Defenders, including by expanding its territorial presence and strengthening the national data system. How does the delegation assess the potential of this experience to contribute to the international debate on the protection of human rights defenders, and how can civil society contribute to the development of this policy? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- The document states that rights guaranteed in the physical world must be fully protected in the digital environment, and that human rights must be incorporated into the design, development, implementation, and use of new technologies, including artificial intelligence. What initiatives does Brazil intend to support within the Council to make this principle operational? How does the delegation envisage advancing the human rights dimension of this debate while addressing sensitive issues such as hyper-surveillance and digital inclusion? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)
- The document presents the International Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMORE Brasil) as a platform that will enable government bodies and civil society to monitor which commitments are being implemented and which still require action, with "broad social participation." How will this participation be operationalized, for example with regard to access to data, the frequency of updates, and the possibility for civil society organizations to submit their own information? (Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa - IDDD)

Dominican Republic (did not attend the event)

Questions asked during the event

- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 2012 condemned the Dominican Republic for mass expulsions of Haitians without due process and based on race profiling. The Dominican Republic has sharply increased deportations of Haitians and descendants despite Haiti's severe human rights and humanitarian crises. If elected to the HRC, members are expected to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. What steps will the government take to ensure its migration and deportation policies comply with international human rights standards including due process, the principle of non-discrimination and the prohibition on collective expulsions, and what specific measures will it take to prevent racial profiling against Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent? (Merged question from: Human Rights Watch, La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial and anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- 12 years have passed since the Dominican Republic declared that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is not binding to the Dominican Republic (Constitutional Court Ruling No. 256-14). What steps has the country taken to return to IACHR jurisdiction? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)

Questions received

- 3 Sentences were issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights concerning Dominican Republic, 2005, 2012, 2014, what is the percentage of fulfilling of these decisions by the State? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- Last year 2025, the Constitutional Court ordered to the Ministry of Interior and Police issue naturalization to those who applied during 2014-2015. How many persons were naturalized according to Law 169-14? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights on March 2019 issued a Supervisory Resolution concerning Sentences issued on 2005 and 2014 (Yean and Bosico Girls and Dominicans and Haitians Expelled) establishing Constitutional Court Ruling 168-13 and Law No. 169-14 were contrary to international standards on arbitrary deprivation of nationality. What measures has the State taken to restore full citizenship of those with and without documents born in the country until 2010 Constitution, and arbitrarily deprived from citizenship by the 2013 Constitutional Court, a ruling still in force? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- What measures the State has taken to stop the gangs who runs a “business” at the Haitian-Dominican border when Haitians or persons of Haitian origin are deported? (Gangs ask for money to the deported and call people in the country to pay money to them, and help them to return back the deportees to communities) (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- Why the Government has not yet eliminated the 2025 protocol to deport right from public hospitals pregnant or women how gave birth after recent hours, Haitians or of Haitian descent? Why this do not happen from persons from other nationality? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- The Dominican Republic signed a “bilateral” agreement with USA to deport third country nationals from Dominican Republic. Concerns in this regard around the world about these agreements. UN Rapporteur has expressed concerns on this regards. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc6235-externalization-migration-governance-new-trends-and-specific> Why this agreement is not under the a priori control of the constitutional court to declare if is contrary or not to Dominican constitution? (in DR agreements signed shall be under the control of constitutional court before becomes binding, and seems the State have not called this an “agreement”, only a “ political act” to scape to constitutional court control) (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- Why the national data issued by the State do not distinguish between Haitian persons and persons of Haitian origin born in Dominican republic (example, numbers of persons deported, children in schools or at State child Centers, birth of woman at public hospitals)? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- The current political party of the Government (Partido Revolucionario Moderno-PRM) has the majority of the Congress in both Cameras; this has facilitated new laws adopted during 6 years in the power. Why after 6 years governing have not adopted a law to decriminalize abortion? What measures the government have taken in this regard? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- Concerning persons with mental disability, why there are not enough centers in to address persons with personal and mental disability in whole country, what are the measures taken

in this regard? (Persons have to pay private centers and is very expensive, and I have seen not only in urban areas but also in communities, persons with mental disability are hit or tortured because families do not know how to manage this or no resources) (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)

