

BRIEFING ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE 46th SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

This briefing paper sets out Amnesty International's key calls on all states ahead of the 46th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC46) to ensure the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) fulfils its mandate to promote and protect human rights, to respond to human rights crises, and to prevent violations of human rights.

OVERVIEW

We urge all states to support ongoing efforts to address human rights crises, prevent further violations and support victims and survivors in their pursuit of justice. States should support for the renewal of important mechanisms on **Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Sudan and Syria**, and work towards a more robust approach, including with regards to accountability, to prevent further violations, in **Belarus, Iran and Sri Lanka**. All HRC member and observer states have a responsibility to ensure the HRC delivers on its mandate to address and prevent human rights crises, including through a meaningful response to increasingly alarming reports of serious patterns of violations in **China, Cameroon, Egypt, India and Russia** and other emerging crises, including **Ethiopia**. In this regard, we encourage States to build on increasing efforts we have seen in the past few years to **hold HRC members to a higher level of scrutiny**, a key recommendation of our report on [opportunities for strengthening and leveraging membership of the UN Human Rights Council](#), and to continue to develop and solidify the trend of taking action and positions on the basis of the [objective criteria for HRC action](#).

States committed to the international human rights system should vigorously **defend the HRC and its mechanisms against any attacks and attempts to undermine them**. Specifically, states should be wary of initiatives that seek to undermine the core mandate of the HRC to respond to violations, to dilute or distort established international human rights law or norms, or to undermine or attack the Special Procedures. We also hope that states will ensure the HRC and its mechanisms have the resources necessary to carry out their work.

Incoming HRC member states should publicly commit to strengthening the HRC by repeating the **incoming members pledge** (delivered by Australia in 2018, Fiji in 2019, and Marshall Islands in 2020), approaching their membership in a spirit of openness and self-reflection.

Finally, as current plans are for the HRC to convene under COVID-19-related restrictions even more strict than in 2020, we appeal to all states to take additional efforts to **adequately consult with civil society, including national and regional actors**, and ensure that their capacity to engage in the full scope of the work of the HRC, including through formal debates and negotiations, is not unduly impacted.

HUMAN RIGHTS CRISES NOT ALREADY ON THE HRC AGENDA

We urge states to take robust action to address several human rights crises not already on the HRC's agenda for HRC46. Among situations that merit the attention of the HRC, we urge States to:

- Follow up on the joint statement on **Cameroon**, delivered by the United Kingdom (UK) on behalf of 38 countries in March 2019,¹ given the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground following the High Commissioner's visit in May 2019.² Serious human rights violations and abuses continue to be committed by the security forces and armed groups, with OHCHR recently noting reports of extrajudicial executions, torture, sexual and gender-based violence and abductions.³ Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced due to violence; and gender-based violence against women is widespread. We share concerns expressed by Special Procedures⁴ over the ongoing crackdown on peaceful dissent and on critics of the Government⁵ and increased intimidation and aggression against human rights defenders.⁶ We would like to see a resolution putting in place monitoring and reporting on the situation, or at the very least an action-oriented joint statement, setting clear benchmarks to be fulfilled by the Government of Cameroon to ensure measurable progress on human rights.
- Take more robust action to respond to the increasingly alarming human rights situation in **China**, following up on joint statements delivered by the [UK on behalf of 27 states](#) at HRC44 and by [Germany on behalf of 39 states](#) at the Third Committee. We urge those states that continued to use their voice to defend China's record in 2020 to re-evaluate their stance as the evidence of gross human rights violations against Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang continues to mount and the crackdown continues in Hong Kong. Given China's continued refusal to engage constructively with concerns raised and, despite continued requests, to allow full and unfettered access to Xinjiang to independent human rights monitors (including the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Procedures that have raised concern), and in a context of ongoing travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19, it is long past time for the HRC to take action. Together with over 300 other civil society actors, we urge the HRC to convene a Special Session to address the human rights situation in China, and to launch a remote monitoring and reporting mechanism, in line with the clear and strong [call by an unprecedented number of Special Procedures](#) mandate-holders.⁷
- Take the long overdue step of establishing a monitoring and reporting mechanism for **Egypt**. For years civil society has warned that the Egyptian government is attempting to [annihilate](#) human rights organizations and [eradicate](#) the human rights movement in the country. The recent attack against the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) is a sobering reminder of the full extent of the human rights crisis in Egypt. Embattled human rights defenders in Egypt live with the constant threat of arbitrary detention and harassment by security forces, and tens are also subject to travel bans, asset freezes and criminal investigations. The release of the three EIPR staff after two weeks of intense public scrutiny does however demonstrate the impact that international coordinated and public pressure can have and therefore creates an opportunity to protect individuals, organizations, and the broader Egyptian human rights community. Meanwhile, the authorities have continued to commit widespread human rights violations including torture, arbitrary detention of thousands of critics and opponents, enforced disappearances, inhumane and cruel treatment in places of detention, unfair trials, executions and to restrict the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, while at the same time targeting members of LGBTI community, women and religious minorities. > **See recent Amnesty research report [Egypt: "What do I care if you die? Negligence and Denial of Health Care in Egyptian Prisons](#)**.⁸

