

VIDEO STATEMENTS

At its 19th session, the Human Rights Council adopted a decision to endorse the report of the Task Force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology (A/HRC/DEC/19/119).

In order to enhance the participation of non-resident stakeholders, the Human Rights Council decided to test the feasibility of allowing a limited number of NGOs to participate in the work of the Council by submitting a video message to be played during:

1. The general segment of the Council plenary session (held in March);
2. Interactive dialogues with special procedures relating to reports on country missions (in particular for organizations that have contributed to the mission to that country);
3. Plenary adoption of universal periodic review outcomes (in particular for organizations involved in the national process or having sent contributions for the summary of stakeholder information prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner); and
4. Panels/annual discussions.

Registration

This option is open **only** to NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC which do not have an office or representative in Geneva, and which do not have individuals accredited to the relevant session of the Council.

The credentials of the NGOs and the identity of individuals delivering the video message will be duly verified by OHCHR.

For all interventions by video message, the NGO must register on the online list of speakers. Further details are available here:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NgoParticipation.aspx>

The procedure for online registration is the same for statements delivered by video message as for statements delivered in person. All pre-recorded video messages must be uploaded through the online registration system.

In addition, a letter of request must be addressed to the Human Rights Council Secretariat, fulfilling the following requirements:

- Letter submitted on the NGO's official letterhead and signed by its President, Chief Executive Officer or Main Representative of the United Nations Office at Geneva (if the person is authorized to accredit representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva);
- Indication of the HRC session concerned, agenda item and specific segment of the programme of work in which the oral statement through video-messaging will be made;
- Indication of the full name (FAMILY NAME, First name) of the person who will deliver the statement as a designated representative. The name of the person must appear exactly as it appears in his/her passport or formal identity document. A telephone number at which a representative of the NGO may be reached at the time of the oral statement by video message should also be included;
- Colour copy of the passport or of formal identity document of the person who will deliver the statement.

Rules regarding content and technical specifications

Oral statements delivered by video message are subject to the same rules as oral statements delivered in person, as laid out in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. The video messages are subject to the same time limits as, and should mirror as closely as possible, the oral statements delivered in person. In particular, the following rules must be strictly observed:

1. The video statement must consist of a single shot of one individual delivering a statement, seated against a neutral, monochrome background;
2. The camera should be focussed on the person's face, and should not move during the shot;
3. No symbols, flags, banners or other images are permitted in the shot, either in the background or on the clothing of the person delivering the statement.

NGOs are encouraged to include captioning on the video statement, and to consider including sign language, to enhance participation of persons with disabilities. A transcript of the video statement must be submitted in order to facilitate translation.

The minimum technical specifications for the video are as follows:

Resolution:

- Video resolution min 640x480 max 1024x768, frame rate 30 fps
- Audio resolution 44100 Hz, 16 bits, stereo

AVI/WMV

- Video encoding WMV3 (Windows Media Video 9,)
- Audio encoding WMA2 (Windows Media Audio 2)

MOV

- Video encoding H.264
- Audio encoding MP3 or AAC

Delivery of the video statement

The video statement will be projected in the room under the same conditions as an oral statement delivered in the room.

The rules of procedure and practices of the Council apply in the same manner to video statements as to all other statements.

Whenever a point of order is raised during the projection of a video message, the President of the Human Rights Council will pause the intervention and address the issue in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Council. The President will then resume the projection of the video message unless a second point of order is raised or the President considers that the message infringes Council the rules of procedure or practices, in which case the President may interrupt the projection of the video message. As the speaker will not be present in the room, a written communication recalling the applicable rules of procedures and practices of the Council shall then be forwarded to the organization concerned.

The transcript of the video message will be posted on HRC Extranet along with other oral statements.