- What are the measures the Dominican Republic is taking to select 50% of female judges at Supreme Court of Justice level-, specifically the Consejo Nacional de la Magistratura (who appoints SCJ judges according to the Constitution) ? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- ¿Cuál es el plan del Gobierno para garantizar la protección de las personas nacidas en la República Dominicana antes de 2010 que fueron registradas en los libros de extranjería o extranjería especial, y que actualmente carecen de nacionalidad y, en consecuencia, de acceso pleno a servicios esenciales como salud, educación, seguridad jurídica, además de estar afectadas por prácticas de perfilamiento racial? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- ¿Qué acciones concretas está implementando el Estado dominicano para garantizar que ninguna de las personas afectadas por la sentencia 168-13 quede sin documentación antes del cambio de mandato presidencial? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- ¿Qué recursos financieros y administrativos ha destinado el Gobierno para garantizar que las personas registradas en los libros de extranjería y de extranjería especial puedan obtener un documento definitivo que les permita acceder a seguridad jurídica y a la nacionalidad dominicana, considerando que fueron afectadas por la sentencia 168-13 y permanecen en un limbo jurídico a pesar de la implementación de la Ley 169-14? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- ¿Cómo garantizará el Estado dominicano que las organizaciones de la sociedad civil que trabajan con poblaciones vulnerabilizadas sean escuchadas dentro del Sistema Nacional de Derechos Humanos y que sus recomendaciones sean incorporadas en los procesos de elaboración de políticas públicas en materia de nacionalidad y migración? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 2012 condemned DR for mass expulsions of haitians without due process and based on race profiling. What measures the State has taken in this regard, given the high numbers of deportations of Haitians and descendants without due process and massively? (Anonymous defender from the Dominican Republic)
- The Dominican Republic has sharply increased deportations of Haitians despite Haiti's severe human rights and humanitarian crises. If elected to the HRC, members are expected to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. What steps will the government take to ensure deportations comply with international human rights standards? (Human Rights Watch)
- ¿Cómo garantizará la República Dominicana, en caso de resultar electa al Consejo de Derechos Humanos, que sus políticas migratorias y de deportación respeten plenamente el debido proceso, el principio de no discriminación y la prohibición de expulsiones colectivas, y qué medidas concretas adoptará para prevenir prácticas de perfilamiento racial contra personas haitianas y dominicanas de ascendencia haitiana? (La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial -CODHAJUR)

- En el contexto de la candidatura de la República Dominicana al Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, ¿qué compromisos concretos, medibles y con plazos definidos asumirá el Estado para garantizar el derecho a la nacionalidad, prevenir la apatridia y eliminar la discriminación racial y por origen nacional, particularmente respecto de las personas dominicanas de ascendencia haitiana y las personas afectadas por la Sentencia TC/0168/13 y la aplicación de la Ley 169-14; y qué mecanismos establecerá para que la sociedad civil pueda monitorear y evaluar el cumplimiento de esos compromisos? (La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial - CODHAJUR)
- Ante la persistencia de la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas en la República Dominicana, incluidos los feminicidios, la violencia sexual y otras formas de violencia basada en género, ¿qué compromisos concretos, medibles y con plazos definidos asumirá el Estado dominicano, en el marco de su candidatura al Consejo de Derechos Humanos, para fortalecer la prevención, garantizar el acceso efectivo a la justicia y protección de las víctimas, combatir la impunidad y asegurar recursos suficientes para la implementación de las políticas públicas destinadas a erradicar la violencia de género? (La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial -CODHAJUR)
- En el contexto de su candidatura al Consejo de Derechos Humanos, ¿qué medidas concretas asumirá la República Dominicana para prevenir y sancionar la discriminación, la violencia y los crímenes motivados por prejuicios contra las personas LGBTQ+, garantizar su acceso efectivo a la justicia y asegurar que las leyes y políticas nacionales ofrezcan una protección efectiva contra la discriminación por orientación sexual, identidad y expresión de género?(La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial - CODHAJUR)
- Considerando las obligaciones internacionales de la República Dominicana en materia de derechos laborales, ¿qué compromisos concretos asumirá el Estado, como candidato al Consejo de Derechos Humanos, para garantizar la libertad sindical, la negociación colectiva y la protección de trabajadores, trabajadoras y dirigentes sindicales frente a despidos, represalias, discriminación o cualquier otra forma de persecución derivada del ejercicio de sus derechos sindicales, y qué mecanismos establecerá para investigar y sancionar estas violaciones?(La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial -CODHAJUR)
- En el marco de su candidatura al Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, ¿qué compromisos concretos, medibles y con plazos definidos asumirá la República Dominicana para garantizar la plena inclusión y los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, particularmente en materia de accesibilidad, educación inclusiva, salud, empleo digno, protección social, participación política y acceso efectivo a la justicia; y qué medidas adoptará para prevenir y sancionar la discriminación, la violencia y las barreras institucionales que enfrentan, especialmente las mujeres, niñas y personas con discapacidad en situación de pobreza o pertenecientes a otros grupos históricamente discriminados? (La Coalición Dominicana por el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Racial - CODHAJUR)

