50th session of the Human Rights Council
High-level commemorative event on the occasion of the 50th session of the Human Rights Council: achievements and lessons learned

Concept note (as of 3 June 2022)

Date and venue: Wednesday, 15 June 2022, 12:30 to 14:30, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva (will be broadcast live and archived on http://webtv.un.org)

Objectives: The Human Rights Council will mark its 50th session through a high-level interactive discussion that will provide stakeholders an opportunity to reflect on the achievements made and the lessons learned since its 1st session.

Chair: H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas (Argentina), President of the Human Rights Council

Keynote address: H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Remarks: • Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
• Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
• Estela Carlotto, President, Association of Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo

Moderator: • Mr. Eric Tistounet, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Panellists: • Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the 60th session of the General Assembly and former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
• H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations in New York and former Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights
• H.E. Ms. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva
• H.E. Ms. Yvette Stevens (Sierra Leone), Chairperson of the Intersessional seminars on the contribution of the Human Rights Council to the prevention of human rights violations (2018)
• Mr. Victor Madrigal Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, Chair of the Special Procedures Coordination Committee (2021/2022)
• Ms. Mona M’Bikay, Executive Director, UPR Info

Outcome: The presentations of the panellists and a summary of interventions will be compiled and made available electronically and kept on record (UN WEB TV).
The moderated discussion will strive to achieve a great degree of interaction between the panellists and the participants. Panellists will be invited to address specific topics such as the institution building and development of the Council, its impact on the ground, the Special Procedures, the UPR, technical assistance and the Council’s contribution to the prevention of human rights violations. To allow for an interactive discussion, participants are encouraged to focus their interventions on commenting or asking questions to the panellists and/or sharing observations related to concrete aspects of the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, since establishment. Participants may wish to refer to the role of the Council in the progressive development of human rights norms and share their experiences and lessons learned in the successful implementation of the Council’s mandate with a focus on its achievements. States wishing to take the floor should raise their nameplates and NHRIs and NGOs would be able to join the list of speakers at the list of speakers desk in the room. The speaking time for member States and observers, including representatives of civil society, will be 2 minutes. The Chair will manage the list of speakers with the goal to ensure inclusiveness and equal participation of voices from all regions.