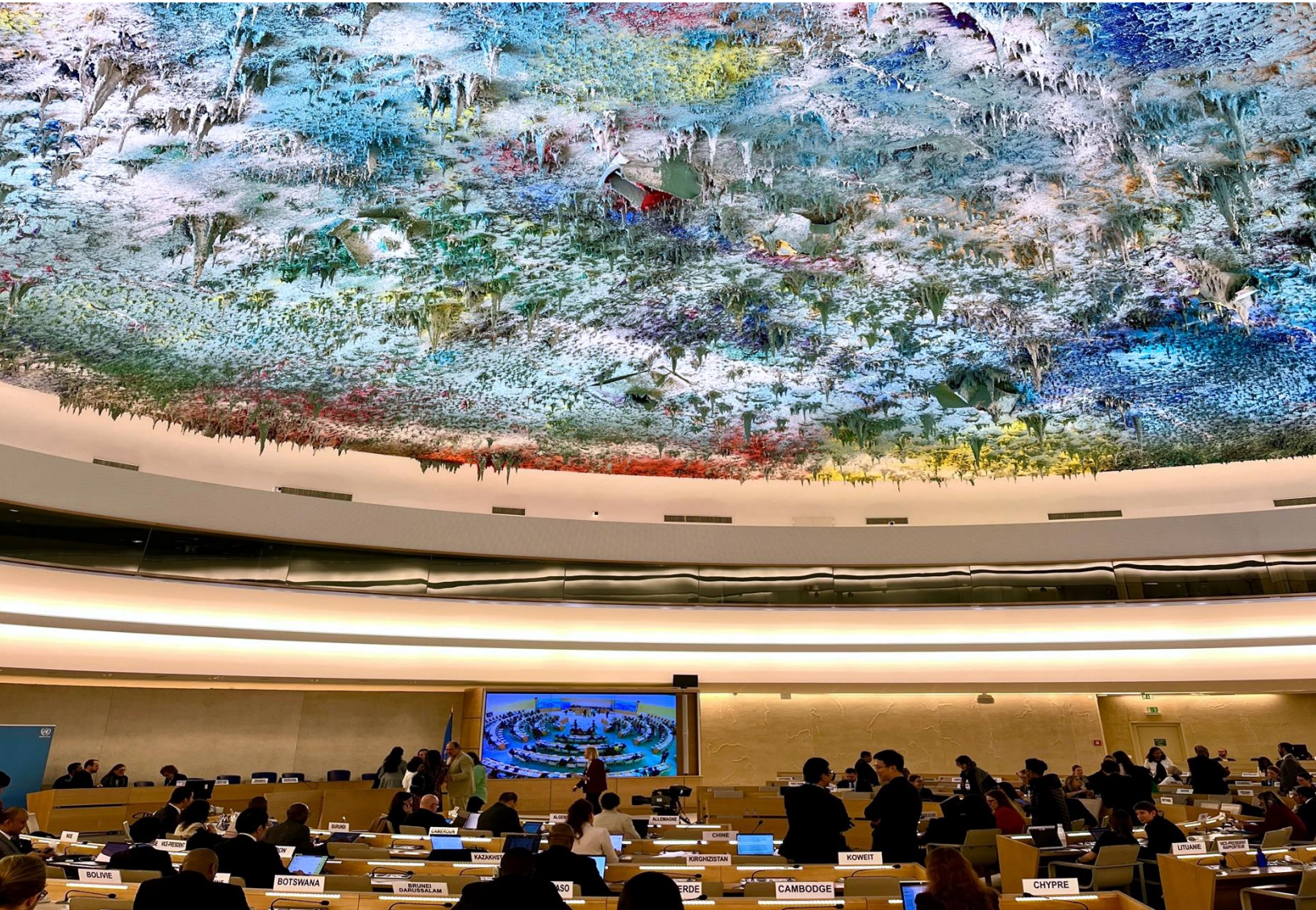


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**THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
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**APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT
GENDER INTEGRATION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

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Gender Integration in The Human Rights Council

Applied Research Project

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

BPA The Beijing Platform for Action

CHR Commission on Human Rights

CoIs International commissions of inquiry

CSW Commission on the Status of Women

CWGL The Center for Women's Global Leadership

ECOSOC Economic and Social Council

ESCR Economic, social and cultural rights

FFMs fact-finding missions

GAD gender and development

GoFF Group of the Friends of the Family

GRULAC Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

G-77 The Group of 77 at the United Nations

HR Human Rights

HRC Human Rights Council

HRW Human Rights Watch

IBP Institution Building Package

ICPD International Conference on Population and Development

ILO International Labour Organisation

IO International Organization

LGBT Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender

LGBTQIA+ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual people

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

OIC Organization of the Islamic Cooperation

SIDS Small Islands Developing States

SOGI Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

SRI Sexual Rights Initiative

UN United Nations

UPR Universal Periodic Review

WEOG Western European and Others Group

WID women in development

1. Introduction

The Human Rights Council (HRC), established to promote and protect human rights (HR) globally, has recognized since 2007 the importance of gender integration as a crucial aspect of its mandate. Central to these efforts is Resolution 6/30, which played a pivotal role by establishing the gender integration framework in the HR architecture and established several bases to enhance gender integration, including the Annual Panel Discussion on the Integration of a Gender Perspective in the Work of the HRC (hereinafter referred to as the “Gender Integration Panel” or the “Panel”). This report critically examines the evolution of the Gender Integration Panel, specifically addressing the research question: “Has the Gender Integration Panel fulfilled its stated objectives established by Resolution 6/30 ?”

Studying this issue is of great importance as effective gender integration ensures that the unique experiences faced by women and gender diverse people, including from marginalized groups, are acknowledged and addressed in human rights analysis and actions. Assessing the development of the Gender Integration Panel can provide valuable insights into the operational efficacy of the HRC, highlighting best practices and identifying areas needing improvement. Indeed, this report fills important gaps in the existing literature by providing an analysis of the Panel’s establishment in 2007 and unfolding from 2008 to 2023. Previous studies have mainly focused on gender mainstreaming and its broader functioning in the UN system or the HRC (Charlesworth, 2005; Hannan, 2011, 2013; Meier & Celis, 2011; Parisi, 2013; Tiessen, 2007; True & Parisi, 2013) but none have specifically examined Resolution 6/30 nor the HRC Annual Panel Discussion on the Integration of a Gender Perspective in its Work.

