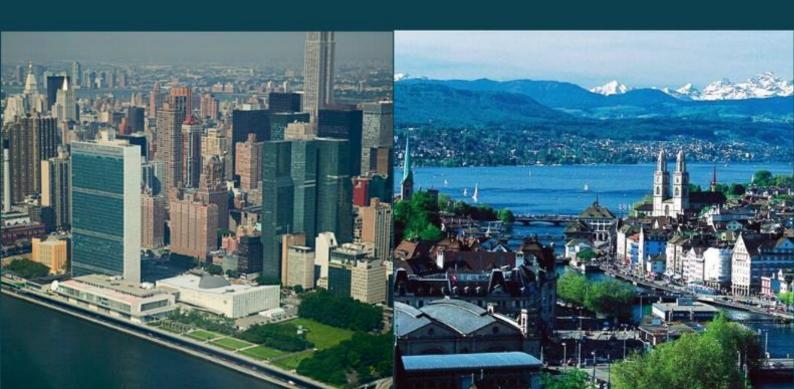




UNITED AMBASSADORS MODEL UN CONFERENCE (UA-MUNC)

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, 2019

SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTS





Human Rights Council

Distr.: General

Date: 29 November 2019

Original: English

First Session Agenda Item 1

Report of the Human Rights Council

Thematic debate on the promotion and protection of human rights.

The elimination of all forms of racial and religious discrimination; Measures to protect human rights defenders and journalists.

Prepared by: Agnese Cigliano

1. Introduction

What does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights mean today? And can it still offer something to improve the world we live in? By promoting the universal respect of human rights, addressing violations of human rights and making recommendations for the effective application of human rights worldwide, the UN Human Rights Council defines and regulates the most sensitive aspects of every human being's life. Institutions, both at national and international level, as well as civil society, have to commit to the implementation and improvement of human rights in order to adequate common principles to practical situations and needs. At every point and time, improving human rights standards within the international community means balancing different cultures and multilateral opinions, ensuring equality for a large extent of very different people, finding a compromise between the past and the present.

The principles established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 constitute the main reference when it comes to human rights. As Eleanor Roosevelt clarified in her speech on the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "We stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and in the life of mankind. This Universal Declaration of Human Rights may well become the international Magna Carta of all men everywhere. We hope its proclamation by the General Assembly will be an event comparable to the proclamation of the Declaration of the Rights of Man by the French people in 1789, the adoption of the Bill of Rights by the people of the United States, and the adoption of comparable declarations at different times in other countries".

However, in order to be still effective, such principles need to be interpreted and adapted to the context we experience today, seventy-one years after its promulgation. Human rights principles need to be continuously interpreted to effectively offer positive outcomes and actively protect our rights in

¹ Eleanor Roosevelt, On the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 9/12/1948, https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/eleanorrooseveltdeclarationhumanrights.htm



the context we experience nowadays, in ways that could have not been imagined, let alone regulated, in 1948.

Does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights need to be modified and amended? While analyzing such a dilemma, positive and negative aspects should be taken into account. On one hand, modifying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in order to update it could guaranty a broader protection of rights for all. However, it appears too risky, because of two main reasons:

- 1) even if the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been adopted seventy-one years ago, the political aspects of human rights are still under discussion and there is no consensus on the real and heartfelt meaning of human rights;
- 2) in a situation of social and political crisis, as that one we are experiencing today at international level, changing the fundamental document for such a sensitive aspect of international law could result in a restriction of the actual rights of people.

Indeed, while the Universal Declaration of Human Rights appears to be antiquated, or even old-fashioned in some countries, it is the only glimmer of light for citizens that experience gross human rights violations in many others.

Many things have changed since 1948, but human rights still need to be protected and implemented considering diversities, especially in the era of globalization. It is therefore the objective of the younger generations to keep advocating for and defending them and to ensure their broad implementation and application worldwide.

2. Background – Introduction to the topic

a) Promotion and protection of all human rights

On the basis of Article 2 of the Resolution 60/251 of the General assembly of the United Nations, which instituted the Human Rights Council, the UNHRC is "responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner"². Also, the UNHRC "should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote the effective coordination and the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system"³. As clarified by the UN itself, "the term <<human rights>> was mentioned seven times in the UN's founding Charter, making the promotion and protection of human rights a key purpose and guiding principle of the Organization"⁴.

