



Human Rights Council**Fifty-ninth session**

16 June–8 July 2025

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 4 July 2025****59/1. Situation of human rights in Eritrea***The Human Rights Council,**Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolution 91 and decisions 250/2002, 275/2003 and 428/12 and all previous Council resolutions on the situation of human rights in Eritrea,*Noting* the regional developments and their implications, including for human rights, in Eritrea,*Recalling* the concluding observations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the combined second and third periodic reports of Eritrea under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,*Welcoming* the recent ratification by Eritrea of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,*Noting* the progress reported on economic and social rights, namely those relating to health, school retention, female genital mutilation, data collection on child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene,*Welcoming* the engagement of Eritrea in the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, and noting its support for 126 recommendations,*Expressing regret* at the continued lack of cooperation by the Government of Eritrea with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and other special procedure mandate holders, while noting its previous indication that it would engage with a few United Nations human rights mechanisms,*Expressing deep concern* at the ongoing human rights violations and abuses, as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special

Rapporteur,¹ including violations and abuses of civil and political rights, such as arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention, inhumane conditions of detention, violations of the right to a fair and public hearing, access to justice and due process, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, forced labour and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the persistent violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association,

Expressing deep concern also at the policy of indefinite conscription into national/military service, the grave human rights violations committed in the context of national service and their wide-ranging negative impact, including on the economic and social rights of Eritreans,

Expressing deep concern further of the lack of transparency and accountability to date of the Government of Eritrea regarding reported violations and abuses committed by Eritrean military forces, including in northern Ethiopia,

Expressing concern at acts of transnational repression, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, including the targeting of human rights defenders, journalists and government critics outside of Eritrea,

Emphasizing that every citizen has the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and expressing grave concern that national elections have not been held in Eritrea since 1993,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea² and the conclusions therein, and urges the Government of Eritrea to take immediate and concrete steps to implement all the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur;

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the reported persistent human rights violations and abuses in Eritrea, in a context of continuing widespread impunity, and reiterates that all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses must be held accountable;

3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea for a further period of one year;

4. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit and present a report on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-second session, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue with the participation of, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, victims and survivors and other relevant stakeholders, and to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Commissioner, relevant treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur, including by granting the mandate holder unhindered access to the country and committing to making progress on the recommendations included in their reports and on the benchmarks and associated indicators proposed in 2019,³ namely:

(a) Improvement in the promotion of the rule of law and strengthening of domestic judicial and law enforcement institutions;

(b) A demonstrated commitment to introducing reforms to the national/military service, ending the conscription of school-age children and preventing cases of sexual and gender-based violence, inhumane treatment and forced labour;

¹ See A/HRC/59/24.

² Ibid.

³ A/HRC/41/53, paras. 78–82.

(c) Extended efforts to respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of religion or belief, peaceful assembly, association, opinion and expression, including for members of the press, and extended efforts to end religious and ethnic discrimination;

(d) A demonstrated commitment to addressing all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and to promoting the rights of all women and girls and gender equality;

(e) Strengthened cooperation with specialized United Nations human rights bodies, international agencies and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

6. *Encourages* the Government of Eritrea to implement the recommendations accepted by the State during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review⁴ and to consider inviting the Office of the High Commissioner to establish a presence in Eritrea with a holistic mandate to protect, promote and monitor human rights, with unhindered access;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the information and resources necessary to fulfil the mandate;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

30th meeting
4 July 2025

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 23 to 4, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Switzerland

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Sudan

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, South Africa, Thailand, Viet Nam]

⁴ See A/HRC/57/14 and A/HRC/57/14/Add.1.