

Special Procedures

20 special procedures mandate holders are reporting at the 60th session of the Human Rights Council!

14 thematic mandates: African Descent, Arbitrary Detention, Enforced Disappearances, Indigenous Peoples, International Order, Mercenaries, Older Persons, Peasants, Right to Development, Slavery, Toxics, Transitional Justice, Unilateral Coercive Measures and Water and Sanitation.

Six country mandate holders: Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Russian Federation, and Somalia

You can find the country visit reports here:

- Visit to [Australia](#) – Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences
- Visit to [Brazil](#) – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantee
- Visit to [Canada](#) – Report of the Working on Arbitrary Detention
- Visit to [Cyprus](#) – Report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination
- Visit to the **Dominican Republic** – Report of the Special rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes*
- Visit to **Guinea-Bissau** – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation*
- Visit to [Honduras](#) – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development
- Visit to [Lithuania](#) – Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
- Visit to [Malaysia](#) – Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
- Visit to [Samoa](#) – Report of the Special rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
- Visit to [Saudi Arabia](#) – Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

* These reports are not yet public. Once public, they will be available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session60/list-reports>

Forthcoming country visits

- **Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to Kuwait (2 to 9 September 2025)**
- **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to Mauritania (2 to 15 September 2025)**
- **Independent Expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations and human rights to Kuwait (1 to 7 October 2025)**
- **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises to Serbia (6 to 15 October 2025)**
- **Special Rapporteur on minority issues to Nepal (6 to 17 October 2025)**

All information related to country visits, including States issuing standing invitations, pending visits, and completed visits are available at the [country visits database](#).

The latest communications report is now available.

You can find communications sent by the special procedures mandate holders from 1 March to 31 May 2025 and replies received from 1 May to 31 July 2025 at this link: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/60/3>. Previous communications reports by special procedures are available [here](#).

The 2024 annual report on special procedures and its addendum (A/HRC/58/70 and Add.1) provide an overview of the work carried out by Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups over the past year. It highlights major achievements, challenges, and cooperation between States and mandate holders. Despite financial constraints, they remained active on a broad range of human rights issues, including the 2030 Agenda, gender equality, conflict, democracy, climate change, technology, and children's rights. Their work included technical advice, legal engagement, and follow-up on recommendations. The addendum emphasizes strong collaboration with UN entities, regional bodies, and civil society, advancing human rights coherence across systems.

Notable developments in 2024 include:

- Vanuatu accepted a visit from a mandate holder for the first time, reducing the list of countries never visited to 20.
- Six countries accepted visits after more than five years without one – Benin, Guinea Bissau, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.
- Ten States received five or more visits in the past five years (Australia, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Maldives, Mali, Peru and the United States of America).
- 91 countries have not received a visit by a special procedure mandate holder during the past five years.
- 24 countries did not accept a visit, despite having five or more pending requests during the same time period.

A document listing the **themes of the reports to** be presented by mandate holders at the Human Rights Council and General Assembly in 2025 has been updated and is now available on the web page dedicated to [reports and calls for input](#). You can also have a look at the way special procedures have been addressing **cross-cutting issues**, such as the 2030 Agenda, new technologies, migration, and climate change at the following page: [Cross-cutting Thematic Issues | OHCHR](#)

Preliminary findings from recently concluded country visits:

- The **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**, Mary Lawlor, conducted a country visit to **Bosnia and Herzegovina** from 9 to 20 June 2025. [End of Mission Statement](#)
- The **Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**, Balakrishnan Rajagopal, conducted a visit to **Guatemala** from 14 to 25 July 2025. [End of mission statement](#)
- The **Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities**, Heba Hagrass, conducted a visit to **Colombia** from 14 to 25 July 2025. [End of mission statement](#)

- The **Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children**, Siobhán Mullally, conducted a visit to the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** from 15 to 25 July 2025. [End of mission statement](#)
- The **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls** conducted a country visit to **Zimbabwe** from 28 July to 8 August 2025. [End of Mission Statement](#)

Relevant guidance, links, and resources:

- [Special procedures communications](#) sent to governments and other actors, such as intergovernmental organizations, businesses, military, and security companies, reporting on allegations of past human rights violations, ongoing or potential human rights violations, concerns related to bills, legislation, policies, or practices that do not comply with international human rights law and standards. Any individual, group, or civil society organization can submit information through the special procedures [online submission form](#).
- Communications sent by special procedures and replies received by States and other actors since 2011 are available in the [communications database](#).
- Special procedures receive input from a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to inform mandate holders' preparation of thematic studies or ahead of their country visits. Such call for inputs is available on the recent [calls for input page](#).
- An overview of themes to be addressed by thematic mandate holders in their upcoming reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly in 2025 is available [here](#).
- Three new [leaflets](#) on a general presentation of the work of special procedures, country visits, and the thematic activities of special procedures were made available in early 2024. They complement a [leaflet focusing on communications](#) which was produced in 2018.
- Please find [YouTube video playlist](#) of all special procedures mandate holders who speak at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council. The playlist features videos of the entire opening statements of 26 special procedures mandate holders as well as videos of press conferences by seven mandate holders that took place during the session.