Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, paragraphs 65 to 84, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee has been established to function as a think-tank for the Council and work at its direction. The Committee held its first meeting in August 2008. It meets twice a year in Geneva, for one week in February immediately before the March session of the Council and for one week before the September session.

# Mandate and functions

* The Advisory Committee provides expertise to the Council in the manner and form requested by it. It mainly focuses on studies and research-based advice.
* The Committee may also propose within the scope of the work set out by the Council, for the latter’s consideration and approval, suggestions for further research proposals.
* In its work, the Committee should be implementation-oriented and the scope of its advice should be limited to thematic issues pertaining to the mandate of the Council, namely promotion and protection of all human rights.
* It shall not adopt resolutions or decisions.

# Membership

The Committee is composed of 18 independent expertsfrom different professional backgrounds representing the various regions of the world.[[1]](#footnote-1) Experts are nominated by Governments and elected by the Council. Elections normally take place at the September session of the Human Rights Council.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Members serve for a period of three years and may be re-elected once. Their term of membership starts on 1 October of the year of their election. Currently, the gender balance among the 18 experts of the Committee is 3 women and 15 men.

The present composition of the Advisory Committee - with an indication of the expiration of the term of membership in brackets - is as follows:

Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alsheddi\* (Saudi Arabia, 2021); Mohamed Bennani (Morocco, 2017); Lazhari Bouzid (Algeria, 2019); Alessio Bruni (Italy, 2021);Ion Diaconu (Romania, 2020); Karla Hananía de Varela\* (El Salvador, 2019); Ludovic Hennebel (Belgium, 2020) Mikhail Lebedev\* (Russian Federation, 2019); José Augusto Lindgren Alves (Brazil, 2021); Xinsheng Liu (China, 2019); Ajai Malhotra (India, 2020); Kaoru Obata\* (Japan, 2019); Mona Omar (Egypt, 2019); Elizabeth S. Salmon (Peru 2020), Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius 2020); Changrok Soh (Republic of Korea, 2020);Cheikh Tidiane Thiam (Senegal, 2021); and Jean Ziegler\* (Switzerland, 2019).

# Mandates

## New mandates

### The importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development

At its thirty-ninth session in September 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 39/9 “The right to development” and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, while taking into account the views of Member States, to prepare a research-based report on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development, to present an oral update on the preparation of the report to the Council at its forty-second session, and to present the report to the Council at its forty-fifth session. A drafting group will be established in February 2019 at the twenty-second session of the Advisory Committee.

## Ongoing mandates

### A global call for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

At its seventy-second session in December 2017, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/157 “A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action” and requested Human Rights Council to continue to pay attention to the situation regarding racial equality in the world, and in this regard requested the Council, through its Advisory Committee, to prepare a study on appropriate ways and means of assessing the situation, while identifying possible gaps and overlaps. The Secretary-General through resolution 72/157 is requested to submit to the General Assembly a report on the implementation of the said resolution at the seventy-third session. At its twenty-first session in August 2018, the Committee established a drafting group for the preparation of a preliminary outline of the study to be submitted to the Committee’s twenty-second session. The current members of the drafting group are Ajai Malhotra, Ion Diaconu, Mona Omar, Hananía de Varela, Mikhail Lebedev, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (chair), Ludovic Hennebel (rapporteur) and Elizabeth Salmón.

### The role of technical assistance and capacity-building in fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights

At its thirty-seventh session in March 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 37/23 in which it requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study on the role of technical assistance and capacity-building in fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights, and to submit a report thereon to the Human Rights Council before its forty-third session. At its twenty-first session the Committee established a drafting group for the preparation of a preliminary outline of the study to be submitted to the Committee’s twenty-second session. The current members of the drafting group are Mohamed Bennani, Lazhari Bouzid (rapporteur), Ion Diaconu, Ludovic Hennebel, Xinsheng Liu (chair), Ajai Malhotra, Kaoru Obata, Elizabeth Salmón, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, and Changrok Soh.

### National policies and human rights

In June 2017, the Human Rights Council, in resolution 35/32, requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study that could help States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by integrating human rights into national policies on the basis of the compilation prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to present the study to the Council at its forty-fifth session in September 2020, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The Human Rights Council requested the drafting group to present a preliminary outline of the study to the Advisory Committee at its twentieth session with a view to submitting it to the Human Rights Council for adoption at its forty-fifth session (September 2020). At its nineteenth session in August 2017, the Committee established a drafting group for the preparation of a progress report. The current members of the drafting group are Mario Luis Coriolano, Ion Diaconu (Rapporteur), Karla Hananía de Varela, Kaoru Obata, Mona Omar, Katharina Pabel , Ludovic Hennebel, Elizabeth Salmón, Ajai Malhotra, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh and Changrok Soh (Chair).

### Contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights

In June 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 35/21, in which it requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study on the ways in which development contributes to the enjoyment of all human rights by all, in particular on best experiences and practices, and to submit a report thereon to the Council before its forty-first session (June 2019). At its nineteenth session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on this topic and established a drafting group for the preparation of the report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-ninth session (September 2018). The current members of the drafting group are Mohammed Bennani, Lazhari Bouzid, Mario Luis Coriolano (Chair), Ion Diaconu, Mikhail Lebedev (Rapporteur), Xinsheng Liu (Chair), Ajai Malhotra, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Changrok Soh, and Jean Ziegler.

### Activities of vulture funds and their impact on human rights

In its resolution 34/3 of March 2017, the Human Rights Council took note with appreciation of the progress report of the Advisory Committee on the activities of vulture funds and their impact on human rights (A/HRC/33/54), and requested the Committee to present a final report thereon to the Council at its thirty-ninth session (September 2018) for its consideration. At its 37th session, the Council adopted resolution 37/11 requesting the Advisory Committee to complete the report and to submit it to the Council at the forty-first session. At its nineteenth session, the Advisory Committee held discussions on this topic and established a drafting group for the preparation of the report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council in September 2018. The current members of the drafting group Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alsheddi, Mario Luis Coriolano (Chair), Ion Diaconu, Mikhail Lebedev and Jean Ziegler (Rapporteur), and Mohamed Bennani.

### Negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin on the enjoyment of human rights

At its thirty-fourth session in March 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 34/11, in which it requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study, in continuation of the study requested by the Council in its resolution 31/22, on the possibility of utilizing non-repatriated illicit funds, including through monetization and/or the establishment of investment funds, while completing the necessary legal procedures, and in accordance with national priorities, with view to supporting the achievement of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing to the enhancement of the promotion of human rights and in accordance with obligations under international human rights law, and to submit the requested study at its thirty-ninth session. At its thirty-eighth session, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the time for the Advisory Committee to complete the study for submission to the Council at its forty-second session (September 2019). At its nineteenth session, the Committee established a drafting group for the preparation of the study. The current members of the drafting group are Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alsheddi, Mario Luis Coriolano, Ludovic Hennebel, Mikhail Lebedev, Ajai Malhotra (Chair), Mona Omar, Changrok Soh, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh (Rapporteur), and Jean Ziegler.

### The negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights

At its thirty-fourth session in March 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 34/8 in which it requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study and prepare a report on the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular focus on economic, social and cultural rights, including as a result of diverting foreign direct investment, reducing capital inflows, destroying infrastructure, limiting foreign trade, disturbing financial markets, negatively affecting certain economic sectors and impeding economic growth, and to recommend actions to be taken by Governments, United Nations human rights mechanisms, regional and international organizations and civil society organizations in this regard, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-ninth session. At its thirty-eighth session, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the time for the Advisory Committee to complete the study for submission to the Council at its forty-second session (September 2019). At its nineteenth session, the Committee established a drafting group for the preparation of the report. The current members of the drafting group are Lazhari Bouzid, Ion Diaconu, Karla Hananía de Varela (Chair), Ludovic Hennebel, Mikhail Lebedev, Xinsheng Liu, Elizabeth Salmón, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar (Rapporteur) and Katharina Pabel.

## Recently concluded reports

### Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

At its thirty-second session in June 2016, the Human Rights Council adopted decision 32/115 in which it requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a report on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular on the progress made in the establishment of regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, and their achievements in all regions of the world, and on the role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as on the role that it can play in the future in advancing cooperation between international and regional human rights mechanisms, and to identify ways to increase the role that regional arrangements play in promoting and protecting human rights and to reinforce universal human rights standards, including as contained in international human rights instruments. The Advisory Committee submitted the final report A/HRC/39/58 and Corr.1 to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-ninth session in September 2018. The drafting group comprised Mohamed Bennani, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Mario Luis Coriolano, Karla Hananía de Varea, Mikhail Lebedev, Xinsheng Liu, Ajai Malhotra, Kaoru Obata, Katharina Pabel (Chair), Anantonia Reyes Prado, Elizabeth Salmón, Dheerujlall Baramlall Seetulsingh, Changrok Soh (Rapporteur) and Imeru Tamrat Yigezu.

