

<b>MODALITIES FOR A HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION IN MARCH 2008</b>
---

1. **Timing:** A high-level segment (HLS) will take place during the first week of the Human Rights Council's seventh session. It will begin on Monday, 3 March 2008, in the morning, with up to four more meetings depending on the number of speakers.
2. **Location:** The Salle des Assemblées shall be the venue for the meetings.
3. **Definition:** Dignitaries, to be determined by the respective State, are usually considered to be government or State representatives of ministerial or higher rank. Given a number of high level meetings taking place outside Geneva, dignitaries at the level of Vice-Minister will also be allowed to inscribe on the list of speakers for the HLS. Additionally, heads of specialized agencies, programmes and intergovernmental organizations, including regional organizations, and other entities, shall be provided an opportunity to address the HLS after State representatives.

When speaking in the Salle des Assemblées, all dignitaries will address the Council from the rostrum located on the podium.

4. **List of speakers:** The list of speakers will be prepared by the secretariat. Priority shall be accorded in the following order: Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Prime Ministers, Vice-Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice-Ministers. This ordering of priority shall be respected even where substitutes are made at the latest hour. Consideration will be given to the need for a geographical balance in the speakers list for each meeting during the segment, as well as a balance between the participation of Members and non-Members of the Council. Heads of specialized agencies, programmes and intergovernmental organizations, including regional organizations, and other entities will follow the State representatives where possible on the day of preference.

For planning purposes, interested Permanent Missions are requested to express a preferred date/time (two options) for the statement by their respective dignitaries during the HLS. The secretariat will issue the list of speakers for the HLS no later than 25 February. Delegations are therefore encouraged to communicate their intention to participate in the segment before that date. The list of speakers will be open at the Secretariat on 4 February 2008. Inscriptions on the list of speakers should be addressed to:

Ms. Nicole Bjerler  
Tel: 022 917 94 24  
Fax: 022 917 90 11  
E-mail: nbjerler@ohchr.org

5. **Speaking-time limits:** Given the expected number of dignitaries who may address the Council, giving due respect to their rank, it would be preferable if dignitaries were to speak for up to ten minutes. For planning purposes, slots of ten minutes will be established. This would not prejudice any decision that may be taken for future sessions of the Council.
6. **Rights of reply and points of order:** Since statements by dignitaries during the HLS are part of the general debate, States have the possibility to disagree with the statement. The normal channels for such disagreement are: (a) to express it in the course of the general debate as a regular statement; or (b) to exercise a right of reply at the end of the meeting. In accordance with rule 113 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly, a speaker may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. Consequently, the President will not allow the use of points of order to express disagreement

with or provide any argument in favour of or against questions of substance raised by dignitaries.

Rights of reply shall be limited to two replies of three minutes for the first and two minutes for the second and all rights of reply will be exercised at the end of the meeting, at the end of the day or at the end of the HLS.

7. **General segment:** Delegations which are not represented by a dignitary at the high-level segment may take the floor during the general segment, which is scheduled immediately following the high-level segment. The speaking time limits will be 5 minutes for Member States of the Council, 3 minutes for observer States and 3 minutes for other observers.\*  
Inscriptions on the list of speakers for the general segment should be addressed to:

Ms. Nicole Bjerler  
Tel: 022 917 94 24  
Fax: 022 917 90 11  
E-mail: nbjerler@ohchr.org

8. **Timetable:** It cannot be excluded that some gaps may arise between the time slots allotted to dignitaries. Should a gap arise, the proceedings will continue with the next speaker. Therefore, delegations should be prepared to speak sooner than expected.

---

\* A representative of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and four senior representatives of civil society will be invited to address the Council under this segment.