This paper argues that the Gender Integration Panel established by Resolution 6/30, which remains the central pillar of the HRC gender architecture by mandating gender integration across the HRC and its mechanisms’ work, is a one of its kind self-assessing mechanism for the HRC to auto-evaluate progress made and challenges encountered in integrating a gender perspective while bolstering advancements. Unfortunately, we have observed that the unique internally focused nature of this mechanism was progressively lost and argue that the panel has gradually moved away from its mandated goal.

To explain this argument in more depth, we will first describe the context and background of the HRC and provide a brief review of the existing literature addressing gender within the UN HR system and gender mainstreaming. We will then explore the circumstances that led to the establishment of the HRC Gender Integration Panel, focusing on Resolution 6/30, its advocates, goals, concerns, and differences between its final text and previous drafts. This will allow us to determine the objectives of the Gender Integration Panel intended by Resolution 6/30. Next, we will examine the implementation and unfolding of the Gender Integration Panel, including the topics addressed, key participants, and engagement of States and civil society groups. We will also discuss the interactions among actors and the noticeable absence of certain voices. Finally, we will conclude with a summary of findings and recommendations for future improvements.

2. Background: Gender in the UN System and the HRC

Creation of the new HRC

In 2006, the United Nations replaced the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) with the Human Rights Council due to widespread dissatisfaction and severe criticism directed at the CHR (Ehrenbeck, 2006; Bussard, 2007).¹ Compromises on membership size, elections, and regional distribution led to the HRC's creation in March 2006, based on an institutional compromise resulting from a "complex interplay of State preferences" (Cox, 2010, p.66). The HRC's founding resolution emphasized the universal principles of human rights, including their "interdependence, indivisibility, and universality" (OHCHR, 2006, p.3). Its objectives include promoting universal respect for human rights, addressing violations, coordinating within the UN system, engaging in human rights education, facilitating dialogues on thematic issues, and contributing to the prevention of human rights violations (OHCHR, 2006). The HRC, composed of 47 Member States elected by the absolute majority of UN Member States at the General Assembly, holds three regular sessions each year (EDA, 2015; IJRC, 2018).

Furthermore, the Institution Building Package (IBP) played a crucial role in shaping the HRC's operational framework during its Fifth Session in June 2007 (Tistounet, 2014). The IBP provided specifics on mechanisms, instruments, and agendas for future sessions, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and the revised Complaints Procedure (Charlesworth & Larking, 2014). It further aimed to ensure the fulfillment of both protection and promotion mandates in the Council's work (EDA, 2015). HRC resolutions, guided by the IBP, address country-specific, thematic, or global human rights issues. These resolutions, while not legally binding, are crucial for implementing international human rights standards and often involve Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which play a significant role in the process (Freedman, 2013; EDA, 2015).

Session Formats and Civil Society Involvement

The HRC's sessions include various formats of debate, such as general debates, interactive dialogues, and Panels, which enhance transparency and foster collaboration (Bussard, 2007). Civil

¹ For more details also see Freedman, 2013 and Buhrer, 2003.

society and NGOs support the work of the UN by contributing to the drafting of human rights documents and participating as observers in sessions (Ramcharan, 2011). Despite challenges, such as limited speaking time and threats to civil society, NGOs remain crucial in monitoring HRC activities and engaging with delegates (Ramcharan, 2015).

Panel Discussions at the HRC

Panels at the HRC are meticulously organized to facilitate robust discussions on pertinent issues such as gender equality. These Panels are strategically framed around themes that align with the council's agenda, aiming to drive substantive dialogue and policy recommendations. Key to their composition is the selection of panelists representing diverse perspectives and expertise, including special rapporteurs and UN agency representatives, ensuring a balanced and inclusive discourse. Moderators play a pivotal role in "steering discussions towards constructive outcomes, emphasizing interactive dialogue over scripted presentations". Challenges such as logistical coordination, and stakeholder engagement are addressed to maximize the Panel's impact, measured by its ability to advance gender mainstreaming and human rights advocacy within the HRC framework. Panels thus serve as critical platforms for accountability and progress, influencing global agendas on human rights issues (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

Political Realities in the HRC

The principle of national sovereignty creates conflicts and contradictions within the UN, particularly regarding the BPA's goals (Sandler & Goetz 2020). This is evident when powerful countries along with traditionally resistant members oppose aspects of the feminist agenda (Sandler & Goetz 2020). This opposition was analyzed by scholars as having grown over time, into a coordinated backlash that began with the Vatican in the 1990s (Goetz 2020). Today this is visible in discussions around feminist language, where inclusive terminology is contested in official documents, particularly regarding abortion rights and diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (Ibid.). This network of actors is composed by UN member States with authoritarian and right-wing populist regimes united by their shared hostility towards feminism, despite differing religious beliefs and political systems (Ibid.), and civil society organizations.

HRC Member States intervene during the General Debates as well as the Gender Integration Panel through oral statements. Scholars argue that States often use performative language in UN debates

to show alignment with human rights norms without intending real domestic implementation, a practice aimed more at influencing international actors than effecting change at home (Maguire, McGaughey & Monaghan, 2019).

Further, leading on human rights within the HRC requires significant actions, including hosting side-events, preparing joint statements, sponsoring draft resolutions, negotiating their contents, defending against opposition, and lobbying for support (Jordaan, 2016). These activities demand substantial resources, such as adequate diplomatic staff in Geneva and a wide network of national embassies, which many global South countries lack, limiting their ability to take the lead (Freedman, 2014).