¹ UK-led joint statement on Cameroon available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/human-rights-council-40-cameroon>.

² OHCHR, Bachelet welcomes Cameroon's willingness to cooperate to tackle human rights crises, 6 May 2019, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24565&LangID=E>.

³ OHCHR, Press briefing notes on Cameroon: Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Ravina Shamdasani, 27 October 2020 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26428&LangID=E>.

⁴ OHCHR, Cameroon: UN human rights experts call for end to detention and intimidation of peaceful protesters, 12 October 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26372&LangID=E>.

⁵ Amnesty International, Cameroon: Arbitrary detentions and military courts highlight the latest crackdown on opposition members, 9 December 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/12/cameroon-arbitrary-detentions-and-military-courts-highlight-the-latest-crackdown/>.

⁶ OHCHR, Cameroon must protect human rights defenders – UN experts, 28 April 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25835&LangID=E>.

⁷ OHCHR, UN experts call for decisive measures to protect fundamental freedoms in China, 26 June 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26006&LangID=E>.

⁸ Amnesty International, "What do I care if you die?" Negligence and Denial of Health Care in Egyptian Prisons, January 2021 Index: MDE 12/3538/2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/3538/2021/en/>.

- Ensure a meaningful response to the human rights crisis in **Ethiopia** as a matter of urgency. Amnesty International supports [calls by other civil society organisations](#) for the HRC to convene a Special Session on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ethiopia, to provide the HRC with an opportunity to be updated by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to decide on appropriate action, in line with the Council's mandate, to prevent further violations and abuses and to contribute to accountability. We would hope that a resolution adopted in that context would launch additional international investigations into alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict. The resolution should ensure regular updates to the HRC on the situation, including a report with recommendations to prevent further human rights violations and abuses and to ensure accountability. Should a special session not be held in advance of HRC46, clearly action should be taken during the session along these lines, including through the holding an Urgent Debate.
- Address the deteriorating human rights situation in **India**. Amnesty International is alarmed by the continued crackdown on civil society, as highlighted by the High Commissioner in October 2020,⁹ including the use of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to target human rights defenders, activists, peaceful protestors and civil society organisations. As noted by the High Commissioner, and Special Procedures,¹⁰ Amnesty International India has been among those targeted for human rights work: the organisation was forced to shut down operations in October 2020 following the freezing of its bank accounts and former staff members continue to be subjected to intimidation and harassment. This followed the publication, in August 2020, of two hard hitting reports: a situation update on Jammu and Kashmir,¹¹ and a report on police brutality during the Delhi riots.¹² We also share the deep concerns expressed by the High Commissioner and the Special Procedures over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which weaponizes the National Population Register and the Foreigners Tribunals to push minorities – particularly Muslims – towards detention and, potentially, the world's largest statelessness crisis, as well as the excessive use of force, arrests and arbitrary detention of peaceful protesters in the context of the demonstrations against the CAA.¹³ The crackdown on human rights and civic space in India is all the more egregious as India sits as a member of the HRC, having [pledged](#) to “continue to foster the genuine participation and effective involvement of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights.” As has been broadly recognised over the past few years, membership of the HRC is not a free ride, and [members should expect to be held to a higher level of scrutiny](#) during their terms, in line with the clear expectation set out in GA resolution 60/251.¹⁴ In this regard, we urge states to raise these concerns at HRC46 – both in their national capacity and through joint statements – and to urge India to take specific remedial measures. Specifically, we encourage states to work together to urge India to:
 - release all activists, lawyers, journalists and students who have been arrested simply for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and/or freedom of expression in criticising the government;
 - end the crackdown on human rights NGOs, including Amnesty International India, and allow them to carry on their work without intimidation or interference;
 - ensure no one else is detained or targeted for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
 - take urgent steps to review and amend/repeal the CAA, UAPA and FCRA to ensure compliance with international human rights law;