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, it has been recognized, under international law that "basic rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings, inalienable and equally applicable to everyone, and that every one of us is born free and equal in dignity and rights"5. Practically speaking, the main way used by the United Nations to protect human rights is promoting the adoption of international treaties and agreements creating legally

² A/RES/60/251, "Human Rights Council", Article 2

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251 En.pdf

³ A/RES/60/251, "Human Rights Council", Article 3

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251 En.pdf

⁴ United Nations, "Protect Human Rights", https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/

⁵ United Nations, "The Foundation of International Human Rights Law", https://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html



binding obligations for Member States⁶. Such obligations bind States to not merely protect both individuals and groups from human rights violations, but also undertake positive measures in order to apply human rights internally⁷.

Through such legally binding obligations, Member States undertake three main groups of obligations:

- obligation to respect,
- obligation to protect, and
- obligation to fulfill.

All the obligations requiring Member States to "refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights" fall under the obligation to respect. At the same time, obligations requiring States to "protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses" are part of the obligation to protect. Ultimately, the obligation to fulfill requires States to "take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights" 10.

Human rights are enshrined into international law in a way that they are a constitutive part of the rule of law nowadays¹¹.

b) The elimination of all forms of racial and religious discrimination

Broadly speaking, the enjoyment of basic human rights and freedoms is a pivotal aspect of the rule of law. When deepening the concepts of human rights protection and the rule of law, the same must be said about the principle of non-discrimination¹². As enshrined in the Declaration of the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law (A/RES/67/1), Members States rededicate their efforts towards the "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion"¹³. However, efforts are still needed not only to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, but also to guarantee the same life standards to all citizens of the world.

On the basis of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, racial discrimination is defined as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life"¹⁴.

⁶ United Nations, "The Foundation of International Human Rights Law", https://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html

⁷ United Nations, "The Foundation of International Human Rights Law", https://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html

 $^{^8}$ United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, International Human Rights Law, $\underline{\text{https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx}}$

⁹ United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, International Human Rights Law, https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx

¹⁰ United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, International Human Rights Law, https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx

¹¹ The Commonwealth, 2018, States' Obligations Under International Human Rights Conventions, p. 21.

¹² United Nations, "Equality and Non-discrimination", https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/human-rights/equality-and-non-discrimination/

 $^{^{13}}$ A/RES/67/1, "Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels", Article 3 https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/A-RES-67-1.pdf

¹⁴ A/RES/20/2106, "International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination", Article 1 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_2106(X_X).pdf



Similarly, on the basis of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, religious discrimination or intolerance must be regarded as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief and having as its purpose or as its effect nullification or impairment of the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis"15.

Two special rapporteurs are specifically designed within the UN system to tackle the issues of racial and religious discrimination, namely:

- the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance¹⁶, and
- the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief¹⁷.

To further guarantee the application of such principles on a national basis, the Human Rights Council established the Anti-Discrimination Unit, in order to build national capacity in such field¹⁸. This appears even more important when it comes to religious discrimination as citizens still experience discrimination based on religion and belief in their everyday life¹⁹.

c) Measures to protect human rights defenders and journalists

Human rights defenders and journalists play an important role for the seeking of the global protection of human rights by securing "accountability for respect for human rights legal standards" 20. On the basis of the Declaration on human rights defenders, "individuals, non-governmental organization and relevant institutions have an important role to play in contributing to making the public more aware of questions related to all human rights and fundamental freedoms through activities such as education, training and research in these areas to strengthen further, inter alia, understanding, tolerance, peace and friendly relations among nations and among all racial and religious groups, bearing in mind the various backgrounds of the societies and communities in which they carry out their activities"21. Within the UN system, there is a broad definition of human rights defenders as "those who stand for human rights", whether they are individuals or groups²².

https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/srhrdefenders/pages/defender.aspx

 $^{^{15}}$ A/RES/36/55, "Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief", Article 2(2) https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/406/81/IMG/NR040681.pdf?OpenElement

¹⁶ A/HRC/RES/7/34, "Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance"

https://www2.ohchr,org/english/issues/racism/rapporteur/docs/A HRC RES 7 34.pdf

¹⁷ A/HRC/RES/6/37, "Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief" https://ap.ohchr.org/Documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A HRC RES 6 37.pdf

¹⁸ United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Combating Racial Discrimination" https://ohchr.org/EN/issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination racial.aspx

¹⁹ United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Combating Discrimination based on Religion or Belief" https://ohchr.org/EN/issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination_religious.aspx

²⁰ United Nations Human Rights, "Who is a defender?"

