



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
12 June 2025

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-fifth session

New York, 12 May–13 June 2025

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Rodrigue Edgar Tchoffo Mongou (Cameroon)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2026

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 20 Human rights

1. At its 18th meeting, on 23 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#) and [A/80/6 \(Sect. 24\)/Corr.1](#)).

Discussion

2. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2026.

3. Some delegations dissociated themselves from elements of the programme plan, particularly references to resolutions or wording that they did not support, such as the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution [79/1](#)) or specific gender-related terminology. It was recalled by other delegations that Assembly resolutions were binding and should be respected by all Member States.

4. A delegation noted that the Secretariat had issued a corrigendum for the programme plan and thanked the Secretariat for the prompt action in that regard.

5. General observations were made regarding the centrality of human rights as one of the three pillars of the United Nations system. It was emphasized that the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was essential in promoting and protecting those rights globally. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the programme plan and reaffirmed their support for the Office's mandate and field activities.



6. Gratitude to OHCHR for its unwavering commitment to protecting and defending human rights in increasingly challenging times and continued support for its work were expressed.
7. Delegations expressed the importance of fostering consensus to ensure that OHCHR was provided with the tools necessary to effectively continue its vital work in defending human rights globally. Delegations also underscored the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation in the promotion of human rights for all people in the world. A delegation emphasized the need for a people-centred approach to human rights.
8. The view was expressed that OHCHR should assist Member States in meeting their human rights obligations through the provision of tools and support tailored to specific country requirements.
9. Concerns were raised regarding the politicization of human rights. A delegation voiced opposition to politicization and double standards relating to human rights and indicated that human rights exchanges and cooperation should be based on equality and mutual respect and that the right to development and civil and political rights were complementary and equally important for developing countries.
10. A delegation highlighted its country's investment in the human rights system, the active, constructive engagement with OHCHR and in particular the three-year joint programme on human rights.
11. A question was raised about how OHCHR worked to enhance the capacity of Member States to implement recommendations emanating from international human rights mechanisms.
12. Appreciation was expressed for the work of OHCHR in Africa. A delegation highlighted its role in supporting the implementation of the Office's mandate and asked whether the Office's work in Africa would be enhanced in 2026 and whether an expansion of the footprint of OHCHR in the African region was envisioned in the proposed programme plan for 2026.
13. A delegation highlighted the link between human rights and global security.
14. The view was expressed that the principles of human rights were clearly reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Delegations emphasized the relationship between human rights and sustainable development, and a delegation raised the concern that the 2030 Agenda consisted of non-legally-binding instruments, stressing that Member States had the right to interpret those instruments as they wished.
15. A delegation expressed the view that there was a pivotal link between human rights, global security and sustainable development and that human rights were essential to achieving sustainable development. Another delegation emphasized that the rights to subsistence and development were the primary basic human rights and that OHCHR should take a balanced approach to all types of human rights.
16. A question was raised about the Secretariat's work in the areas of social, cultural, economic and development rights.
17. Delegations commended the work of OHCHR on advancing human rights in relation to climate change. A question was raised about the nature of the Office's work regarding the impact of climate change on human rights.
18. The need to advance human rights for all individuals, particularly vulnerable groups facing significant challenges, was underscored, and a rollback of their fundamental freedoms was noted. A delegation emphasized the importance of

addressing sensitive topics, including gender equality, all forms of discrimination and the prevention and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence. It was stated that OHCHR should not focus only on certain groups and should be more inclusive in its work on discrimination, and a delegation expressed its right to dissociate itself from any specific focus.

19. The view was expressed that the term “gender” should be defined as agreed in article 7 (3) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Another delegation welcomed the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of OHCHR.

20. The importance of the Office’s work in combating racism and racial discrimination was noted.

21. A delegation asked if a recommendation or strategy could be developed for protecting human rights defenders.

22. Concerns were expressed regarding the decentralization of the activities of OHCHR, including the establishment of new regional and country offices. It was noted that such actions could be perceived as overstepping intergovernmental mandates. Questions were raised about the implications of the United Nations 2.0 and UN80 initiatives for the Office’s programme delivery, and a delegation requested more information on efforts made, concrete measures taken and results achieved, as well as on the Office’s future plans under the UN80 Initiative.

23. With regard to subprogramme 1 (a), Human rights mainstreaming, the efforts of OHCHR to promote human rights mainstreaming across the United Nations system were welcomed, especially with regard to women and peace and security and to young people.

24. With regard to subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, clarification was sought on how OHCHR selected its evaluation activities and how they informed programme planning. The role of OHCHR in supporting national human rights institutions in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) was also highlighted.

25. With regard to subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, additional information was sought in relation to the increased cooperation of Member States in special procedures communications, the programme performance result in paragraph 24.84. Another delegation welcomed the work to be delivered through the subprogramme in support of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies. The same delegation sought additional details regarding how OHCHR assessed the impact of the seminars and training in relation to the strategy as outlined in paragraph 24.82 (b).

26. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, delegations expressed views related to the resources of OHCHR.

27. Concerns were raised about proposed staffing and funding increases. A delegation expressed the view that it was unacceptable to establish new posts under or relocate existing posts to mandates that included tasks that fundamentally contradicted current human rights approaches and that additional funds should be removed.

28. A delegation raised specific concerns about the following: (a) the implementation of the narrative persistently promoted by OHCHR about the need to decentralize its activities through the creation of new country and regional offices, as well as “human rights” units in all structures of the United Nations system, which in fact meant the

aggressive imposition of the notorious concepts of a “human rights-based approach” and “human rights mainstreaming”; (b) gross interference with the prerogatives of sovereign States Parties to international human rights treaties by imposing upon them some of the Office’s own methodology for the preparation of periodic reports and exercising direct control over the implementation of the obligations assumed by national Governments, with the involvement of human rights non-governmental organizations on the ground in that process; (c) non-intergovernmental intrusive involvement in the universal periodic review procedure, whereby OHCHR country and regional offices effectively “managed” the preparation of relevant reports by States and monitored their implementation of universal periodic review recommendations; (d) the strengthening of the functionality, arbitrarily created in OHCHR through the decision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, of conducting “investigations”, which equated to collecting “compromising evidence” concerning States that violated human rights, which in turn, according to the collective West, primarily included a specific country, according to its own administrative templates; (e) the bypassing of the decisions of the States Members of the Human Rights Council, empowering OHCHR to manage the activities of the Council, its President and its Bureau, interpret the rules of procedure of the Council and form a certain methodology and “practical instructions” for the implementation of the resolutions of the Council, ascribing to itself the functions of establishing “links” between the Council and other United Nations structures as well as some “international organizations” and carrying out tasks to provide information coverage of the work of the Council and “explain” its mandate and role in the United Nations system in the media and social networks; and (f) the strengthening of the investigative component of the activities of OHCHR, created when the Office assumed the functioning of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic created through General Assembly resolution [77/301](#), which was an entity that was not recognized by the delegation and for which very significant financial resources and new personnel positions had been requested.

Conclusions and recommendations

29. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 20, Human Rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.