# Standing items

## Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order perspective

HRC resolution 8/5 requested the Committee to pay due attention, within the respective mandates, to the resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation. The Advisory Committee held a discussion on the issue at its first, second, fourth and eleventh sessions.

In its resolution 18/6, the Council decided to establish, for a period of three years, a new special procedures mandate of independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. The mandate of the independent expert was latest extended through HRC resolution 36/4.

## Integration of a gender perspective

In its resolution 6/30, the Council requested the Committee to integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate by providing in reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls. The Advisory Committee held a discussion on the issue at its second, fourth, tenth, eleventh and eighteenth sessions.

## Persons with disabilities

In its resolution 7/9, the Council encouraged the Committee to integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities in carrying out its work. At its first, second, fourth, tenth and nineteenth sessions, the Committee held discussions on the issue. At its nineteenth session, a representative of the Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section of OHCHR and the Secretary of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities gave presentations on the issue. At its twentieth session, an OHCHR representative working with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities also gave a presentation on the item.

# Research proposals and reflection papers of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 78 of Council resolution 5/1 (institution-building package), the Committee “shall not adopt resolutions or decisions, but may propose to the Council, within the scope of its work as set out by the Council, suggestions for further enhancing its procedural efficiency, as well as further research proposals within the scope of the work set out by the Council”.

Research proposals emanating from the Committee that have been adopted by the Council for future Committee work, include: Right to Peace, discrimination within the context of the right to food, rights of peasants and rural women, corruption, post-disaster and post-conflict situations and local government. The current mandates on vulture funds also derives from proposals initially made by the Committee.

At its fourteenth session, the Advisory Committee decided to produce reflection papers for its own use at every session of the Committee, which may be published on the OHCHR website as part of the Committee’s reflection paper series.

At its nineteenth session, the Committee considered the following topics as possible new priorities for its work:

* 1. Access to justice (Mario Luis Coriolano)
  2. Engagement with non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions (Mario Luis Coriolano)
  3. Budget and human rights (Mario Luis Coriolano)
  4. Promotion of the rights to culture and a common social heritage (Mohamed Bennani)
  5. The human rights impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Changrok Soh)
  6. Economic, social and cultural rights in the agenda of international jurisdictions (Ion Diaconu)

At its twentieth session, the Committee considered the draft reflection papers on Access to justice; Digital transformation: the impact of new technologies on human rights[[3]](#footnote-3); and Economic, social and cultural rights in the agenda of international jurisdictions. The Committee submitted the research proposal on “Digital transformation: the impact of new technologies on human rights” to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/AC/20/2, annex IV). At the same session, the Committee requested Elizabeth Salmón to prepare a reflection paper on mainstreaming gender equality and ensuring gender parity in the Advisory Committee for consideration at its twenty-first session.

At its twenty-first session, the Committee considered the draft reflection papers on Access to justice and on Budget and human rights by Mario Luis Coriolano; Economic, social and cultural rights on the agenda of international jurisdiction by Ion Diaconu; and Mainstreaming gender equality and ensuring gender parity in the Advisory Committee by Elizabeth Salmón. At this session, the Advisory Committee decided to submit a research proposal on the theme “Economic, social and cultural rights on the agenda of international jurisdiction” to the Human Right Council (A/HRC/AC/21/2, Annex III) for its consideration.

# Modalities & methods of work

## Preparation of studies

In order to produce its studies, the Committee usually forms drafting groups consisting of 5-8 members from various regional groups. The drafting group members work closely with each other through face-to-face meetings and internet communication.

Studies are then presented to the plenary of the Committee for successive rounds of discussion and revision. Drafting groups normally present a preliminary report and a progress report before submitting a final study to the Council.

## Interaction with various stakeholders

The normal course of action followed in the preparation of studies includes seeking comments and advice from stakeholders, i.e. member States, international organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations through questionnaires and notes verbales requesting for relevant information.

Member States, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions also participate in the deliberations of the Committee.

The Advisory Committee holds meetings in the framework of each of its sessions with non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives, the bureau of the Human Rights Council and the regional and political coordinators.

## Annual report and interactive dialogue

The Chair of the Committee presents the annual report to the Human Rights Council’s September session. This is followed by an interactive dialogue with States and NGOs.

February 2019

1. Five from African States; five from Asian States; two from Eastern European States; three from Latin American and Caribbean States, and three from Western European and other States. (\*) Members serving second term. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures for the Advisory Committee are contained in Decision 6/102 of the Human Rights Council. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Previous title: The human rights impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution [↑](#footnote-ref-3)