



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

THEMATIC
ACTIVITIES

THEMATIC ISSUES IN FOCUS

Through their thematic activities, special procedures mandate holders are able to highlight and place focus on emerging human rights issues.

Recent thematic reports have provided an in-depth analysis and timely recommendations on pressing human rights issues, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the climate crisis; the human rights implications of emerging technologies; the prevention of human rights violations; security, conflict, and peacebuilding; as well as the nexus between human rights, finance and the economy.

In accordance with several Human Rights Council resolutions, special procedures mandate holders have been actively engaged in promoting and assisting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, several mandate holders have used their thematic reports to promote a human rights-based approach to implementing specific Sustainable Development Goals in the context of their respective mandates.

Mandate holders have shown significant focus on the prevention of human rights violations and abuses, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings, underlining the importance of proactive measures and vigilance in the face of challenging circumstances, and showing their multifaceted relevance to prevention and sustaining peace. They have addressed emerging issues and crises by making human rights a concrete response and a preventive tool.

Special procedures mandate holders have used their thematic reports and other activities to analyze and raise concerns on the human rights impact of a number of other pivotal cross-cutting thematic issues.



An overview of special procedures' work and compilations of cross-cutting thematic human rights issues can be found at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/cross-cutting-thematic-issues>

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES

At the Human Rights Council's request or on their own initiative, special procedures mandate holders consider different thematic human rights issues in various ways.

Mandate holders present thematic reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly to highlight particular thematic human rights issues that are of relevance to their mandates. These thematic reports are based on extensive research, outcomes from expert seminars and consultations, and replies to calls for input or other requests for information sent to States, other UN agencies and mechanisms, NGOs, regional organizations, and other stakeholders.

Mandate holders also participate in expert consultations, seminars and conferences on specific human rights issues to better inform their thematic reports and, in some cases, to help develop human rights standards and guidelines.

Engagement with other parts of the UN system and regional human rights mechanisms provides another important avenue for mandate holders to address thematic human rights issues.

Additionally, mandate holders organize panel discussions and issue press releases to raise public awareness of thematic human rights issues.

ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE UN SYSTEM AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS

Special procedures mandate holders regularly interact with the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In addition, they also regularly engage and/or undertake joint activities on various topics related to their mandates with other UN agencies, bodies, mechanisms, programmes and funds, and country teams as well as with regional mechanisms. The Secretary-General's *Call to Action for Human Rights* and *Our Common Agenda* offer momentum and opportunities to integrate the work of special procedures within the UN system and for the fuller use of the system to solve pressing social, economic and political challenges.

This engagement provides mandate holders with another important avenue to obtain information to inform their thematic studies and reports.

Mandate holders' engagement with other international and regional human rights mechanisms has resulted in concrete, positive outcomes on human rights issues, in particular the development of human rights standards, principles and guidelines.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Through thematic reports, special procedures mandate holders analyze and provide recommendations on diverse thematic human rights issues of relevance to their respective mandates. Thematic reports also contribute to the standard setting work of special procedures, and they address new and emerging issues from a human rights perspective.

Mandate holders seek input for their thematic studies and reports from stakeholders during expert consultations, seminars and conferences. They also issue formal calls for input to all relevant stakeholders, including States, international and regional organizations and NGOs.

Through their reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, mandate holders also contribute to the progressive development of international human rights law through the elaboration of guidelines in a variety of specific areas in relation to their mandates.



The Secretary-General publishes a yearly report that presents conclusions and recommendations of the special procedures, providing a comprehensive overview of all reports issued by mandate holders during the previous year:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/conclusions-and-recommendations-special-procedures>



A list of forthcoming report themes is available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/reports-and-related-calls-input>



Information relating to all recent and previous calls for input is available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input-listing>

EXPERT SEMINARS AND CONSULTATIONS

Either at the request of the Human Rights Council or on their own initiative, special procedures mandate holders frequently organize seminars or consultations with States, experts and other stakeholders on topics related to their mandate.

Expert seminars and consultations provide mandate holders with a key opportunity to obtain essential information to inform their thematic studies and reports.

Through such seminars and consultations, mandate holders also proactively engage with experts and other stakeholders to develop international human rights standards and guidelines.



Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples presenting their reports to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, September 2023

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The calls for input to the upcoming reports are located at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input-listing>



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