



# UNHRC

## United Nations Human Rights Council

Topic B: Assessing and  
addressing the human rights  
crisis in Sudan: Ensuring  
protection and accountability  
amidst conflict



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### The United Nations Human Rights Council

**President:** Manuel Alejandro Rodríguez Mendoza

**Moderator:** Sara Michelle Carrillo Navarro

**Conference Officer:** Maria Josse Gómez Pastrana

Greetings delegates,

As your chair, we are pleased to welcome you to the 15th edition of the United Nations Model of Alexander Bain Irapuato. We are fortunate and glad to work with you on the **United Nations Human Rights Council** where you will discuss issues of global importance, and we encourage you to do your best to come up with innovative and viable solutions. Throughout the days of debate, you will be discussing **Topic B: Assessing and Addressing the Human Rights Crisis in Sudan: Ensuring Protection and Accountability Amidst**. We remind you of the importance of developing valuable skills to approach global problems considering the challenge of complying with the 2030 agenda by reaching peace, dignity, and equality.

As your chair, **Manuel Alejandro Rodríguez Mendoza, - and -** we sincerely hope you have the best experience in a Model of the United Nations. We, no se que nombres poner , after years of hard work and gained experience, are prepared and enthusiastic to seek for your potential and incredible skills, helping you with any doubt regarding the protocol, debate or topic.

Delegates, please, in case there is any doubt, do not hesitate to approach any member of the chair or high command. Remember, we are here for you, and we will always be happy to help.

See you soon,

**United Nations Human Rights Council Chair.**





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## SEMBLANCE

### History:

The Human Rights Council, established in 2006 by the UN General Assembly, is the principal intergovernmental body within the United Nations dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. Composed of 47 Member States, it serves as a multilateral platform to address human rights violations and specific country situations, respond to emergencies, and make recommendations to improve human rights implementation on the ground. The Council receives technical, substantive, and secretariat support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and was created to replace the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.<sup>1</sup>

### Actual state:

Today the Human Rights Council remains the UN's main body for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. It recently concluded its 58th regular session, adopting 32 resolutions and launching a working group to draft a treaty on the rights of older persons. In October 2024, 18 new members were elected for the 2025–2027 term, with Saudi Arabia failing to secure a seat due to human rights concerns. The U.S. formally withdrew from the Council in early 2025, citing bias, though it reportedly continues to influence proceedings informally. Despite challenges, the Council stays active in addressing global human rights issues.<sup>2</sup>


### Actions and objectives:

The Human Rights Council aims to promote and protect human rights globally by addressing violations and encouraging international cooperation. It serves as a key forum for dialogue among UN officials, member states, civil society, and human rights experts. The Council adopts resolutions and decisions during its sessions to express the global community's stance on specific human rights issues, .

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council. "OHCHR, HRC, Welcome to the Human Rights Council." OHCHR. United Nations Human Rights Council, 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council. "OHCHR, HRC, Welcome to the Human Rights Council." OHCHR. United Nations Human Rights Council, 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>.



often prompting government action. It convenes special sessions to address urgent crises, 36 held so far, and conducts the Universal Periodic Review to assess the human rights records of all UN Member States. Additionally, it appoints Special Procedures, independent experts who monitor specific countries or thematic issues, and authorizes commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions to gather evidence on serious crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

#### Limitations:

The Human Rights Council faces several limitations, including political influence and selectivity, as some member states with poor human rights records use their positions to shield themselves and allies. It lacks enforcement power, relying on moral pressure rather than legal authority to ensure compliance. Responses to urgent situations can be delayed due to political disagreements, and its effectiveness depends on voluntary cooperation from states, which may refuse access or ignore recommendations. Additionally, the Council is often criticized for being over-politicized, with geopolitical rivalries overshadowing genuine human rights concerns.<sup>3</sup>

#### Main accomplishments:

The UN Human Rights Council has made significant strides in promoting and protecting human rights globally, including the establishment of commissions of inquiry, special rapporteurs, and independent experts, as well as the adoption of new standards and resolutions addressing various human rights issues<sup>4</sup>


Among its key accomplishments are the creation of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which holds all UN member states accountable for their human rights records, and the deployment of independent investigations into crises in countries like Syria, Myanmar, and Ukraine.<sup>5</sup>


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<sup>3</sup> Schaefer, Brett. "The UN Human Rights Council Is Broken." GIS Reports, July 26, 2023. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/human-rights-council/>.