⁹ OHCHR, Bachelet dismayed at restrictions on human rights NGOs and arrests of activists in India, 20 October 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26398>.

¹⁰ On 21 October, a group of UN Special Procedures sent a communication to the Indian government, expressing concerns about the allegations of police and judicial harassment of Amnesty India, in part, as retaliation for its human rights work in the country and the incompatibility of the FCRA with international human rights standards. See: Special Procedure communication AL IND 17/2020, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25633>.

¹¹ Amnesty International India, Situation Update And Analysis: Jammu And Kashmir After One Year Of Abrogation Of Article 370, 5 August 2020, available at: <https://amnesty.org.in/publications/situation-update-and-analysis-jammu-and-kashmir-after-one-year-of-abrogation-of-article-370/>.

¹² Amnesty International India, Briefing: Six Months Since Delhi Riots, Delhi Police Continue To Enjoy Impunity Despite Evidence Of Human Rights Violations , 28 August 2020, available at: <https://amnesty.org.in/publications/6-months-since-delhi-riots-delhi-police-continue-to-enjoy-impunity-despite-evidence-of-human-rights-violations/>.

¹³ See for example Special Procedures communication AL IND 3/2020, 28 February 2020, available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25080>.

¹⁴ “... members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights, shall fully cooperate with the Council and be reviewed under the universal periodic review mechanism during their term of membership,” GA resolution 60/251, *Human Rights Council*, operative paragraph 9, available at: https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251_En.pdf.

- engage in good faith with relevant Special Procedures and facilitate as a matter of priority visits by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, Working Group on arbitrary detention, Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly, and Special Rapporteur on minority issues, all of whom have pending visit requests, and extend an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;
- report back to the Council on steps taken to address the above concerns.

Address the human rights situation in **Russia**. While the Council pays significant attention to human rights situations where Russian authorities are involved, including Syria and Ukraine, Russia's joining the Council as a new member provides an additional opportunity for scrutiny of its domestic situation. The targeting of Aleksei Navalny highlights a broad range of serious problems with Russia's failure to meet its human rights obligations, including in the context of politically motivated persecutions, unfair trials, disregard for international and regional human rights mechanisms and even domestic law, widespread violations of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly as well as a profound lack of accountability and of effective remedy even for gravest abuses such as the violation of the right to life. States should join the Special Procedures mandates who have [called](#) for Mr. Navalny's release. They should also call for the immediate and unconditional release of all peaceful protesters and other civil society activists who were arrested during the nationwide protests against Navalny's detention on 23 January and those who have been subjected to "preventative" arrests on spurious charges in the context of these protests. In addition, they should call for prompt, effective and impartial investigation into all incidents of unlawful use of force against peaceful protesters. We are also concerned about a series of laws recently passed in Russia that further restrict freedom of association, assembly, and expression and deal an especially crushing blow to the already severely limited space for civil society in the country. States should urge Russia to rescind these laws, to end the escalating crackdown on human rights defenders and civil society organizations, and to guarantee the right to association in line with their obligations under international human rights law. States should also encourage Russia to fulfil its commitment as a new member of the HRC to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and fully cooperate with the HRC and its mechanisms.