Germany

Questions asked during the event

- The Taliban have entrenched one of the worst human rights crises and systematically dismantled the rights of women and girls since taking power five years ago. Will Germany stop deporting people to Afghanistan and for those people it has or intends to deport to Afghanistan, how will it ensure their safety and dignity? (Human Rights Watch)
- For its candidature to the HRC Germany committed itself to "maintain strong political and substantial financial support for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures". What does that exactly mean in financial terms, taking into consideration that Germany's contribution to the UN overall has already been cut significantly (more than 20% from 2024 to 2025) and even more so its budgets for humanitarian aid and economic development. (Forum Menschenrechte)

Questions received

- What specific commitments and measurable actions will your State take to strengthen the protection of human rights, ensure accountability for violations, and promote meaningful participation of civil society and human rights defenders at both the national and international levels (Aine Sohayata Kendro Asok Foundation in Bangladesh)
- As candidates for the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2026–2028 term, how will your governments demonstrate concrete commitment to protecting human rights defenders, strengthening civic space, ensuring accountability for human rights violations, and supporting meaningful participation of civil society organizations—especially those working in conflict-affected and fragile contexts? Specifically, what actions will you take to ensure that the voices of women, youth, marginalized communities, and local human rights organizations are reflected in the Council's work and decision-making processes? (Anonymous HRD from Somalia)
- Germany has consistently portrayed itself as a strong supporter of the rules-based international order, international criminal justice, and accountability mechanisms, which are important priorities as a member of the HRC. Germany has reaffirmed its support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and international justice. Which concrete steps is Germany planning to safeguard the ICC against attacks and how will it ensure a consistent approach to support ICC investigations, enforce arrest warrants, and support accountability mechanisms? (Human Rights Watch)
- In February 2026, statements made by Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory, Francesca Albanese, were misconstrued based on a deliberately truncated video. This let several Foreign Ministers, including Minister Wadephul, to call for her resignation. Other ministers later retracted their accusations against Albanese. Mr. Wadephul did not. Can you explain how this incident is coherent with your self description as a "staunch supporter of the international human rights architecture" and your pledge to politically support the Special Procedures". (Forum Menschenrechte)
- In your pledges, you promise to "contribute to the Human Rights Council's reform efforts to ensure that its mechanisms are more effective, inclusive, and results-oriented." What

concrete measures do you propose in this regard? What is your position on sunseting established mandates of the Council, such as Investigative Bodies or Special Procedures? (Forum Menschenrechte)

- In your pledges, you promise to “safeguard the critical role of civil society and human rights defenders in the work of the Human Rights Council.” Given the dramatic raise of incidents of reprisals against human rights defenders’ cooperation with the UN mechanisms, including harassment happening in Geneva: What concrete measures do you propose to safeguard the participation of civil society in the work of the Council? (Forum Menschenrechte)
- After the lost bet for a seat in the UN Security Council, Minister Wadehul publicly announced that Germany would re-evaluate its financial commitment to the UN. Can you clarify these remarks in the light of your pledge to “maintain strong political and substantial financial support for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights”? (Forum Menschenrechte)
- How can the German Federal Government credibly uphold its commitment to protect human rights defenders and work against TNR while simultaneously pursuing highly restrictive migration policies, including forced returns at borders without individual risk assessments and the discontinuation of voluntary humanitarian visa programmes? These programmes have provided vital protection pathways for individuals at risk as well as human rights defenders under pressure. (Forum Menschenrechte)
- What work are you doing in Côte d’Ivoire to promote human rights and civil society? (The NGO ‘Afrique au Coeur Blanc’ in Côte d’Ivoire)