Gender Definitions within the Human Rights and UN System

Scholarly work has significantly shaped the concept of gender, with historian Joan Wallach Scott in 1986 defining it as a fundamental aspect of social relationships and power dynamics beyond just kinship, encompassing areas like labor, education, and politics (Wallach Scott, 1986). Scholars like Ergas (2013), Parisi (2013), and Charlesworth (2005) have addressed further the social constructs surrounding gender. However, within the UN, gender is seen as having been narrowly focused on women's rights and perspectives (Ergas, 2013) a focus that has sparked controversy (Charlesworth, 2005; Wallach Scott, 1986; 2010), especially during the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, which defined the gender in binary terms to placate conservative States (Charlesworth, 2005). This illustrates what Oosterveld terms "constructive ambiguity", where vague language in multilateral texts allows diverse interpretations by different parties according to their preferences (Oosterveld, 2014).

Gender Mainstreaming

The concept of 'gender mainstreaming' evolved from development discourse and became a pivotal focus in the UN policies beginning with the 1975 Decade for Women, highlighting concerns over development aid's impact on women. Initially, the 'women in development' (WID) approach, which sought to incorporate women into existing development frameworks, faced criticism for not addressing structural gender biases. This led to the emergence of the 'gender and development' (GAD) approach, advocating for transforming development practices to tackle gender inequality (Miller & Razavi, 1995; Charlesworth, 2005). The concept of mainstreaming women's issues into

all institutional practices gained significant attention a decade later with the 1993 UN Vienna Declaration on Human Rights as the first document to “gender mainstream” human rights (Charlesworth, 2005). The recognition and integration of women’s rights during the 1985 Nairobi Conference was further solidified during the 1995 Beijing Conference, where “gender mainstreaming” became prominent (Charlesworth, 2005; True & Parisi, 2013). In 1997, following the adoption of the Beijing Declaration, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted resolution 41/6, entitled “Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programs in the United Nations system” (E/1997/94). In July of that same year, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), followed it up by adopting Resolution 1997/2 in which it defined the concept of gender mainstreaming as follows:

“Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programs, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic, and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.” (E/1997/2)

Since the early 2000’s, this strategy defined as above has gained global acceptance, being embraced by various UN entities and other international organizations as a comprehensive approach to promote gender equality across diverse sectors. Additionally, marking an early step towards an intersectional gender mainstreaming approach, the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa, urged States to incorporate a gender perspective in their anti-racism and anti-xenophobia programs of action and to acknowledge the specific discrimination faced by women of certain descent. (A/HRC/12/46, para. 10)

Critics argue that gender mainstreaming is often misunderstood or poorly understood, leading to concerns that it may become symbolic rather than impactful (Hannan, 2011; Meier & Celis, 2011; Tiessen, 2007; True & Parisi, 2013). Despite efforts within the UN, the lack of leadership, political support, and resources has hindered its effective implementation (Hannan, 2013). Furthermore, critics contend that gender mainstreaming is frequently based on a narrow perspective that equates gender with women, reinforcing stereotypes and failing to integrate an intersectional approach, often resulting in policies that prioritize the experiences of dominant groups over marginalized

ones. (True & Parisi 2013; see Chapter 3.1). Moreover, there is concern that women’s movements and civil society have been excluded from shaping these policies (True & Parisi, 2013), and while many scholars call for alternatives to gender mainstreaming, no practical alternatives have been proposed.

3. Methodology

Research Questions

The Gender Integration Panel, an innovative creation of Resolution 6/30, was thought of as a pillar of the new HRC gender architecture. However, to the best of our knowledge, no prior research has examined this specific gender mainstreaming mechanism. This research is an initial attempt to explore this novel area of research by inquiring about the stated objectives of the Gender Integration Panel established by Resolution 6/30 and how their fulfillment evolved. Our main research question was subdivided into two main areas of inquiry:

Has the Gender Integration Panel fulfilled its stated objectives established by resolution 6/30?	
1) The Context that Led to the Establishment of the Panel	2) The Way the Implementation of the Panel Unfolded
What were the circumstances that led to resolution 6/30?	What topics and themes have been addressed through the panels since 2008?
What was the goal of drafting resolution 6/30?	How has the format of the panel evolved?
Who were the main actors advocating for the resolution, and why?	Who were the podium speakers selected to speak at the panels, and what was their role in the discussion?
Who were the main actors expressing concerns about the resolution, and what changes in the draft were they demanding?	Which states and civil society actors have engaged in the panel discussion by making oral interventions?
How did the final text differ from the previous drafts?	What have been the main approaches and positions taken by the speakers and the main issues raised in their interventions?
What were the stated objectives of the panel?	Was there a lack of inclusion of certain actors in the panel discussions?

Figure 1: Research Questions

Research Process

To address our research questions, we proceeded in three phases, first, we reviewed existing literature, then we proceeded to data collection through three methods, and finally, we analyzed the data collected by mobilizing mainly qualitative methodologies and a few quantitative methods. Following feminist methodological approaches' recommendations, we attempted to allocate extra resources to the examination of power dynamics that may have arisen between us researchers and our subjects of study, as well as the power imbalances that may exist among ourselves or the subjects themselves (Ackerly, Stern, and True, ed., 2006, p.5), notably through constantly reexamining our team work ethics, positionality, potential biases, and ethical decisions, before any collection of data² and throughout our analysis.

Observation

In the first stage of our data collection process, we attended the 55th HRC session in person and online, to conduct direct observations. Attending panel discussions, negotiation processes (including informal negotiations around the drafting of resolution A/HRC/55/L.9 on intersex persons), and side events, enabled us to delve beyond abstract concepts and witness the practices that unfold during HRC discussions and the systems of interactions among the various actors involved. To gather insights during our direct observations, each of the researchers filled in pre-established grids with notes and sketches. Those grids contain information about the specificities of the event, context, content of the debate, systems of interactions, and mentions of gender issues and/or gender mainstreaming. A specific section of our grids was dedicated to examining the way gendered, racial, and intersectional power dynamics take shape within the HRC, influence processes of institutional change and peek through discourses, and critically analyze political implications of gendered processes and the politics of exclusion and inclusion within the HRC. Engaging in direct observation provided us with valuable insights into the overall HRC context and processes, greatly informed our analysis of the Gender Integration Panel recordings, and enhanced our comprehension of the intricacies of informal negotiations.

² Each of our grids (observation grids, document analysis grids, video recording grids, and interview grids) included a self-reflecting question on our positionality. For example: "How may our gender or perceived gender identity impact our ability to observe this event?"

