

GUIDELINES FOR HRC EXHIBITIONS COINCIDING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Human Rights Council (HRC) meets for at least 10 weeks per year at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland, with its regular sessions taking place in March, June and September. The HRC's subsidiary bodies¹ meet for approximately 20 additional weeks each year. Moreover, the HRC can convene special sessions on short notice.

Coinciding with such HRC meetings, member States, or international organisations may, decide to organise exhibitions that have to be reviewed and approved by the HRC Exhibition Review Committee in accordance with the below guidelines:

Organisers

Exhibitions may be organised by United Nations (UN) member States through their Permanent Missions, by the UN Secretariat or its staff associations, by a Secretariat department/office or organ/body or by a specialized agency or other UN institution. Any proposal originating from other entities, individual artists and non-governmental organisations must be submitted by one of the aforementioned entities.

Eligibility

The HRC Exhibition Review Committee reviews all exhibitions coinciding with HRC meetings that are in public areas of the Palais des Nations. This includes areas outside of designated conference rooms, guided tour routes, hallways or any other space easily accessible by the general public. The HRC Exhibition Review Committee does not review exhibitions that have already been approved as a cultural activity by the UNOG Cultural Activities Committee, or that have been approved by other relevant UN entities.

Nature and content

The exhibition must be compatible with the values, purposes and principles of the UN, in both content and presentation and shall not be of a profit-generating or otherwise commercial nature.

The content must...

- be of an artistic and/or cultural nature, and must not be of a political nature;
- not single out or refer to any other State without that State's explicit written consent;
- not be such to offend viewers.

The theme(s) of the exhibition must be of relevance to the activities of the HRC. Proposals focusing on or referring to a specific individual, country or non-governmental organization shall be authorized only if the subject has a direct relationship or relevance to the goals or activities of the HRC. The HRC Exhibition Review Committee may, at its discretion, reject a proposal in part or in its entirety, or require the elimination or alteration of any part thereof, in particular if it considers the content of the proposal is inconsistent with the above-mentioned criteria.

¹Universal Periodic Review Working Group; Advisory Committee; Complaint Procedure; Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples; Forum on Minority Issues; Social Forum; Forum on Business and Human Rights; Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law; Working Group on the Right to Development; Intergovernmental Working Group on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards; Working Group on the draft UN declaration on Human Rights Education and Training; Working Group on regulatory framework of activities of private military and security companies; Open-ended intergovernmental working group on a draft United Nations declaration on the right to peace; Open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

Exhibitions materials may include, but are not limited to photos, paintings, posters, films, performances as well as distribution material, such as flyers, booklets, gadgets, and other displayable items and features. Exhibition materials must be reviewed by the HRC Exhibition Review Committee in its entirety. Should any additional material, including texts, sculptures, brochures, leaflets, etc. be added to a HRC Exhibition without prior approval or review by the HRC Exhibition Review Committee, it reserves the right to have it removed immediately.

The full responsibility for the content of exhibitions lies with the organiser, even after approval by the HRC Exhibition Review Committee. Therefore, a sign with the following text will be set up for each HRC exhibition in English and French:

The content of this exhibition is solely the responsibility of the sponsor. The holding of the exhibit at the Palais des Nations does not imply endorsement by the United Nations. Please direct any queries to the organisers. Thank you.

La responsabilité du contenu de cette exposition est uniquement avec le sponsor. La tenue de l'exposition au Palais des Nations n'implique pas son approbation par les Nations Unies. Veuillez adresser vos questions aux organisateurs de l'exposition. Merci.

Review process

For a proposal to be considered...

- it must be submitted to the HRC Secretariat in its entirety and final form no later than 30 days prior to the exhibition launch date. Late submission will not be accepted;
- the complete content, including all texts, photos, sculptures, brochures, leaflets, etc. shall be submitted via e-mail to hrc-exhibitions@ohchr.org;
- the review of the content by the HRC Exhibition Review Committee will be concluded within 10 working days, and shall be transmitted to the organizers via e-mail.

The HRC Exhibition Review Committee deliberates and exercises its authority independently. Its decisions are guided by the relevant rules and procedures governing the use of UN premises and by the rules and criteria set forth in the present guidelines. Decisions by the HRC Exhibition Review Committee shall be final.

The HRC Exhibition Review Committee is only responsible for the review of content and does not provide any space booking, logistical or promotional support.

After approval and if the organiser so wishes, the HRC Exhibition Review Committee will put the organiser in contact with persons in charge of space bookings and other technical, logistical and catering services.

Contact: hrc-exhibitions@ohchr.org

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