Ghana (did not attend the event)

Questions asked during the event

- Ghana has previously committed, as a candidate for the HRC, to upholding universal human rights standards and the principle of non-discrimination. In light of the recently passed "Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill", how will Ghana ensure that this commitment is reflected in its domestic legal framework, including by safeguarding the rights of LGBTI people and the broader civil society? (ILGA)
- How will your government ensure that children, including girls, can meaningfully participate in the work of the Human Rights Council and other UN mechanisms during your membership? (Plan International)

Questions received

- What are your plans regarding the fight against terrorism in West Africa? (Anonymous defender from Burkina Faso)

Ireland

Questions asked during the event

- Will Ireland commit to prioritizing households facing energy poverty, particularly those unable to finance improvements or hindered by tenure barriers, and pledge to remove all financial and legal obstacles preventing private renters and social housing tenants from accessing energy-efficiency and retrofit programmes? (Friends of Earth Ireland)
- What urgent and additional measures will Ireland adopt to guarantee it meets its carbon budgets and 2030 emissions targets and to accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels? Will it pledge to protect the human rights of communities disproportionately affected by climate change during this transition? Will Ireland commit to deep and sustained cuts in methane emissions from its livestock sector, in line with recommendations from the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and Climate Change's report on Food System Transformation? (Merged question from: Friends of Earth Ireland and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Europe, Animal Advocacy & Food Transition, Green REV Institute, Opportunity Green, European Environmental Bureau, Eurogroup for Animals)

Questions received

- Many countries have established policies, laws, and rules aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, yet their implementation remains a significant challenge. Given the gap between policy and practice, what specific plans, goals, and strategies do you propose to ensure the effective enforcement of disability rights laws? How will you work to make these policies functional and impactful on the ground, including in areas such as accessibility, healthcare, education, employment, and social inclusion? Furthermore, what innovative approaches or partnerships do you envision to promote awareness, accountability, and tangible improvements for persons with disabilities across different regions, especially in underserved communities? (Disability Peoples Forum Uganda)
- The Special Rapporteur found that the agribusiness lobby downplays the harm caused by livestock methane to delay meaningful action to protect our climate. Ireland is considering adopting these industry delay tactics in how it assesses methane as part of its future climate budgets, and the recently adopted EU Livestock Strategy opens the door to adopting that approach across the Union. How are these developments consistent with the Special Rapporteur's recommendation to decarbonize our food systems to prevent localized and global human right harms? (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Europe, Animal Advocacy & Food Transition, Green REV Institute Anna Spurek, Green Sod Ireland, Corporate Europe Observatory, Opportunity Green, European Environmental Bureau, Eurogroup for Animals)

Japan

Questions asked during the event

- The Committee noted with appreciation that Japan accepted recommendations made during its fourth Universal Periodic Review, held on 31 January 2023, regarding the ratification of

the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) . The Committee would appreciate receiving updated information on measures taken to implement this laudable commitment. The Committee would also welcome information on any challenges encountered in this process and stands ready, should the Government so wish, to provide any technical assistance or support within its mandate that may facilitate progress towards ratification. The Committee looks forward to continued dialogue with the Government of Japan on this important matter. (Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families)

- How would Japan tackle transnational repression, especially pressure from China? How would Japan protect Japanese, Chinese, Hong Kong people and other people living in Japan and abroad from China's transnational repression? (Asian Lawyers Network)