Document Analysis

We then proceeded to analyze diverse documents providing insights into our research questions. There were notably two types of documents: video recordings and written documents archived by the OHCHR. For both types of documents, we prepared tailored grids containing directing questions, answered when analyzing the documents, allowing us to gather parallel information from equivalent documents. For video documents, we mobilized a combination of discourse analysis, digital observation, and visual methods, while for written documents we combined textual and discourse analysis. Discourse analysis delves into the implicit dimensions of language and their interplay with hidden aspects of global politics, whereas textual analysis and visual methods focus on the factual information contained within documents. Our fourteen³ Panel analysis grids (which contain the analysis of 35 hours of recorded discussions) were filled with information regarding: the video document, the event, the context, the list of speakers, the format, the content of the debate, a visual analysis (including screenshots and descriptions of scenery and atmosphere), descriptions of the system of interactions and the content of the debate taking place, as well as an analysis of discourses and intersectional power dynamics (similar to observation grids see p.14). The written documents analyzed include the sixteen concept notes for each Panel since 2008, statements made by actors during Panels (2008-2011) or other HRC events, two previous drafts of Resolution 6/30, Resolution 6/30 and nine other HRC and General Assembly resolutions, HRC reports, and other documents found on the OHRC extranet⁴ as well as international treaties and documentation produced by permanent missions. To find our way around we established a color code to identify additional and missing information, and to highlight descriptions of the objectives of the Panel or relevant interventions in alignment with the stated objectives of the Panel.

Interviews

In parallel with completing our document analysis, we conducted clarificatory expert interviews with three key informants from March to June 2024. Conducting semi-structured interviews allowed us to gain an understanding beyond the analysis of written and recorded productions by reconstructing the sequence of behind-the-scenes events that led to the adoption Resolution 6/30. Interviews enabled us to gain a deeper understanding of the practices and beliefs of those involved

³ 13 grids for the panel recordings from 2011-2023 and 1 grid for the 2007 panel.

⁴ <https://extranet2.ohchr.org/Extranets/HRCExtranet/portal/page/portal/HRCExtranet/6thSession.html>

in the drafting of Resolution 6/30 and to comprehend the networks of alliances and personal connections that developed behind the scenes. Moreover, interviews served as a cross-method to help triangulate other sources, contextualize facts, speeches, and observations we had made through document analysis, and challenge and deepen the conclusions we had reached through our other data collection methods. To conduct our interviews, we prioritized in-person interviews (2 out of 3) guided by pre-prepared semi-structured interview grids composed of open-ended questions. Two of the experts interviewed were civil society actors and one was a former OHCHR staff. Two of our interviewees directly or indirectly contributed to the drafting process of Resolution 6/30 and all three of them attended and participated in several Gender Integration Panel discussions.

Interviewees

	Affiliation (2006-2008)	Current Affiliation	Description
Interviewee 1	N/A	Director of Global Policy & Advocacy Action Canada for Population and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended 10 Gender Integration Panels since 2011 Action Canada advocated for Resolution 6/30 in 2007
Interviewee 2	Senior Policy Advisor The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)	Faculty Director Occidental College (OXY) at the UN Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woman Human Rights Defender involved in counseling the drafting process of Resolution 6/30
Interviewee 3	Head Coordinator Women's Rights and Gender Unit, the OHCHR	Human Rights Officer OHCHR Environment and Climate Change Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section (HRESIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized the first 2007 Gender Integration Panel Took part in Resolution 6/30 informal negotiations

Figure 2: Table with Interviewees' Information

Analysis

After completing our comprehensive notetaking in all our grids, we proceeded to employ both qualitative and quantitative methods to compile and compare our findings. Our first step was to conduct a qualitative analysis by merging the information obtained from document analysis of OHRC archives (refer to the list on page 15) and interviews to address our first set of research inquiries (refer to Figure 1). Subsequently, we organized all the quantifiable data gathered into tables and graphs to identify patterns and trends (refer to the tables in the Annex and Figures 7-15). Finally, by engaging in discussions and comparisons and using our color-coded method, our

qualitative analysis of the fourteen Panel recording grids enabled us to answer our second set of research questions, highlighting significant turning points and key phases in the evolution of the Panel.

Limitations

Our research encountered three main limitations preventing us from conducting an exhaustive analysis. First, we lacked access to some key documentation such as the recordings of the 2008, 2009, and 2010 Gender Integration Panel, earlier versions of the draft of Resolution 6/30, and notes or recordings from the informal negotiations surrounding the drafting of Resolution 6/30, which would have enriched our analysis of the unfolding of events. Second, we could only interview three informants from civil society and the OHCHR but notably lacked interviewing HRC Member State representatives from permanent missions who sponsored the resolution, or other potential key informants. Furthermore, our interviewees were asked to recall events that occurred more than a decade ago, opening a breach for memory lapses. Lastly, our analysis is constrained by a lack of access to information about what happened backstage of the seventeen Panels, therefore we rely solely on the publicly delivered pre-written official statements made by actors during recorded Panel reunions. However, along the lines of Maguire et al.'s use of the performativity of States, their official positions adopted in statements cannot be equivocated with their real actions and positions.

Methodology

Research Phase	Methods	Detailed Information
Gathering Context and Background Information	Literature Review Desk Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic articles • UN reports, resolutions, treaties, and more
Data Collection	Observation	55th session of the Human Rights Council
	Document Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 drafts of Resolution 6/30 • The final official Resolution 6/30 • The 16 Gender Integration Panel concept notes • 14 video recordings of Gender Integration Panel discussions • Other OHCHR archival documents and more
	Interviews	Three semi-structured interviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 civil society representatives • 1 OHCHR staff
Data Analysis	Quantitative data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables • Graphs and other data visualization
	Qualitative data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and comparison of grids • Use of color-code methods • Identification of trends and turning points

Figure 3: Summary of the Methodological Process

4. The Context that Led to the Establishment of the HRC Gender Integration Panel

4.1. The *Circumstances* that Led to Resolution 6/30

Institutionalization of Gender Mainstreaming in the UN HR system

The process of institutionalizing gender mainstreaming, within the UN human rights system, was initiated in Vienna in 1993. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action marked a significant milestone by recognizing that violence against women and girls constitutes a grave violation of their rights, affirming that women's rights are indeed human rights. It was universally agreed by all States that the human rights of women and girls are inseparable and essential components of universal human rights. The Vienna Declaration emphasized that "*The equal status of women and the human rights of women should be integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity. These issues should be regularly and systematically addressed throughout relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms. In particular, (...) the Commission on Human Rights*"⁵ (Vienna Declaration, A/CONF.157/23, para 37).