²¹ A/RES/53/144, "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promotend Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms", Article 16 https://documentsdds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/770/89/PDF/N9977089.pdf?OpenElement

²² United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Commentary to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders: an essential guide to the right to defend human rights", https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/CommentarytotheDeclarationonHumanRightsDefenders.aspx



The State's obligation to promote and protect human rights includes the protection of human rights defenders²³. As a consequence, many States "have developed different measures and protection programmes to ensure the personal safety of human rights defenders at imminent risk"²⁴. However, in 2017 there has been a high number of murders of human rights defenders with 312 reported murders in 27 different countries²⁵. Also, an alarming trend is the use of anti-terrorism legislation to target human rights defenders and obstruct their activity²⁶.

For these reasons, it seems that the protection of human rights in this field can be improved on a national and international basis and the international community must keep its commitment towards the implementation of the rights of defenders globally.

3. Committee introduction

The Human Rights Council (hereafter: UNHRC) is an inter-governmental body of the United Nations that has been created in 2006 with the resolution A/RES/60/251²⁷. The UNHRC appears to be quite young in the history of the United Nations: this is mainly because it replaced the Commission on Human Rights after 62 sessions of activity.

A brief description of the Commission on Human Rights can help understanding the role of the UNHRC as it is today. Until its end in 2006, the Commission on Human Rights was the main body through which the United Nations has protected and advocated for human rights. The legal basis of the Commission was Article 68²⁸ of the Charter of the United Nations. It is interesting to notice that the promotion and protection of human rights was merely included in the competences of the ECOSOC while today human rights receive a greater and more specific attention within the international community. This is also thanks to the Commission on Human Rights itself: indeed in 1947, just a year after its creation, the Commission established an internal committee aimed at drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This contribution has been crucial for the UNHRC as it is today and for the whole United Nations system, defining and regulating the most sensitive aspects of every human being's life.

As regards its organization, the Commission on Human Rights was composed of 53 members selected on a regional basis through the mechanism of the Regional Groups and the seats were allocated as follows²⁹:

- 15 representatives part of the African Group;
- 12 representatives part of the Asian Group;
- 5 representatives part of the Eastern European Group;
- 11 representatives part of the Latin American and Caribbean Group;

²³ UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Commentary to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, p. 12

²⁴ UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Commentary to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, p. 12

²⁵ Front Line Defenders, Annual Report on Human Rights Defenders at Risk in 2017, p. 6

²⁶ Front Line Defenders, Annual Report on Human Rights Defenders at Risk in 2017, p. 7

²⁷ A/RES/60/251, "Human Rights Council",

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251 En.pdf

²⁸ Charter of the United Nations, Chapter X: The Economic and Social Council, http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter10.shtml

²⁹ Commission on Human Rights, Membership, http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/membership.htm



- 10 representatives part of the Western European and Others Group.

Today the number of seats within the UNHRC has been downsized to 47 and the allocation has been changed to portray a more equal and balanced representation of the Regional Groups. The seats of the UNHRC are now allocated as follows³⁰:

- 13 representatives part of the African Group;
- 13 representatives part of the Asian Group;
- 6 representatives part of the Eastern European Group;
- 8 representatives part of the Latin American and Caribbean Group;
- 7 representatives part of the Western European and Others Group.

It should be noticed that the allocation mechanism within the UNHRC has been highly criticized: on one hand, the interaction with the Regional Groups appears appropriate in order to maintain geographical balance in a body with a low country representation; on the other hand, this could compromise the apolitical nature of the UNHRC. This issue has been frequently discussed and it has also been risen in occasion of the membership election of the UNHRC in November 2013 when many campaigners expressed concerns about the presence in the UNHRC of countries accused of perpetuating human rights violations³¹. This in an unsolved problem concerning the UNHRC: changing the allocation system would mean rethinking the entire UN allocation system, but it is still something to be discussed bearing in mind that one of the competencies of the UNHRC is to investigate on human rights violations. While the allocation system within the UNHRC is not always facilitating the apolitical nature of the body, this criticism is compensated by the presence of observers within the Council. This is an excellent system to ensure a constant involvement around the proposals tabled at UNHRC: indeed, every country occupies a seat in the UNHRC for a three years term and in some cases this implies having to discuss proposals without their original sponsors. The presence of observers solves this problem and ensures that active countries in the field of human rights are heard during every session. This allows a higher quality of the discussion as well.