Questions received

- When does Japan intend to respond to the Human Rights Committee's repeated calls for it to review its legislation, which permits restrictions on freedom of religion or belief in the name of the public welfare, and in particular to dissolve religious associations on such a vague and arbitrary basis not provided for in Article 18(3) of the ICCPR? (Patricia Duval, Lawyer from France)
- When does Japan intend to respond to the repeated visit requests from several special rapporteurs—particularly those on freedom of religion and minority rights—which have gone unanswered despite its 2011 standing invitation? (Patricia Duval, Lawyer from France)
- In its pledge for HRC membership, Japan says it will "continue to appropriately follow up on the recommendations from each treaty body in order to bolster its cooperation with each body and its commitments pertaining to the implementation of each instrument." However, after CEDAW recommended Japan revise its Imperial Household Law, which stipulates that only men can be successors to Japan's throne, Japan informed the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights not to allocate any of Japan's voluntary funds to CEDAW. When will Japan act in accordance with its own pledge, including by ending its retaliation against CEDAW for its recommendations on Japan's Imperial House Law? (Human Rights Watch)

Jordan (did not attend the event)

Questions asked during the event

- Freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly are at risk. Many citizens including activists were imprisoned due to their peaceful online activism participating in peaceful demonstrations, and were targeted by Pegasus spyware. How will Jordan ensure that their commitments to protecting civic space are translated into measurable actions, particularly regarding the protection of human rights defenders? (Merged question from: Gulf Center for Human Rights and an anonymous human rights defender from Jordan)
- The Human Rights Committee has called on Jordan to "ensure that domestic laws, including those based on sharia law, are interpreted and applied in conformity with the State Party's

obligations under the covenant.” What progress has been made in this regard, specifically regarding the freedom to change religion or belief? (Jubilee Campaign)

Questions received

- What steps are Jordan taking to ratify the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel or Degrading Treatment? (Jubilee Campaign)
- How does Jordan ensure Sharia courts implement the CRC including the right for children of parents who have chosen to leave Islam to practice their new religion or belief? (Jubilee Campaign)
- How is Jordan working to ensure the legal recognition of Christians who left Islam and their right to raise their children in their new religion or belief? As recommended by the Holy See at the last Universal Periodic Review, though only noted by Jordan: “Guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion for everyone including the freedom to change religion or belief, and the freedom of worship for all religious communities. 137.37 (Holy See). (Jubilee Campaign)
- The Human Rights Committee also called on Jordan to “Ensure there is no discrimination in law or practice notably in matters of marriage, divorce, inheritance, transmittance of nationality, and freedom of movement.” (CCPR/C/JOR/QPR/6, para. 5) (Jubilee Campaign)
- How is Jordan working to ensure that the Personal Status Laws allow Muslim women the freedom to choose a spouse regardless of religion and belief as is the right given to men, including the freedom to marry a non-Muslim man? (Jubilee Campaign)
- How is Jordan working to ensure no discrimination in the rights of women to transmit religion or belief to their children? (Jubilee Campaign)
- “The Human Rights Committee notes that prohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are generally incompatible with the principles enshrined in the Covenant.” Jordan during its Universal Periodic Review elaborated on its cybercrime legislation saying that it focused on preventing attacks on freedom in the cybersphere, covering issues such as “violations of confidentiality, hate speech, violence and contempt of religion.” What progress has been made by Jordan in ensuring that its laws are in accordance with international law and that these efforts are not a de facto blasphemy law and used to discriminate in favour of or against one or certain religions or belief systems? [Jordan supported recommendation 136.54 Ensure freedom of expression online and offline in accordance with international obligations (France)] (Jubilee Campaign)
- How does Jordan ensure that its laws are not applied discriminatorily against non-Muslim beliefs? (Jubilee Campaign)
- As mentioned in the supported recommendation “Adopt measures to put an end to violations of civil and political rights, particularly freedom of expression and opinion.” 136.41 (Argentina) - (Jubilee Campaign)

- How is Jordan working to implement the supported UPR recommendation 136.42: “Ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including access to information [...] in line with Jordan’s international obligations” when Jordan does not allow the public access to Bibles and other non-Muslim books in ordinary marketplaces and bookshops? (Jubilee Campaign)

Kuwait (did not attend the event)