<sup>4</sup> Amnesty International. "10 Years of the United Nations' Human Rights Council: Remarks by Salil Shetty," February 29, 2016. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/02/10-years-of-the-united-nations-human-rights-council/>

<sup>5</sup> "Human Rights Achievements - OHCHR 20 Years." n.d. At20.Ohchr.org. <https://at20.ohchr.org/achievements.html>.





It has championed the rights of vulnerable groups, advanced international standards such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and fostered strong civil society participation. By supporting legal reforms, facilitating public dialogue, and integrating human rights across the UN system, the Council has become a central force for global accountability, protection, and advocacy.<sup>6</sup>



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<sup>6</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2007. "UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." OHCHR. September 13, 2007. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/indigenous-peoples/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples>.

## **Topic B: Assessing and Addressing the Human Rights Crisis in Sudan: Ensuring Protection and Accountability Amidst**

### **1. Introduction:**

According to Goal 16 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions is essential for sustainable development and the protection of human dignity. This goal emphasizes the need to reduce violence, ensure equal access to justice, and build accountable institutions.<sup>7</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), particularly Articles 3 and 5, affirm the rights to life, liberty, and security, and the prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.<sup>8</sup>

In Sudan, however, ongoing conflict and political instability have triggered a severe human rights crisis marked by civilian killings, arbitrary detentions, sexual violence, and the destruction of critical infrastructure. The Human Rights Council has highlighted Sudan as a priority case for international attention and accountability, stressing the urgent need for coordinated humanitarian and legal responses.<sup>9</sup>

In this context, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) plays a critical role in ensuring that the violations in Sudan do not go unpunished. Through independent investigations, special rapporteurs, and public advocacy, the Council works to hold perpetrators accountable and to support mechanisms for justice and reconciliation. The Council's efforts align with the need to uphold international humanitarian law and reassert the universality of human rights.

### **2. Concept definition:**

- 1. Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8):** Promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.<sup>10</sup>


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<sup>7</sup> United Nations. 2022. "Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions." 2022. <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/>.

<sup>8</sup> Library, Dag Hammarskjöld. n.d. "Research Guides: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): 30 Articles - 30 Documents: Exhibit for the 75th Anniversary: Articles 1-5." Research.un.org. <https://research.un.org/en/udhr75/1-5>.

<sup>9</sup> Kiros, Kidane. 2024. "THE ONGOING WAR in SUDAN and ITS IMPLICATIONS for the SECURITY and STABILITY of the HORN of AFRICA and beyond POLICY BRIEF." [https://www.policycenter.ma/sites/default/files/2024-10/PB\\_52-24%20%28Kidane%20Kiros%29.pdf](https://www.policycenter.ma/sites/default/files/2024-10/PB_52-24%20%28Kidane%20Kiros%29.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. (s.f.). Sustainable Development Goals.

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2. **Decent work:** Employment that respects fundamental labor rights, ensures fair income, security in the workplace, and social protection for workers.<sup>11</sup>
  3. **Sustainable economic growth:** Economic development that meets current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own.<sup>12</sup>
  4. **Safe working conditions:** Environments where workers are protected from physical and mental harm through adequate safety, health, and hygiene measures.<sup>13</sup>
  5. **Fair remuneration:** Compensation that is proportional to the work performed, allowing workers to live with dignity.<sup>14</sup>
  6. **Labor exploitation:** A practice where employers gain excessive profit by subjecting workers to unfair conditions, such as low wages or long hours.<sup>15</sup>
  7. **Child labor:** The employment of children in work that deprives them of their childhood, education, or harms their health and development.<sup>16</sup>
  8. **Fast fashion:** A business model that produces cheap, trendy clothing at high speed, often at the expense of labor rights and environmental sustainability.<sup>17</sup>
  9. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – Articles 23rd and 24th:** Fundamental rights guaranteeing just working conditions, fair pay, and reasonable limits on working hours.<sup>18</sup>
  10. **Ambiguous terms:** Undefined terms in international law that allow for broad interpretation and can lead to exploitation in practice.<sup>19</sup>

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<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/#:~:text=Goal%20is%20about%20promoting.and%20decent%20work%20for%20all.>

<sup>11</sup> Decent work. (s.f.). International Labour Organization. <https://www.ilo.org/topics/decent-work>

<sup>12</sup> What is sustainable economic growth? (And how it works). (2025, 4 de marzo). Indeed. <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/what-is-sustainable-economic-growth>

<sup>13</sup> Santhosh. (2024, 7 de febrero). What is a safe working environment: Benefits, best practices, and examples. CultureMonkey. <https://www.culturemonkey.io/employee-engagement/safe-working-environment/>