At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, the Platform for Action solidified the idea of integrating gender issues into the mainstream of society as a worldwide approach to advancing gender equality and mandated gender mainstreaming within the UN human rights system by stating that: "*The human rights of all women and the girl child must form an integral part of United Nations human rights activities. Intensified efforts are needed to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant bodies and mechanisms*"⁶ (United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, para. 221). The

⁵ "37. **The equal status of women and the human rights of women should be integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity.** These issues should be regularly and systematically addressed throughout relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms. In particular, steps should be taken to increase cooperation and promote further integration of objectives and goals between the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies. In this context, cooperation and coordination should be strengthened between the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women." (A/CONF.157/23)

⁶ "221. The human rights of all women and the girl child must form an integral part of UN human rights activities. **Intensified efforts are needed to integrate the equal status and the human rights of all women**

BPA called upon all “ *relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the UN system, all human rights bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (...) [to] ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights for the full integration and mainstreaming of the human rights of women*”⁷ (Ibid).

The gender mainstreaming work done by the ECOSOC, and its Resolution 1997/2 (see chapter 2 p.10) impacted the Commission on Human Rights. In its “Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council’s agreed Conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programs in the United Nations system” (E/2004/59), published in 2004, the ECOSOC identified that: “*The Commission on Human Rights has integrated gender perspectives into its work, both under a separate agenda item and by taking gender issues into account in its thematic or country resolutions*” and that “*gender mainstreaming could be further promoted through the regular meetings of the Council’s Bureau with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies*”⁸ (E/2004/59, para. 71). The work of the CHR and of the ECOSOC on

and girls into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant bodies and mechanisms. This requires, inter alia, improved cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights, including its special and thematic rapporteurs, independent experts, working groups and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other human rights treaty bodies, and all relevant entities of the UN system, including the specialized agencies. Cooperation is also needed to strengthen, rationalize and streamline the UN human rights system and to promote its effectiveness and efficiency, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of mandates and tasks.” (Beijing Declaration, 1995)

⁷ “231. By relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the UN system, **all human rights bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, while promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the various bodies, mechanisms and procedures, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks: b) **Ensure** the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights for the **full integration and mainstreaming of the human rights of women;**” (Beijing Declaration, 1995)

⁸ “71. (...) **The Commission on Human Rights has integrated gender perspectives into its work, both under a separate agenda item and by taking gender issues into account in its thematic or country resolutions.** Gender mainstreaming could be further promoted through the regular meetings of the Council’s Bureau with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies.” (E/2004/59)

“72. Valuable synergies between the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women on gender mainstreaming have been facilitated through the coordination of policies and reporting, and the participation of their chairpersons and of Secretariat staff in their respective meetings, as well as by the joint

gender mainstreaming was acknowledged by the HRC in Resolution 6/30, paragraph 7 of the preliminary remarks: “*Recalling all previous resolutions, including those adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and those of the Economic and Social Council, regarding the integration of the human rights of women and of gender mainstreaming into all policies and programs throughout the United Nations system.*” (A/HRC/RES/6/30, para. 7)

The Creation of the HRC and the Institutional Building Process

On 19th December 2006, in its Resolution 61/145 “Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [...]”, the General Assembly mandated the HRC and the Peacebuilding Commission “*to integrate attention to gender perspectives into their consideration of all issues in their respective agendas, including the development of their methods of work*” (A/RES/61/145, para. 13.). In response, the OHCHR established a Women’s Rights and Gender Unit to promote assistance on matters concerning gender and women’s rights to the HRC, especially to its special procedures (A/HRC/12/46, para. 19). The head coordinator of the new women’s rights and gender unit of the OHCHR managed the integration of a gender perspective into the new HRC architecture and served as the liaison for civil society and HR defenders. In the context of her work, she met with women human rights defenders, feminist activists, and Member States that supported the General Assembly’s mandate for gender mainstreaming within the HRC (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

The specificities of gender mainstreaming within the HRC were developed in the IBP (A/HRC/RES/5/1). Adopted on the 18th June 2007, Resolution 5/1 recognized in its 3rd paragraph the integration of a gender perspective and specifically mandated that the UPR must “*fully integrate a gender perspective*” into all aspects of the review (A/HRC/RES/5/1 para. I.B.1.k). It also highlighted the importance of gender balance in selecting mandate-holders, including for special procedures and working groups (A/HRC/RES/5/1 paras. 40, 72, 91, 96), and identified a “gender perspective” as one of the 13 guiding principles of the HRC (A/HRC/RES/5/1 para. V.A.). According to the director of global policy & advocacy at Action Canada, while gender issues had previously been mainly addressed within segregated UN bodies, the IBP laid a foundation for

work program of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.” (E/2004/59)

integrating gender perspectives across the HRC's mechanisms (Interview 1: director of global policy & advocacy, May 2024).

This integration aimed to prevent gender perspectives from being marginalized, isolated, or inadequately supported (Ibid.)

HRC 2007 Sessions

During the *Related Debate* of the 4th session of the Council, on 29th March 2007, Argentina delivered a joint statement on behalf of 57 other States (amongst which figured the few States highly involved in supporting the gender mainstreaming process), advocating for mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the HRC (Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, 2007)

Keeping up the momentum, the head coordinator of the OHCHR women's rights and gender unit organized - with the support of the member States that backed gender mainstreaming - the very first panel on the integration of a gender perspective (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). This initial panel, entitled "Integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council", was held in the general debate at the 6th session of the Council, during the 10th and 11th meetings on the 20th-21st September 2007. According to the OHCHR report A/HRC/12/46, this panel preceded and laid the foundation for Resolution 6/30 and had the aim "*to stress the concepts behind integrating a gender perspective and to offer concrete ideas for how the Council might do this throughout its mechanisms and program of work*" (A/HRC/12/46, para. 30).