Questions asked during the event

- Treaty bodies documented government policies that perpetuate statelessness and citizenship stripping. Will Kuwait take urgent steps to halt all citizenship revocations that violate international law, including by placing individuals at risk of statelessness and disproportionately impacting people on the grounds of gender? Will Kuwait also put in place a comprehensive, independent, and effective review process of all affected individuals, and restore nationality of those who have been arbitrarily derived from it? (Merged question from: Salam for Democracy and Human Rights, Gulf Center for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch)
- Trade union rights continue to be limited for migrant workers in Kuwait, in violation of their fundamental labour rights. For example, migrant workers must first complete five years of work in the sector the union represents, cannot hold leadership positions, be members of union boards, vote for union elected leaders, participate in collective bargaining, or exercise the right to strike. Furthermore, domestic workers are unable to join unions. When will Kuwait pass and implement legislation recognising all migrant workers’ rights to freely associate, organise, collectively bargain and form a trade union in line with ILO Conventions No.87 and 98? (Coalition on Labor Justice for Migrants in the Gulf)

Questions received

- If elected as a member of the HRC, will Kuwaiti authorities repeal provisions of the Cyber Crimes Law, the Penal Code and the Public Gathering Law that contravene international human rights law by imposing undue restrictions on human rights, including to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly? (Human Rights Watch)
- Kuwait's hundreds of thousands of migrant domestic workers, most of them women, are explicitly excluded from private sector labour law protections (Law No. 6/2010), leaving them vulnerable to exploitative conditions and abuse. They also face retaliatory "absconding" charges, often filed by employers against workers who report exploitation. Will Kuwait commit to a timeline for extending equal labour law protections to migrant domestic workers, and to an independent complaints mechanism for workers facing retaliatory charges while reform is pending? (Coalition on Labor Justice for Migrants in the Gulf)
- Authorities have unfairly revoked the nationality of almost 20% of the population in what could be described as a massive violation of their human rights. The Emir of Kuwait, Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, dissolved the National Assembly and suspended certain articles of the Kuwaiti Constitution in May 2024. Since Kuwait is putting more restrictions on public

freedoms. Do you not think your current record won't qualify you as a member of the HRC? (Gulf Center for Human Rights)

- Please explain how the State of Kuwait reconciles government policies that perpetuate statelessness and citizenship stripping, which has resulted in a catalogue of international human rights violations documented by treaty bodies, with the commitments that Human Rights Council members are supposed to uphold? How will the Government of Kuwait contribute to improved global adherence to international treaty bodies when the government itself so often disregards fundamental human rights? (Salam for Democracy and Human Rights)

Moldova

Questions asked during the event

- Moldova's National Human Rights Programme for 2024–2027 already envisages a legal framework for protecting human rights defenders and journalists, including in the Transnistrian region, yet no comprehensive mechanism exists. If elected to the Human Rights Council, will Moldova commit to adopting, by the end of 2027 and in genuine consultation with civil society and the Ombudsperson, a comprehensive law establishing an independent, adequately resourced and rapid-response protection mechanism for human rights defenders at risk? (Legal Resources Center from Moldova)
- If elected, how will Moldova work with civil society, both at home and in Geneva, in defining and working towards its priorities and objectives including implementing the 2025 human rights-focused recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe in relation to media outlets, journalists and civil society? (Human Rights House Foundation)

Questions received

- If elected, what concrete steps will Moldova take, both domestically and at the Human Rights Council, to protect human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organisations from intimidation, harassment and undue restrictions? (Human Rights House Foundation)

Nepal

Questions asked during the event

- Nepal has repeatedly been called upon by UN human rights mechanisms to eliminate gender discrimination in its citizenship laws and protect every child from statelessness. If elected to the Human Rights Council, will Nepal commit to a time-bound plan during its 2027–2029 term to amend its Constitution and citizenship laws so that Nepali women can confer nationality on their children and spouses on an equal basis with men, introduce safeguards for children who would otherwise be stateless, and begin the process of acceding to the two UN Statelessness Conventions? What concrete steps and timeline will the Government adopt? (Nationality for all)

- Article 12 of the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right of every citizen to obtain citizenship in accordance with their gender identity. Nepal has also made significant commitments to upholding human rights and has received international recognition for its progressive legal framework concerning the rights of transgender and gender-diverse people. However, there remains a serious gap between these constitutional and legal commitments and their implementation in practice. As Nepal seeks election to the UN Human Rights Council, how will it address this gap to ensure equality, dignity, self-determination, legal identity, and non-discrimination for transgender and gender-diverse people? (Manisha Dhakal from Nepal)