<sup>14</sup> Fair remuneration | SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CONSULTING. (s.f.). SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CONSULTING. <https://www.sbclimited.org/fair-remuneration>


<sup>15</sup> What is labour exploitation? | End Labour Exploitation. (s.f.). End Labour Exploitation. <https://endlabourexploitation.co.uk/about/>

<sup>16</sup> What is child labour?(s.f.). UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-labour>

<sup>17</sup> Kelleher, D. (2023, 6 de octubre). Fast fashion | History, Definition, Brands, Companies, Environmental Impact, Waste, & Facts | Britannica. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/art/fast-fashion>

<sup>18</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (s.f.). United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<sup>19</sup> Ambiguous. (s.f.). Collins. [https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/ambiguous#google\\_vignette](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/ambiguous#google_vignette)





### **3. Actual situation:**

Since the outbreak of violence in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Sudan has descended into a humanitarian and human rights catastrophe. Thousands of civilians have been killed or displaced, hospitals have been targeted, and numerous reports of sexual violence and ethnic killings have emerged.<sup>20</sup>

Women and children are disproportionately affected, facing both direct violence and systemic neglect. Access to food, healthcare, and education has been severely disrupted. Humanitarian agencies face restrictions, and journalists and human rights defenders operate under constant threat.<sup>21</sup>

From the perspective of the Human Rights Council, the situation requires immediate action to protect civilians, document violations, and demand accountability from all parties involved. The failure to respond effectively risks further escalation and undermines the credibility of international human rights frameworks.

### **4. Initiatives:**

The Human Rights Council has mandated independent fact-finding missions and the appointment of special rapporteurs to investigate human rights violations in Sudan. These mechanisms aim to collect evidence, support victims, and present findings to the international community.

In collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), efforts have also focused on providing technical assistance to civil society, supporting transitional justice mechanisms, and facilitating dialogue for peace.<sup>22</sup>

Regional partnerships, such as those with the African Union and IGAD, have been essential in promoting ceasefires and advocating for humanitarian access. However, enforcement and politics will remain weak, and greater international solidarity and pressure are needed.<sup>23</sup>

The Human Rights Council continues to push for targeted sanctions, international

<sup>20</sup> OCHA. 2024. "Sudan: One Year of Conflict - Key Facts and Figures (15 April 2024) | OCHA." Wwww.unocha.org. April 14, 2024. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/sudan/sudan-one-year-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-april-2024>.

<sup>21</sup> "Two Years of Devastation in Sudan: A Civilian Toll That Cannot Be Ignored." 2025. International Committee of the Red Cross. April 11, 2025. <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/two-years-devastation-sudan-civilian-toll-cannot-be-ignored>.

<sup>22</sup> "Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan." 2024. OHCHR. 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-sudan/index>.

<sup>23</sup> Djama, Mohamed. 2024. "IGAD Delegation at the 37th African Union Summit: Advancing Regional Priorities and Strengthening Partnerships - IGAD." IGAD. February 19, 2024. <https://igad.int/igad-delegation-at-the-37th-african-union-summit-advancing-regional-priorities-and-strengthening-partnerships/>.

prosecutions, and the inclusion of civil society voices in peacebuilding processes to ensure lasting accountability and justice.

### **5. Guide questions**

1. What are the root causes of the ongoing human rights violations in Sudan?
2. How can the Human Rights Council better support victims of conflict-related sexual violence and displacement?
3. What role do regional organizations play in holding perpetrators accountable in Sudan?
4. How can the international community ensure the protection of humanitarian workers and civilians in conflict zones?
5. What mechanisms are currently in place to monitor and report human rights violations in Sudan, and how effective are they?
6. How can transitional justice be effectively implemented in a context of ongoing conflict?
7. What barriers exist to achieving justice and reparations for survivors of human rights abuses in Sudan?

### **6. Countries:**

- **Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**
- **Federal Republic of Germany**
- **French Republic**
- **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**
- **Islamic Republic of Iran**
- **Islamic Republic of Pakistan**
- **Japan**
- **Kingdom of Thailand**
- **Malaysia**
- **Mongolia**
- **People's Republic of Bangladesh**
- **People's Republic of China**
- **Republic of India**
- **Republic of Indonesia**
- **Republic of Iraq**
- **Republic of the Sudan**
- **Republic of Maldives**
- **Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
- **Republic of the Philippines**
- **Republic of Korea**
- **Republic of Singapore**

- **Russian Federation**
- **Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**
- **United Arab Emirates**
- **United States of America**



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