During her presentation, the Deputy High Commissioner for HR emphasized the OHCHR's view on the importance of a dual approach to gender mainstreaming within the UN system. She highlighted the importance of integrating gender equality across the entire system while supporting specific entities focused on gender issues. The Deputy High Commissioner argued that true integration requires a comprehensive process involving the whole system, and a dedicated entity with the mandate and resources to advocate for women's rights (Kang, 2007).

During the interactive dialogue, thirty-one States actively participated by making statements supporting the incorporation of a gender perspective into the work of the HRC and offering constructive proposals. The extensive list of speakers required extending the initial 10th meeting

to a second session the next day. In total two meetings of 3 hours were held to accommodate all speakers.

4.2. The *Drafting* of Resolution 6/30 and the Inclusion of the Gender Integration Panel within the Resolution

Drafting Process

While organizing the 2007 Panel discussions, Resolution 6/30 began taking shape, incorporating gender mainstreaming ideas and objectives discussed in informal meetings among supportive States and during the Panel session. This involved establishing an annual full-day discussion in June on women’s human rights (hereinafter referred to as “annual full-day meeting”), providing a ‘classic’ platform for States to exchange progress and best practices in the gender domain.

According to the former head coordinator of the OHCHR women’s rights and gender unit, the innovative idea of annualizing the 2007 discussion, creating a second “*self-reflective mirroring panel to look at how well the HRC was doing in implementing a gender perspective across its work*” (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024), came from the head of the women’s rights division at Human Rights Watch (HRW) at the time. She proposed establishing this additional Panel during the September session via Resolution 6/30, complementing the annual full-day meeting. This initiative aimed to create a self-assessment mechanism in the Council. This project initiated by civil society and the OHCHR, was then endorsed by the coalition of supportive States. During the 2007 discussion, Canada and Nicaragua explicitly advocated for annualizing the Panel, with additional support from two panelists - Special Procedure Kohtari and civil society representative C. Bunch - moderator H.E. Maria Nzomo, and two NGOs, the International Federation of University Women and Action Canada for Population and Development, who expressed their backing through joint statements. Ultimately, this second Panel was incorporated into the draft of Resolution 6/30 on 26th September (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

Informal Negotiations and Adoption

A first draft of Resolution 6/30 (A/HRC/6/L.32/Rev.1) sponsored by Chile and 39 other States⁹ was uploaded to the HRC extranet, on the 26th September (5 days after the first discussion). A process of informal negotiations began which led to a second draft of Resolution 6/30 (A/HRC/6/L.32/Rev.1) sponsored by Chile and 49 other States¹⁰. A final draft entitled “Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system” with 50 main sponsors¹¹ and 23 co-sponsors¹² tabled on the 12th December 2007 was presented to the HRC by Chile on the 14th. Chile delivered the *Introductory Statement* to Resolution 6/30, announcing one change in wording to the draft. It was then followed by five interventions of HRC member States explaining their position (for details see Chapter 5.4) (Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, 2007). During that discussion, the draft was orally revised and adopted without a vote, establishing the two annual Panel discussions¹³.

⁹ Albania*, Andorra*, Australia*, Austria*, Belarus*, Belgium*, Bolivia, Burkina Faso*, Cameroon, Canada, Congo*, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Ecuador*, Estonia*, Greece*, Guatemala, Hungary*, Italy, Kenya*, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*, Mexico, New Zealand*, Nicaragua, Norway*, Panama*, Peru, Portugal*, Republic of Korea, San Marino*, Slovenia, Spain*, Switzerland, Timor-Leste*, Turkey*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania* and Uruguay (A/HRC/6/L.32/Rev.1). (*Non-members of the HRC in 2007.)

¹⁰ Albania*, Andorra*, Armenia*, Australia*, Austria*, Belarus*, Belgium*, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso*, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Congo*, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Ecuador*, Estonia*, Finland*, Greece*, Guatemala, Hungary*, Italy, Kenya*, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*, Malta*, Mexico, New Zealand*, Nicaragua, Norway*, Panama*, Peru, Portugal*, Republic of Korea, San Marino*, Slovakia*, Slovenia, Spain*, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Timor-Leste*, Turkey*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania* and Uruguay (A/HRC/6/L.32/Rev.1). (*Non-members of the HRC in 2007.)

¹¹ **Main sponsors:** Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Plurinational State of Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Republic of Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Republic of Timor-Leste, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay (<https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-6-30/>).

¹² **Co-sponsors:** Argentina, Burundi, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Moldova, Republic of Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Zambia (<https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-6-30/>).

¹³ **Panel 1:** 20. *Decides* to incorporate into its programme of work sufficient and adequate time, at minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss the human rights of women, including measures that can be adopted by States and other stakeholders, to address human rights violations experienced by women; (A/HRC/RES/6/30)

21. *Also decides* that the first such meeting should take place in the first half of 2008 and that it should include a discussion on violence against women, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006, inviting the Human Rights Council to discuss, by 2008, the question of violence against women

4.3. The *Main Actors Advocating* for the Resolution

The OHCHR

In designing the new HRC architecture, the OHCHR wished to better its approach to gender issues, from the way it was addressed under the Commission of HR, which often discussed women's rights as 'women and children's'. Furthermore, securing a dedicated focus on women's human rights in the new agenda was initially uncertain¹⁴. Therefore, the OHCHR's newly established gender unit, worked on ensuring that gender issues would be consistently addressed, and not merely associated with children's issues. The former head coordinator of the OHCHR women's rights and gender unit explained that, for their unit, the most important part of Resolution 6/30 was getting those two Panels set up, "*all the rest was a bonus*", as they ensured that that gender would be permanently annually addressed by the Council (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

Playing a pivotal role in the integration of gender mainstreaming within the HR system and as the key facilitator of communication between NGOs and the institution, the head coordinator of the gender unit successfully established a platform for women human rights defenders and civil society actors to voice their concerns and advocate for their demands. Creating a bridge between ideas originating from civil society, the OHCHR, and States that championed gender integration, she facilitated an indirect and behind-the-scenes collaboration during the formulation of resolution 6/30 (*Ibid*).