Questions received

- How will Nepal work to recognise and protect the rights of minorities, especially ensuring that the anti-conversion laws are not discriminatorily applied to target minority beliefs? Will Nepal make a voluntary commitment to do this? (Jubilee Campaign)
- How will you advance civic space at the national and international levels as an HRC member?(Anonymous defender from an international NGO)
- It has been two years since the transitional justice law was passed and 20 years since the war ended. If elected as a member of the HRC, will Nepal lead by example and pursue long overdue accountability for conflict related crimes? (Human Rights Watch)
- What steps are being taken to amend Nepal's anti-conversion law to be in line with international human rights norms? (Jubilee Campaign)
- What steps are Nepal taking to ratify the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel or Degrading Treatment? (Jubilee Campaign)
- Reiterating the questions made by the Human Rights Committee in 2021: (1) What steps are being taken by Nepal to uphold freedom of conscience and religious belief? Especially noting that: (a) the National Penal (Code) Act, 2074 (2017), contains provisions that criminalize religious conversion and proselytizing; (b) religious minorities have faced restrictions in establishing non-governmental organizations and holding religious festivals and events; and (c) religious minorities have experienced difficulties in purchasing and using land for burial rituals. (2) What steps are being taken by Nepal to ensure minorities are able to share their beliefs without risk of being accused of forceful conversion? (Jubilee Campaign)

Nigeria (did not attend the event)

Questions asked during the event

- Will Nigeria set clear, public timelines to accommodate pending country visit requests by all UN Special Procedures including those related to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and counter-terrorism? (Nigerian Human Rights Defenders Network)
- Nigeria is seeking election to the UN Human Rights Council at a time when survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and the human rights defenders supporting them

continue to face serious barriers to justice and protection. If elected, will Nigeria commit to measurable targets for investigating and prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence, protecting survivors and human rights defenders and commit to implementing concrete legislative and policy guarantees to protect HRDs, journalists, and peaceful demonstrators from arbitrary arrest, harassment, or criminalization? (Merged question from: Bruised But Not Broken Rape Survivors Foundation from Nigeria and the Nigerian Human Rights Defenders Network)

Questions received

- Nigeria has outstanding obligations under various core international human rights treaties. What specific steps and timelines will the government commit to ensure these obligations are met? (Partnership for Justice, Secretariat of the Nigerian Human Rights Defenders Network -NHRDN)
- Will Nigeria commit to co-sponsoring and voting in favour of HRC resolutions that protect civic space, HRDs and CSOs, even as its National Assembly continues to pass domestic legislation that shrinks that same space? (Partnership for Justice, Secretariat of the Nigerian Human Rights Defenders Network - NHRDN)
- Nigerian authorities have yet to ensure accountability for serious international crimes committed during the Boko Haram conflict. Recent terrorism trials have focused largely on low-level suspects with tenuous links to Boko haram activities, while those most responsible for atrocities and those implicated in abuses by security forces have remained beyond the reach of justice. The proceedings have also raised serious fair trial concerns, including the possible misuse of inappropriate charges to induce guilty pleas and weak evidentiary standards. What steps is the government taking to ensure prosecutions of terrorism-related offences are based on credible evidence, fair trial guarantees, and genuine efforts to deliver justice for the most serious crimes? (Human Rights Watch)
- Nigeria has held seat in the Human rights Council for some years now, despite Nigeria representations, human rights violations has increased to alarming proportions. Police arbitrary arrests, unjustified religiously motivated mob violence against marginalised vulnerable LGBTQI+ persons has continued to worrisome levels without any government actions to protect citizens. I humbly ask therefore, What human rights protection actions have you made to impact marginalised and other vulnerable persons and communities in Nigeria? what is the significance of your representation in the committee? What qualifies you to be trusted by the marginalised groups including ethnic minorities who are killed by daily with impunity in Nigeria? And what do you plan to achieve by your representation if you succeed? And How do you plan to achieve change driven impact in your service? (Anonymous defender from Nigeria)
- What are your plans regarding the fight against terrorism in West Africa? (Anonymous defender from Burkina Faso)
- As candidates for the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2026–2028 term, how will your governments demonstrate concrete commitment to protecting human rights defenders, strengthening civic space, ensuring accountability for human rights violations, and supporting meaningful participation of civil society organizations—especially those working in conflict-affected and fragile contexts? Specifically, what actions will you take to ensure that the voices of women, youth, marginalized communities, and local human rights

organizations are reflected in the Council's work and decision-making processes?
(Anonymous HRD from Somalia)

