



**IMADR Summary Report of 49th Session of Human Rights Council
(28 February – 1 April 2022)**

*The session was held hybrid due to the public health situation.

1. Oral Statements made by IMADR

- **Situation of human rights in Sri Lanka - Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General** (Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the OHCHR report on Sri Lanka, 7 March).
- **UPR outcome of Ireland** (item 6: Universal periodic review, 23 March)
*Joint statement with Pavee Point

2. Statements joined by IMADR

- **SGI 'A call to action: submit the midterm report for the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education'** (Item 3: General Debate, 16 March)

3. Outcomes of HRC 48th session related to IMADR activities

- **Recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues at its fourteenth session on the theme "Conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities" – Report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues ([A/HRC/49/81](#)):** the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes presented his report and conducted interactive dialogues (item 3: 22 March). The recommendations in the report are drawn primarily from the discussions and contributions of participants at the Forum on Minority Issues, held on 2 and 3 December 2021, and from those made at four regional forums on the theme "Conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities" conducted under four thematic panel discussions on (a) the root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities; (b) the legal and institutional framework: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention; (c) a focus on the rights of minorities and effective early prevention of conflicts; and (d) towards a lasting peace: positive initiatives to better protect the rights of minorities to prevent conflicts. The recommendations are based on international law and standards. They aim to provide guidance to further implement the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.
- **Report on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities – Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([A/HRC/49/36](#)):** It contains information on relevant developments of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, and on the activities undertaken by OHCHR that contribute to the promotion of and respect for the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and the provisions of relevant international

human rights treaties. It concludes that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to have a broad range of disproportionate and adverse negative impacts upon minorities. It concludes that, as the world faces the pandemic, the responses from States need to be centred in human rights and promote sustainable development that is inclusive, equitable and universal, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, language and any other relevant status.

- The resolution on **“Role of States in countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights”** ([A/HRC/49/L.31/Rev.1](#)) submitted by Ukraine, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, United Kingdom, United States of America was [adopted with consensus](#) (item 3, 56th meeting, 1 April 2022). It calls upon States to ensure that their responses to the spread of disinformation comply with international human rights law and that their efforts to counter disinformation promote, protect and respect individuals’ freedom of expression and freedom to seek, receive and impart information, as well as other human rights; urges States to facilitate an environment supportive of countering disinformation through multidimensional and multi-stakeholder responses that are in compliance with international human rights law, including through enhanced cooperation with international organizations, civil society, the media, the private sector and other stakeholders; invites States to encourage business enterprises, including social media companies, to address disinformation while respecting human rights, including through the review of business models, in particular the role of algorithms and ranking systems in amplifying disinformation, enhancing transparency, enforcing all applicable legal protections for users and encouraging due diligence in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It also calls upon all States to refrain from conducting or sponsoring disinformation campaigns domestically or transnationally for political or other purposes, and encourages them to condemn such acts. It decides to convene, at HRC 50th session, a high-level panel discussion on countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights and on ensuring a human rights-based response. It requests the OHCHR to prepare a summary report on the above-mentioned panel discussion and to present it to the HRC at its 52nd session.
- The resolution on **“Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities”** ([A/HRC/49/L.23/Rev.1](#)) submitted by Austria, Mexico, Slovenia was [adopted without vote/consensus](#) (Item 3, 55th meeting, 31 March 2022). It commends the Special Rapporteur on minority issues for his work and for the important role that he has played in raising the level of awareness of and in giving added visibility to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and for his guiding role in the preparation and work of the Forum on Minority Issues. It calls upon States to undertake initiatives to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are aware of and able to exercise their rights as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and in other international human rights commitments. It requests the OHCHR to continue to present an annual report to the HRC containing information on relevant developments of

United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, and on the activities undertaken by the OHCHR at headquarters and in the field that contribute to the promotion of and respect for the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; decides to continue its consideration of this issue in accordance with its programme of work.

- [Debate in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) (GA res. 76/226) (28 March): the HRC held the panel discussion on racial discrimination, in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, based on the theme, “Voices for Action Against Racism.” UN Human Rights High Commissioner, Michelle Bachalet, celebrated the voices fighting against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. She expressed the concern for the still widely spread culture of racism, hate speech and xenophobia faced by people of African descent, Asian descent, ethnic minorities and indigenous tribes among others. Several States such as Finland, Cuba, Pakistan and Brazil urged all States to take a decisive and shared pursuit on policy, cultural and personal levels in order to reach a world free of racism where human rights are insured for all and no one is left behind. Haiti expressed the affirmation of commitment of Caricom, an Afro Caribbean alliance, to adhere to the Durban Declaration and its programme of action, and reiterate their solidarity in fighting against discrimination in all its forms.
- **General debate under agenda item 9** (Agenda item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action) (28 -29 March) (Report of the High Commissioner [A/HRC/49/86](#)). Joint written statement submitted by Japan Society for History Textbook, International Career Support Association on Human Rights of Uighur Students Studying in Japan ([A/HRC/49/NGO/9](#)).

4. Other HRC49 resolution

- The resolution on “***Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression***” ([A/HRC/49/L.1](#)) was [adopted](#) as orally revised by a recorded vote (32 to 2, with 13 abstentions)(item 1, 10th meeting, 4 March 2022). It decides to urgently establish an independent international commission of inquiry, constituted by three human rights experts, to be appointed by the President of the HRC for an initial duration of one year, complementing and building upon the work of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine.
- The resolution on “***Recognizing the contribution of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in conflict and post-conflict situations, to the enjoyment and realization of human rights***” ([A/HRC/49/L.9](#)) submitted by Norway was [adopted](#) by a recorded vote (39 to 0, with 8 abstentions) (item 3, 56th meeting, 1 April 2022).