KEY PRIORITY SITUATIONS ON THE AGENDA OF THE HRC

Regarding situations already on the agenda requiring further follow-up, we also urge states to ensure that the HRC:

- **Adjusts, sustains, and elevates its response to the crisis in Belarus by way of follow up resolution to the resolution passed during the urgent debate at HRC45**, in light of the escalating and deepening crackdown in country and continued impunity. In this context, the HRC should at a minimum respond firmly to the High Commissioner's upcoming report, including by supporting the extension and expansion of independent and impartial reporting regarding state sponsored impunity and unlawful force, torture, and other ill-treatment by members of law enforcement agencies, and recommendations of ways to address the widening accountability gap, such as through the collection and preservation of evidence, universal jurisdiction, and other current and future accountability options. > **See recent Amnesty research report [Belarus: "You are not human beings" State Sponsored Impunity and Unprecedented Violence against Peaceful Protesters](#)**.¹⁵
- **Renews the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Iran, while also taking concrete steps to address longstanding systematic impunity for the most serious crimes under international law committed by the Iranian authorities including through the collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence**. Since the publication of Amnesty International's 2018 report [Blood-soaked secrets: Why Iran's 1988 prison massacres are ongoing crimes against humanity](#), the organization has been calling for the establishment of an independent, impartial and effective international mechanism to pressure Iran to end the enforced disappearance of thousands of political dissidents and address impunity for the crimes against humanity and other crimes under international law identified in the report. Moreover, a group of UN human rights experts have [written](#) to the Iranian government warning that past and ongoing violations related to prison massacres in 1988 including the enforced disappearance of thousands of political dissidents, the destruction of mass graves and torture and inhumane treatment of families seeking truth and justice, may amount to crimes against humanity and that

¹⁵ Amnesty International, "You are not human beings" State Sponsored Impunity and Unprecedented Violence against Peaceful Protesters in Belarus, January 2021 Index: EUR 55/3502/2021, <https://eurasia.amnesty.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/belarus-you-are-not-human-beings.pdf>

they will call for an international investigation if these violations persist.¹⁶ Failure to investigate, prosecute, and remove from positions of power those responsible for ordering, carrying out and acquiescing to these crimes, who include the current head of the judiciary and minister of justice, has not only further entrenched impunity but also facilitated the repetition of crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations. They include the spate of unlawful killings, torture and enforced disappearances committed most recently in the context of the authorities' deadly [crackdown of protests in November 2019](#), for which the organization has also been calling for an international investigation. Firm international commitment to fight against the crisis of systematic impunity that prevails in Iran is essential for preventing further cycles of crimes and promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights.