Ukraine

Questions asked during the event

- Recognising the extraordinary pressures created by Russia's war of aggression, what concrete safeguards will Ukraine maintain to ensure that restrictions imposed domestically by Ukraine remain lawful, necessary, proportionate and subject to independent oversight? Will Ukraine commit to protecting independent media, human rights defenders and anti-corruption actors, ensuring meaningful civil-society participation in reconstruction and transitional-justice processes, and credibly investigating all alleged violations by Ukrainian officials or forces? And what is the status of implementation of recommendations made to the Government of Ukraine by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine? (Human Rights House Foundation)
- Research by HRW, the OHCHR, and others shows that Ukrainian civilians—including teachers, medics, municipal workers, and volunteers—have been prosecuted under anti-collaboration laws for essential work that international humanitarian law permits them to perform under occupation. When will Ukraine, in consultation with civil society, revise this legislation to end these unjust prosecutions? (Human Rights Watch)

Questions received

- Ukraine faces an existential threat from Russia's full-scale invasion. Precisely because the stakes are so high, protecting democratic institutions, rule of law, and fundamental rights during wartime is essential to the country Ukraine is fighting to defend. (Human Rights Watch)
- Last year, Ukraine's parliament passed legislation undercutting the independence of key anti-corruption bodies, sparking the country's biggest protests since Russia's full-scale invasion. Although repealed in days, this law risked weakening Ukraine's democratic foundations and its future EU integration. What safeguards will Ukraine put in place to prevent efforts to weaken these institutions again? (Human Rights Watch)

Uruguay

Questions asked during the event

- International and Uruguayan local press reported that Uruguay's government is negotiating with the United States to receive deportees, and Uruguay's Secretary of the Presidency confirmed talks are underway. HRC members are expected to adhere to high standards in the promotion and protection of human rights-- how will Uruguay ensure any deal to receive deportees complies with international refugee and non-refoulement obligations? (Human Rights Watch)

- Given the rapid growth of the elderly population worldwide and the increasing reports of discrimination, neglect, and violence against this group, what concrete commitments would you make to guarantee the effective protection of the rights of older persons, including access to health, social security, and political participation, how will you engage constructively in the Intergovernmental Working Group on the rights of older persons during the next phase of negotiations? Will your government support the full, meaningful and effective participation of older persons and their representative organizations throughout the process? (Merged question from: AARP and Cokomal Civil Society from Costa Rica)

No further relevant questions were received.

Zambia

Questions asked during the event

- The Committee noted with appreciation that Zambia accepted recommendations made during its fourth Universal Periodic Review, held on 30 January 2023, regarding the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). The Committee would appreciate receiving updated information on measures taken to implement this laudable commitment. The Committee would also welcome information on any challenges encountered in this process and stands ready, should the Government so wish, to provide any technical assistance or support within its mandate that may facilitate progress towards ratification. The Committee looks forward to continued dialogue with the Government of Zambia on this important matter. (Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families)
- The Cyber Security Act raised the risk of unjustified surveillance as law enforcement is granted broad interception powers. Given the growing concerns over civic space, freedom of expression, political participation, due process, and the treatment of opposition figures in Zambia; if elected to the Council, what measures will your government commit to implementing domestically including to repeal provisions of the Cyber Security Act and the Cyber Crimes Act, allowing access to independent UN mechanisms and implementing their recommendations? (Merged question from: Human Rights Watch and anonymous HRD from Zambia)

Questions received

- Quels sont vos projets par rapport à la lutte contre le terrorisme en Afrique de l'Ouest. (Anonymous defender from Burkina Faso)