Civil Society and NGO Actors

According to the director of global policy & advocacy at Action Canada, the primary goal of civil society actors in drafting Resolution 6/30 was to ensure that gender mainstreaming remained a consistent topic on the HRC's agenda that wouldn't be disregarded after being addressed once,

in all its forms and manifestations, and to set priorities for addressing this issue in its future efforts and work programme; (A/HRC/RES/6/30)

Panel 2: 22. *Welcomes* the panel discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council, held on 20 and 21 September 2007, and decides to incorporate into its programme of work an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms, including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced; (A/HRC/RES/6/30)

¹⁴ In 2007, there was a rumor amongst actors that women and gender issues wouldn't be part of the new agenda, which frightened gender advocates, friends, and the OHCHR gender unit (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

allowing continuous evaluation of progress in incorporating a gender perspective into its work and mechanisms (Interview 1: director of global policy & advocacy, May 2024). This approach aimed for the Panel to facilitate dialogue, support advocacy efforts, uphold accountability within the human rights system, and assess the progress and challenges faced by the HRC in integrating a gender perspective (Interview 1: director of global policy & advocacy, May 2024; Interview 2: former senior policy advisor, May 2024).

During the drafting process, the senior policy advisor at The Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), played a crucial role in shaping the 6/30 language. CWGL, known for its advocacy for a stronger focus on women’s experiences and gender issues within the UN system, actively participated in the establishment of the HRC. The senior policy advisor described her support for the resolution as an effort to “*pull all the strands together to get at the systems and the analysis*”, as a way to draft language that governments and UN personnel could easily understand, whilst explicitly calling for robust accountability and as a way to embed a deepened gender analysis in the HR system (Interview 2: former senior policy advisor, May 2024).

Additionally, NGOs like Action Canada aimed to ensure that Resolution 6/30 included a feminist tone and perspectives from the global south, advocating for the Panels to include marginalized women and gender-diverse people. The director of global policy & advocacy at Action Canada pointed out during an interview that when the Panel was formed in 2007, integrating gender into institutions was still a new concept. Although spaces for feminist activists were emerging, there was little substantial discussion on institutional responsibilities based on human rights norms. She also mentioned that despite foundational principles being laid, there was a lack of comprehensive dialogue and appropriate forums. Therefore, advocating for the Gender Integration Panel was a crucial part of their strategy to address these shortcomings (Interview 1: director of global policy & advocacy, May 2024).

Chile and its Co-sponsors

Based on our interview with the head coordinator of the women’s rights and gender unit, the main diplomat supporting, drafting, and advocating for Resolution 6/30, who collaborated closely with the OHCHR gender unit, was a member of the Permanent Mission of Chile. Even though the

resolution, ultimately was supported by 73 co-sponsors, the States that actively helped Chile in drafting and advocating for the resolution were, Colombia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, and Nicaragua (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). She also explained that some States favored ensuring gender mainstreaming in all HR discussions and actions within the Council. They viewed the Resolution as a platform to showcase their support for women's rights. While she believed that some other States may have supported the Resolution to “*tick the box*” - on their gender agenda and “*leave a legacy*” (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). In her view, if a State commits to advancing gender equality, it oftentimes follows that it supports a gender resolution in the HRC because these efforts are interconnected. “*Ticking the box*” allows States to streamline efforts and achieve more with less work. Therefore, these aspects of State sponsoring need to be considered when their support for gender integration is analyzed (*Ibid.*)

4.4. The *Main Actors Expressing Concerns* about the Resolution

Informal Negotiations

According to the former head coordinator of the OHCHR women's rights and gender unit, during the drafting process of Resolution 6/30, some States opposed it, arguing it was unnecessary and demanding modifications. Notably, Pakistan, Russia, China, Iran, Egypt, The Holy See, and South Africa objected. She explained that initially, Resolution 6/30 mentioned ‘gender identity’, which had to be trimmed to only ‘gender’ after South Africa's opposition, arguing they didn't want it to include LGBT people (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

By conducting a comparative analysis between the draft Resolution (A/HRC/6/L.32/Rev.1) published on the 26th September 2007, and the final Resolution 6/30, the following modifications were identified: their content is nearly identical, with most changes in format and layout, such as italicizing initial verbs (e.g. *reaffirming*), and adjusting punctuation, including commas and capitalization. Small stylistic changes include adding words such as *also* or *further* at the beginning of operational paragraphs. Dates were occasionally added for clarification, as an example in “*Welcoming General Assembly resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 [...]*”. Extra information was sometimes omitted, as seen in the operational paragraph 22: “*Welcomes the panel discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council, held on 20*

and 21 September, 2007, under Agenda Item 8 of the Programme of Work, and decides to incorporate into its programme of work[...]", where "under Agenda Item 8 of the Programme of Work" was already deleted in the December draft.

The sole incident where the content differs and remains unchanged before adoption (and hence in the final resolution), is in the subchapter *United Nations System* under operational paragraph 6 about the report of the Secretary-General A/HRC/4/104. The initial verb "Welcomes" is replaced by "Takes note of". This change was also mentioned by Chile in their *Introductory Statement* before the *Explanation of Vote* at the adoption of Resolution 6/30: "[...]at the request of a group of countries we welcome the proposal to modify OP6, and to begin that paragraph with the words TAKES NOTE instead of WELCOMES"¹⁵ (Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, 2007).

