

# Human Rights Council

The [Human Rights Council](#) (HRC) is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. Protection clusters, with their extensive experience and access on the ground, can bring information to the attention of the Members of the HRC to inform their work. It also serves as a forum where Clusters can raise important protection concerns observed at the national-level on an international stage.

How does it work?	
Which human rights are covered?	All, with particular attention to grave and systematic human rights violations.
Which countries are covered?	All, but with limitations as scrutiny depends on the will of <a href="#">Member States of the HRC</a> .
How frequent is the monitoring?	Ongoing: The HRC meets at least three times a year, for a total of at least ten weeks in March (four weeks), June (three weeks) and September (three weeks). In these, the HRC discusses a wide range of human rights issues and country situations.  It may also hold special sessions to address urgent situations.
What are its tools?	Resolutions, special sessions, dialogues and debates, statements (by States or other stakeholders), special events, the work of the HRC's subsidiary mechanisms (such as Special Procedures <sup>1</sup> , the Universal Periodic Review <sup>2</sup> , and independent investigations).  There are currently eight active <a href="#">HRC mandated investigations</a> in relation to Libya, Venezuela, Myanmar, Yemen, Burundi, Syria, South Sudan, and Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Cluster engagement with these investigations varies greatly depending on the context.
Can they make country visits?	The HRC President may also use their 'good offices' to conduct visits. It is also possible through the HRC's Special Procedures (SP). The HRC can request that SPs or other actors undertake visits.
Who makes the recommendations and to whom?	States to States. UN agencies, civil society, and other actors may provide recommendations via statements during the HRC's sessions.

<sup>1</sup> See the GPC HRM Engagement Indicators on Special Procedures

<sup>2</sup> See the GPC HRM Engagement Indicators on the UPR

# Human Rights Council

<p>What type of impact do they produce?</p>	<p>Political – The resolutions and decisions of the HRC are not legally binding, but contain strong political commitments.</p> <p>Standard setting – The resolutions and decisions of the HRC and the work of its subsidiary bodies contributes to the development of human rights standards.</p> <p>Investigatory - Through its independent investigations and complaint procedures, the HRC can investigate and respond to human rights violations.</p> <p>These political commitments, standards, and investigatory findings can contribute to advancing identified protection issues on the ground, enhance the way the human rights standards and mechanisms address the protection needs of displaced persons, and strengthen responses to and accountability for violations of human rights. The value of these political commitments, standards and investigations is impacted by a State(s)' willingness to comply and implement them. The means by which clusters engage with the HRC and follow up on its outcomes may vary accordingly.</p>
<p>How quickly does it react?</p>	<p>Follows regular cycle of sessions in March, June and September, but can also hold special sessions to respond to urgent situations.</p>
<p>How accessible is it?</p>	<p>Moderately: Engagement primarily happens in Geneva. Stakeholders wishing to engage often requires the assistance organisations with ECOSOC accreditation (e.g. to attend sessions and make statements).</p>

<h2>Advocacy impact</h2>	
<p>Immediate advocacy</p>	<p><b>Special Sessions.</b> The Human Rights Council can decide at any time to hold a <a href="#">Special session</a> to address human rights violations and emergencies (with either a country or thematic focus), if at least 1/3 of its Members agree. Special sessions last for one day and allow States and other stakeholders to hear updates and present their views on the issue at hand. The session usually concludes with the adoption of a resolution. NGOs can register online to be added to the list of speakers and deliver an oral statement.</p>
<p>Medium-term advocacy</p>	<p><b>Confidential Complaints Procedure.</b> Through this <a href="#">procedure</a>, individuals and groups can report human rights abuses in a confidential setting. The goal of the procedure is to objectively and efficiently facilitate dialogue and cooperation among the accused State, Council members, and the complainant(s).</p>
<p>Long-term advocacy</p>	<p><b>Regular Sessions.</b> The Council holds three sessions a year, during which the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights briefs the Council on important human rights issues and situations, along with the presentation of <a href="#">UN reports on human rights promotion and protection</a>. The Council holds interactive dialogues with UN <a href="#">Special Procedures</a> (based</p>

# Human Rights Council

on their reports to the Council) and adopts [UPR reports](#) for recently-reviewed countries. It can also hold [panel debates](#) on matters of particular interest or importance, and the consideration (Council members only) of complaints brought to the Council's attention under the Confidential Complaints Procedure.

## How can the protection cluster engage?

*Potential action (direct, indirect, or in collaboration with other entities)*

1. Attend HRC sessions relevant to the country of operation/ thematic areas relevant for the operation
2. Deliver a short statement at relevant HRC session(s)
3. Stay informed on outcomes from HRC sessions relevant to the country of operation
4. Share with protection cluster members - relevant information from HRC sessions, outcomes, findings of commissions of inquiry or other independent investigations, resulting recommendations and human rights standards.
5. Share confidential information to a Commission of Inquiry or other form of independent investigation, if activated in the relevant country of operation, as per given context
6. Consider noted UPR recommendations in order to identify potential risk areas for mediation/preventive action - RMR related discussions.
7. Utilize references to recommendations, reports or other outcomes of the HRC in the protection cluster's advocacy strategy and/or activities

## How did the protection cluster engage?

Actions taken from the list above	What did the cluster do under this action	What challenges did the cluster face in taking this action	Result of the action	Further support needed from HRE TT
1. <input type="checkbox"/>				
2. <input type="checkbox"/>				



# Human Rights Council

3.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>				