- **Adopts a robust resolution on Myanmar**, which renews the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and guarantees necessary resources now that this is the only human rights monitoring and reporting mandate on Myanmar, and has been tasked with the important and substantial task of following up on the Fact-Finding Mission's (FFM's) findings and recommendations. The resolution should also ensure continued follow up on the role of the UN in Myanmar and additionally put in place further follow-up to the work of the FFM on the economic interests of the Myanmar military. > **See recent Amnesty research report [Myanmar: Military Ltd: The company financing human rights abuses in Myanmar](#).**
- **Renews the important OHCHR monitoring and reporting mandate on Nicaragua and engages actively in discussion with the High Commissioner on her report to HRC46 on the situation.** The continuation of this mandate is critical given the situation has not improved and Nicaragua continues to refuse to cooperate with the regional and international human rights situations, as highlighted by the High Commissioner in her update to the HRC in September.¹⁷
- **Address – through individual and joint statements – the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in the Philippines** and commit to further action should the course not be reversed. Since the Philippines was considered at HRC45, impunity in the country has continued to fuel violations of the nature documented in the OHCHR report ([A/HRC/44/22](#)), violations that continue unabated. Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of unlawful killings of people suspected of using and selling drugs and President Duterte continues to publicly endorse and encourage the killings.¹⁸ In recent weeks, Indigenous people, lawyers, and a priest have all been subjected to killings, while activists and human rights defenders have been subject to 'redtagging' (labelled as 'communists') arrested, and threatened with kill orders.¹⁹ In the absence of progress on human rights, or meaningful efforts to address the impunity that continues to fuel the violations, despite commitments made at HRC45, Amnesty International remains convinced that a full international investigation is urgently needed to effectively address the pervasive impunity that continues to fuel these serious human rights violations. We urge states to address the situation as a matter of priority at HRC46 – through individual and joint statements – making a commitment to ensure further, more robust action by the HRC should the situation not improve. Co-sponsors of HRC resolution 45/33 have a particular responsibility in this regard.
- **Renews the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan** ("the Commission") in full and uses the session to advance critical issues relating to accountability, including the urgent establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS), and the need for judicial reform and rebuilding at national level. Continued pressure from the HRC, including through the continued collection and preservation of evidence by the Commission, are critical in the face of a concerning lack of progress on, or commitment to, accountability for crimes committed in relation to the conflict by the authorities, as documented in an [Amnesty International research report released in 2019](#), which recommended setting a deadline for the establishment of the HCSS,

¹⁶ Correspondence to Iran from the Mandates of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the SR on the situation of HR in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the SR on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the SR on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, 3 September 2020, Ref. AL IRN 20/2020, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=25503>.

¹⁷ OHCHR, Update on the human rights situation in Nicaragua, pursuant to resolution 43/2, 45th session of the Human Rights Council, Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, 14 September 2020: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26228&LangID=E>.

¹⁸ News Info Inquirer, Why blame me for drug pushers' death? Going into drug trade is suicide, Duterte says, Gabriel Pabico Lalu, 15 October 2020, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1348059/why-blame-me-for-drug-pushers-death-going-into-drug-trade-is-suicide-duterte-says>.

¹⁹ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/tumandok-killed-nabbed-police-panay-island>; <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1386167/cordillera-police-chief-issues-shootkill-order-vs-ip-group-leader>.

failing which the African Union should take matters into its own hands by creating an *ad hoc* tribunal.²⁰

- **Creates a monitoring and accountability mechanism on Sri Lanka, in line with OHCHR's recommendations.** The creation of a mechanism to monitor the situation and collect and preserve evidence of serious violations is critical in the face of: the continued deterioration of the human rights situation, including increased attacks on human rights organisations, media, and members of the Muslim community; serious backsliding on the limited progress made on the implementation of resolution 30/1, including on accountability; and Sri Lanka's announcement they are disengaging from the 30/1 process altogether. The damning [OHCHR report](#) expresses deep concern over the trends emerging over the past year, which represent "clear early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation and a significantly heightened risk of future violations," and urges the HRC to take "preventive action," including to mandate enhanced monitoring and regular reporting, as well as the collection and preservation of evidence for future prosecutions. It is critical that the UN learn from past failures – including in Sri Lanka – and ensure the clear early warning signals indicated by the High Commissioner are responded to. > See [Amnesty's detailed briefing on the situation in Sri Lanka and necessary recommendations for action by the HRC and public statement](#) issued in response to the OHCHR report.
- **Engage actively in the interactive dialogues with the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and with the High Commissioner on Venezuela,** and continue to press Venezuela to take concrete steps to put an immediate end to its policy of repression, release all prisoners of conscience, and to allow full access to the country to the FFM. In recent months, Amnesty has continued to receive reports of attacks on humanitarian and civil society organisations, politically motivated arbitrary detentions, alleged mass extrajudicial executions, and harassment of media outlets.
- Ensure the renewal of the mandates of other important ongoing mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry on **Syria** and Special Procedures mandates on the situation of human rights in **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**, and in **Mali**, and support any resolution on **Georgia** calling for technical assistance, capacity building, and access for human rights monitors.

