Second live Twitter Q&A with UN HRC President (#HRCPres)

Following up to the first successful Twitter Q&A session, on 24 November HRC President, Ambassador Joachim Ruecker of Germany held his second live Twitter Q&A to answer questions on the Human Rights Council and its work.

These Twitter Q&As aim to make the HRC President accessible to all and promote more interaction & engagement with civil society, HRDs and individual rights holders around the world - Engagement which is both broad and deep, going well beyond the usual suspects.

More engagement and more interaction with those, for whom the UN was created – for all.

#HRCPres: Here I am getting ready to answer your questions on the #HRC and #HumanRights - #AskHRCPres pic.twitter.com/Pe1DtxmAqz

See some of the highlights of the conversation below:

**Gerrit Kurtz**
@GerritKurtz

What was the biggest challenge and what was the greatest achievement of the #HRC during your time in office #AskHRCPres?

21 DAYS AGO

**HRC SECRETARIAT**
@UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi @GerritKurtz, challenge: building crossregional bridges for results, achievm.: HRC COI fight against impunity in Syria #ASKHRCPres

20 DAYS AGO
Vera Scott @VeraSScott

@UN_HRC What is the HRCPres doing to free #RaifBadawi and others in Saudi Arabia? #ASKHRCPres 10:28 AM - 24 Nov 2015

HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRC Pres @VeraSScott: Pres role is to protect civil society space. As result the case has been spotlighted many times in the HRC #ASKHRCPres

Sini Maria @SMHeikkila

What does #HRC do 2 address #politicization of #UN #NGO committee In #NY? Many #humanrights NGOs struggle 2 get #ECOSOC status #AskHRCPres

HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRCPres @SMHeikkila: this is question for NY, however HRC ensures that a wide range of voices are heard #ASKHRCPres
#AskHRCPres: is maintaining consensus on res16/18 important? If yes, is the commitment of states to the Istanbul Process reflective of this?

@article19UN

20 DAYS AGO

Hi @article19UN: consensus on 16/18&Forb is very important. Need commitm to both Istanbul proc & Rabat plan of action. #ASKHRCPres

@UN_HRC

20 DAYS AGO

Ambassador, when will there be a Special Session and/or fact-finding mission regarding ISIS and HR abuses? #AskHRCPres

@GoonerDr

20 DAYS AGO

Hi, @GoonerDr: we had sobering report&discussions on "IS". This will continue, S.S. however up to MS #ASKHRCPres

@UN_HRC

20 DAYS AGO
Phil Lynch
@PhilALynch

How are lack of cooperation with SPs & widespread reprisals compatible with HRC membership?
#AskHRCPres @UN_HRC #China #Russia #SaudiArabia

20 DAYS AGO

HRC SECRETARIAT
@UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi @PhilALynch: with membership comes responsibility incl standing invitation for all SP (eg:reminded Pres Maduro) #ASKHRCPres

20 DAYS AGO

Monika Kienle
@Mohnwiese60

What is the responsibility of the Human Rights Council Leader? How could Saudi Arabia receive this task? #AskHRCPres

21 DAYS AGO

HRC SECRETARIAT
@UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi, @Mohnwiese60 ! Responsibility of HRCPres is to contribute to keep the HRC focused on HRviolations #ASKHRCPres

20 DAYS AGO

Monika Kienle
@Mohnwiese60

@GermanyUNGeneva What is the task of the Human Rights Council Leader, now Saudi Arabia?
Which pros & cons have been weighed? #AskHRCPres

21 DAYS AGO
HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRCRes, @Mohnwiese60 Saudi Arabia is not now and as it looks will not be HRC Pres! #ASKHRCRes

John Fisher @JohnFisher_hrw

#Venezuela Pres recently convened #HRC for self-promotion. In future, will States & NGOs be able to speak at special mtgs? #ASKHRCRes

HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRCRes Hi, @JohnFisher_hrw: Bureau in process of developing criteria for any future visits, proper contextualization seems key #ASKHRCRes

ISHR @ISHRglobal

How will you institutionalise the UN HRC's response to reprisals, ensuring investigation and real accountability? #AskHRCPres @UN_HRC

HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRCRes Hi, @ISHRglobal will ask successor to keep sharp focus on all cases and document accordingly including for #SG report #ASKHRCRes

Arsen Ostrovsky
@Ostrov_A

Why does @UN_HRC cont. to single out #Israel & will it remove Agenda Item 7? #HRCPres #HRC #HumanRights #AskHRCPres twitter.com/UN_HRC/status/…

20 DAYS AGO

HRC SECRETARIAT
@UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi, @Ostrov_A: changing HRCagenda will req. decision by states. Proportionality an issue, bt also many others addressed #ASKHRCPres

20 DAYS AGO

Marc Limon
@marc_limon

What is your main lesson learned from your efforts to improve #HRC efficiency #AskHRCPres? @UN_HRC @GermanyUNGeneva @URGthinktank

20 DAYS AGO

HRC SECRETARIAT
@UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi, @marc_limon: transparency, visibility regarding our initiatives is key (enhanced voluntary calendar & website...) #ASKHRCPres

20 DAYS AGO
Marc Limon @marc_limon

Does lack of Spec Sess on #Burundi undermine #HRC credibility as key forum 2 prevent violations (R2P) @UN_HRC @GermanyUNGeneva @URGthinktank

HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi again @marc_limon: we might see S.S. As Pres, I keep reminding states to keep HRC responsive in crises incl #Burundi. #ASKHRCPres

Marc Limon @marc_limon

@UN_HRC Hi 😊. Good to hear!

Tasha Manoranjan @tdmanoranjan

What has #HRC learned from UN inaction in & on #Tamil deaths in #srilanka in 2009? Where do things stand w/ #RightsUpFront now? #ASKHRCPres

HRC SECRETARIAT @UN_HRC

#HRCPres Hi, @tdmanoranjan: #RuF is all about the UN detecting HR viol. in time and reacting! In this sense: lessons learned. #ASKHRCPres
#SriLanka is also on the agenda of the HRC. How important to lasting peace is it that it implements the terms of the resolution? #AskHRCPres

Hi, @MarioArul: very important! #ASKHRCPres

Does the @UN_HRC Confidential Complaints system work, or is a purely political process? #AskHRCPres @GermanyUNGeneva @URGthinktank

Hi @hils_pp, the CP provides imp opportunity for redress and make sure victims get response & are not forgotten. #ASKHRCPres

Since 29/11 is Intl Women HRDs Day - what can @UN_HRC do to ensure more #WHRD voices are heard in the Council's discussions? #AskHRCPres
Hi, @sarahmcnee: we have annual full day diss and focus on #WHRD in numerous initiatives. But open f your suggestions! #ASKHRCPres

Michael Ineichen @IneichenM

What would you like your legacy to be in terms of protection of #HRDs and creation of civil society space @UN_HRC & in country? #AskHRCPres

Hi, @IneichenM: ideally, current practice continued by successor and value of civil society space widely appreciated #ASKHRCPres

#HRCPres: thanks to all for participating in this useful Q&A! Stay tuned for another session before the end of the year. #ASKHRCPres

Stay tuned @UN_HRC for updates on the final real-time exchange on Twitter for 2015.

For more information on the Human Rights Council and its President go to our site ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/P ...