Coming to the mandate of the UNHRC, on the basis of the Resolution 60/251 the Council "shall be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner"³² and "should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon"³³. Referring to the principles and the values expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁴, it is the work UNHRC to ensure access to the same rights for all the citizens of the UN Member States. This also means to intervene in the case of gross violations through special procedures³⁵ in order to restore the respect of the rights. Special procedures include: country visits, communications, and appointment of special mandate-holders.

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251 En.pdf

³⁰ A/RES/60/251, "Human Rights Council", Article 7

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251 En.pdf

 $^{^{31}\,}$ Inter alia, The Guardian, "China granted seat on UN's human rights council",

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/13/china-granted-seat-un-human-rights-council

³² A/RES/60/251, "Human Rights Council", Article 2

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251 En.pdf

³³ A/RES/60/251, "Human Rights Council", Article 3

³⁴ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/

³⁵ Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Introduction.aspx



Because of their ethical dimension, human rights need to be connected to circumstances and have to be contextualized to the human condition³⁶. Therefore, human rights have to be interpreted to be adapted to the place and time in which they are invoked. This is also why the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still the fundamental basis in the field of human rights and is considered the reference for all further treaties and agreements at international level.

Focusing on the development of human rights across the time, we can talk about four generations of rights: 1) civil and political rights; 2) socio-economical and cultural rights; 3) solidarity rights; 4) new rights such as the right to environment, the right to sustainability and the rights of future generations³⁷. Some scholars use the concept of "generations of rights" also to refer to the implementation of human rights through different generations of citizens. The idea at the base of this theory is that, in order to effectively implement human rights, it is not sufficient to adopt legal instruments – such as treaties and agreements – recognizing them. Indeed, human rights implementation requires a broader commitment of societies to make such rights an integral part of every day life³⁸. This further explains why the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still pivotal today. As underlined by many human rights activists all over the world, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the first reference for and the legal basis of the majority of the rights and freedoms we enjoy nowadays³⁹. Without the Universal Declaration of Human Rights we would lose the main source of human rights law and the international community would risk to come back to a condition of no rule of law.

The challenge of our time is not to write a new document for "new" human rights needed by citizens, but to improve and interpret the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to adapt it to our context. To do so, it seems necessary to identify current common goals and to find consensus on what our generation needs, as well as the future ones. Therefore, the international community, also through the sessions of the UNHRC, has to face global problems and find possible sustainable solutions to them⁴⁰.

4. Past International Action

The promotion and protection of human rights is an integral part of the work of the United Nations. It is also a pivotal aspect of the rule of law. This is not only established in the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which constitutes the foundation of international human rights law, but it is reaffirmed further in several treaties and agreement adopted within the international community. As confirmed by the articles of the Declaration of the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law (A/RES/67/1), it is the commitment of UN Member States "to fulfill their obligations to promote universal respect for, and the observance and promotion of, all human rights and fundamental

³⁶ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with the International Bar Association, Professional Training Series n°9, "Human Rights in the Administration of Justice: A Manual on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers", Chapter 2, Paragraph 2.2, http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/trainingoTitleen.pdf

³⁷ Inter alia, Cornescu A.V., "The Generations of Human's Rights",

http://www.law.muni.cz/sborniky/dny prava 2009/files/prispevky/tvorba prava/Cornescu Adrian Vasile.pdf

³⁸ Inter alia, Evans D.G., "Human Rights: Four Generations of Practice and Development", http://www.derekgevans.com/pdf/ARTICLE-Human Rights Four Generations.pdf

³⁹ As effectively explained in the Q&A on human rights elaborated by the Icelandic Human Rights Centre, http://www.humanrights.is/english/qa/

⁴⁰ The Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations, "The United Nations in its Second Half-century", Chapter 4 (p. 48-50), http://www.library.yale.edu/un/images/un-second-half-century.pdf



freedoms for all"41. The promotion and protection of human rights also constitute the core of the mandate of the UNHRC.

Additionally, there is a strict connection between human rights protection and the achievement of the Agenda 2030. Not only SDG's are intrinsically linked to human rights, but human rights are also an essential element to ensure equitable and sustainable development⁴².