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

Regarding thematic and institutional questions, we call on states to:

- Fully support an HRC resolution **recognizing the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and support the creation of a Special Procedure mandate on human rights and climate change.** Amnesty International has joined with more than 1,000 other organisations, and counting, to [urge the HRC to recognize the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment without further delay](#), given the imperative need to address the existential threat to human rights that climate change and environmental degradation pose. The creation of a Special Procedure on human rights and climate change would elevate the work of the Council on the climate crisis and help states to address the urgent threats to human rights posed by the climate emergency.
- Play a constructive role throughout 2021 in HRC engagement on the question of the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights.** HRC46 will mark one year since the start of the pandemic. It will be an important moment to take stock of the impact of the pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights worldwide and to pledge to take measures to increase the protection of human rights in this context. Critical issues to address – through a further PRST or resolution(s) – include (but are not limited to): the use of emergency measures; the policing of lockdown regulations (see December 2020 Amnesty International report, [COVID-19 crackdowns: police abuse and the global pandemic](#)²¹); the protection of frontline workers and their inclusion in decision making processes (see Amnesty International [HRC45 oral statement](#) on this issue²²); and international cooperation and assistance to ensure universal access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines to all, without discrimination (see recent Amnesty International report: [A Fair Shot: Ensuring universal access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines](#)²³). The HRC should also renew the OHCHR

²⁰ Amnesty International, "Do you think we will prosecute ourselves?" no prospects for accountability in South Sudan, Index: AFR 65/1105/2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR6511052019ENGLISH.PDF>.

²¹ Amnesty International, COVID-19 crackdowns: police abuse and the global pandemic, 17 December 2020, Index number: ACT 30/3443/2020, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/3443/2020/en/>.

²² Amnesty International, Oral statement on the protection of frontline workers in the context of COVID-19, delivered at UN Human Rights Council, 14 September 2020, Index number: IOR 40/3046/2020 available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/IOR4030462020ENGLISH.pdf>.

²³ Amnesty International, A fair shot: Ensuring universal access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, 8 December 2020, Index number: POL 30/3409/2020, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/3409/2020/en/>.

monitoring and reporting mandate set out in PRST 43/1 and mandates continued regular inclusive enhanced interactive dialogues on the issue.

- Ensure the renewal of important thematic Special Procedures, including the mandates **on the right to privacy** in the digital age, on **cultural rights**, on human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, **healthy and sustainable environment**, and on human rights by persons with **albinism**.

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

From an institutional perspective, we encourage states at HRC46 to:

- Remain vigilant and oppose any initiatives that may emerge which aim to undermine the HRC's core mandate to address human rights situations or to otherwise undermine international human rights law.
- Remain vigilant and oppose any further attacks on the Special Procedures, particularly those aimed at undermining their independence or effectiveness.
- Use the Item 5 general debate to hold HRC member states to account for their membership obligations ("that members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" and that they "shall fully cooperate with the Council") and commitments, including any voluntary commitments they may have submitted in support of their candidacy. In doing so, States may wish to draw on the indicators of cooperation presented in the annual report of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

We call on states to participate actively in the UPR adoptions under Item 6, including by making substantive statements during the 14 adoptions of review outcomes of countries that were reviewed during the 36th session of the UPR Working Group in November 2020.²⁴ States should encourage the states reviewed to act on recommendations to address human rights violations and strengthen the protection of human rights and, wherever possible, work with them over the next four and a half years to assist in their implementation.

²⁴ Amnesty International produced briefings on its concerns in [Belarus](#), [Croatia](#), [Malawi](#), [Mongolia](#), [Jamaica](#) and [USA](#) ahead of the review.