The work of the United Nations and of the UNHRC specifically, is constantly focused on the promotion and protection of human rights. This is also the case of protection from racial and religious discrimination and protection of the rights of human rights defenders and journalists.

Focusing on the sessions of the UNHRC included in the 2018 Report of the Human Rights Council⁴³ - namely its 27th special session, 37th session, 28th special session and 38th session – with regards to the issues at hand, the UNHRC has adopted:

- HRC/37/6, The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- HRC/37/7, Promoting human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public services delivery;
- HRC/37/9, Freedom of religion or belief;
- HRC/37/18, Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic deal;
- HRC/37/21, Human rights and unilateral coercive measures;
- HRC/37/23, Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights;
- HRC/37/24, Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- HRC/37/25, The need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the full realization of human rights, focusing holistically on the means of the implementation;
- HRC/37/38, Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief:
- HRC/38/2, Human rights and international solidarity;
- HRC/38/3, Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- HRC/38/11, The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests;
- HRC/38/18, The contribution of the Human Rights Council to the prevention of human rights violation;
- HRC/38/19, The incompatibility between democracy and racism.

5. Possible Solutions

Which actions can be considered to guarantee the effective implementation of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially when it comes to racial and religious discrimination as well as the protection of human rights defenders and journalists?

⁴¹ A/RES/67/1, "Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels", Article 6 https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/A-RES-67-1.pdf

⁴² United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Transforming Our World: Human Rights in the 2030 Agendafor Sustainable Development", https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/HRAndPost2015.pdf
⁴³ United Nations Human Rights Council, 2018, Report of the Human Rights Council, A/73/53 https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/258/79/PDF/G1825879.pdf?OpenElement



The efforts of the UN and the UNHRC are constantly involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, however, several gross violations of human rights still happen worldwide. Civil society can definitely contribute to promote and protect basic human rights and fundamental freedoms and to strengthen their implementation both at national and international level.

As a consequence, new ideas can provide new instruments to guarantee the implementation of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

6. Current status: points for delegates to consider

- Which are the root causes leading to racial discrimination? How can those be challenged?
- Which measures can be undertaken in order to implement equality at national level?
- Which actions should be considered in order to apply internationally recognized principles at national level through internal legislation?
- Which are the root causes leading to religious discrimination? How can those be challenged?
- Which measures can be undertaken in order to implement freedom of religion and belief at national level?
- Which actions should be considered in order to make internal legislation comply with internationally recognized standards of freedom of religion and belief?
- What are the challenge of the protection of human rights defenders and journalists nowadays?
- How can the violation of the basic rights and fundamental freedoms of human rights defenders and journalists be prevented both at national and international level?
- Which measures can be undertaken to ensure a more effective protection system of the rights of human rights defenders and journalists?
- How can the promotion of human rights and the achievement of SDGs be facilitated through the involvement of the civil society?

7. References and additional resources

UN Documents, www.un.org/en/documents/index.html

UN Resources, http://research.un.org/en/un-resources

UN HRC Documents and Resolutions,

https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/documents.aspx

United Nations, "Equality and Non-discrimination", https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/human-rights/equality-and-non-discrimination/

United Nations, "Protect Human Rights", https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/

United Nations, "The Foundation of International Human Rights Law",

https://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html

United Nations Human Rights, "Who is a defender?"

https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/srhrdefenders/pages/defender.aspx



United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Commentary to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders: an essential guide to the right to defend human rights", https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/CommentarytotheDeclarationonHumanRightsDefenders.aspx

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Combating Discrimination based on Religion or Belief"

https://ohchr.org/EN/issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination_religious.aspx

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Combating Racial Discrimination"

https://ohchr.org/EN/issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination racial.aspx

- United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, International Human Rights Law, https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx
- United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Transforming Our World: Human Rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/HRAndPost2015.pdf
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with the International Bar Association, Professional Training Series n°9, "Human Rights in the Administration of Justice: A Manual on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers", http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/trainingoTitleen.pdf
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Commentary to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Commonwealth, 2018, States' Obligations Under International Human Rights Conventions.

Eleanor Roosevelt, On the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 9/12/1948, https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/eleanorrooseveltdeclarationhumanrights.htm
Front Line Defenders, Annual Report on Human Rights Defenders at Risk in 2017.