Adoption of Resolution 6/30

During the discussion on 14th December 2007, regarding the adoption of Resolution 6/30, five States - South Africa, India, the Russian Federation, Egypt, and Pakistan (on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)) - took the floor during the *General comments and explanations of vote before the vote* on the draft Resolution. While Pakistan supported the Resolution on behalf of the OIC States (Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations 2007), South Africa expressed concern in an oral and written statement, that this resolution was overstepping the HRC mandate and infringing on established UN bodies: "*This approach is unhelpful and clearly contradicts the mandate of the Human Rights Council.*" (Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations). South Africa claimed to vote against specific paragraphs, concerning the Security Council Resolution 1325, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), World Summit for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and "it's New York based support system" (*Ibid*). Similarly, India questioned whether integrating a gender perspective was beyond the HRC's mandate stating: "*In our view, the scope of this resolution should have been limited to the issue of integration of human rights of women. Integration of a gender perspective throughout the UN system goes beyond the mandate*

¹⁵ Translation from the original statement in spanish by the research team. Original:"[...]la solicitud de un grupo de países acogemos la propuesta de modificar el OP6, y comenzar ese párrafo por las palabras TAKES NOTE en vez de WELCOMES."

of the Human Rights Council” (Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, 2007). Despite these concerns, Resolution 6/30 was adopted without a vote, with only minor amendments to the initial drafts.

4.5. The Stated Objectives of Resolution 6/30

Integration of a Gender Perspective

Resolution 6/30 was a commitment to consistent gender integration throughout all aspects of the Human Rights Council work and the entire UN HR architecture. Its goal was to embed a gender perspective within the HRC system and to deepen its gender analysis. This is visible in Resolution 6/30’s 8th and 15th preliminary paragraphs:

Preliminary remarks Para 8: The HRC “acknowledging the need for a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and the need to integrate a gender perspective in a more systemic way into all aspects of the work of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies, and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.”

Analysis¹⁶:

- *“the **need** to integrate a gender perspective”*: The integration of a gender perspective is described as a need and, therefore something that **must** be achieved.
- *“**integrate a gender perspective**”*: Integration is the action or process of combining two or more things effectively or the action of incorporating something into another. In that sense, a gender perspective needs to fill in the work of the HRC and **become an integral part** of it. On the OHCHR website gender integration is defined as “the process of assessing the implications for women, men and people with diverse gender identities of any planned action, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women, men, and people with diverse gender identities an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs.”

¹⁶ In these ‘Analyses’ sections, we rendered a textual analysis of resolution 6/30 to support our argument on the stated objectives.

Operative Para 15: *The HRC “reaffirms its commitment to effectively integrate the human rights of women as well as a gender perspective, in its work and that of its mechanism in a systematic and transparent manner including in all phases of the universal periodic review, the Advisory Committee and the review of mandates.”*

Analysis:

- “*reaffirms its commitment to **effectively integrate***”: Emphasis is put on the HRC being **successful** in achieving the desired outcome of integration of a gender perspective in its work and that of its mechanisms.
- “*integrate the **human rights of women** as well as a **gender perspective***”: There is a new addition in this paragraph: the HR of women, probably to underline the importance of integrating them in the work of the HRC. The fact that they are added to a gender perspective and not in its place shows us that **they are not the same thing**. Integrating a gender perspective is deeper and more complex than just accounting for the HR of women.

Comprehensive and Systemic Approach

The Human Rights Council’s gender mainstreaming strategy was designed to be comprehensive and systemic: the goal being that the full spectrum of the Human Rights Council's work integrates a gender perspective not just some aspects of its work, and that all aspects of gender be addressed without disregarding any. This is also visible in Resolution 6/30’s 8th preliminary paragraph:

Preliminary remarks Para 8: *cf. above*

Analysis:

- “*acknowledging the need for a **comprehensive approach***”: an approach that is comprehensive is a way of promoting and protecting the human rights of women that is complete and that **includes everything necessary**. This formulation suggests that no aspect of a gender perspective can be abandoned or disregarded.
- “*in a more **systemic way***”: In this paragraph, it is specified that gender integration needs to be done systemically. The adjective systemic is defined as: “relating to or affecting **the whole of a system** or organization, rather than just some parts of it.”

Therefore, a gender perspective needs to be integrated into the whole of the UN and HRC system.

Transparent and Systematic Approach

This strategy was also designed as a transparent and systematic approach, following an agreed set of methods followed by the different mechanisms that would work in collaboration rather than in silos, sharing publicly their progress to inspire and ensure accountability. This is also visible in Resolution 6/30's 15th preliminary paragraph:

Operative Para 15: *cf. above*

Analysis:

- “*in a systematic manner*”: Here it is emphasized that the integration of a gender perspective should develop in a systematic way (not to confuse with systemic), meaning it should **follow an agreed set of methods** such as an organized plan.
- “*in a transparent manner*”: Here it is specified that the integration of a gender perspective should be done transparently, meaning that it should be **clear**, understandable, **accessible**, and public.

External and Internal Focus that Includes the HRC Mechanisms

Furthermore, Resolution 6/30 was designed with both external and internal aims: originating within the HRC, it was intended to apply universally across all UN operations and the entire HR framework. Simultaneously, it directed the HRC to internally prioritize and assess the integration of a gender perspective into its work, ensuring gender considerations across all HRC mechanisms and all aspects of their work. Special attention was given to treaty bodies, the UPR, Special Procedures, the Complaint Procedure, the Advisory Committee, and other mechanisms. This is also visible in Resolution 6/30's 8th and 15th preliminary paragraphs:

Preliminary remarks Para 8: *cf. above*

Analysis:

- “*into all aspects of the work*”: The **systemic nature** of gender mainstreaming was spelled out in the expression “into all aspects”. Emphasis is put on the work of the bodies, this is meant to explicit that it is not just about gender parity and elimination of inequalities within UN organs, but that these organs need to integrate a gender perspective **in all the work they effectuate** i.e. conferences, special sessions and summits and their outcome documents and follow-ups, (para 7) concluding observations, general comments and recommendations (para 9) investigations, reports, recommendations, etc.
- “*of the United Nations system*”: This resolution even if emanating from the HRC is meant to apply to the **whole of the UN’s work**.
- “*including the treaty bodies*”: A special mention is made of the **treaty bodies**, emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in their work. This may reflect an intent of the core group to make sure that gender integration in the work of the treaty bodies would be tackled.
- “*and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms*”: The specific mention of the HRC is important as it demonstrates an intent from the core group and the HRC to **focus internally** on gender mainstreaming. The specific mention of the HRC mechanisms is crucial, as it emphasizes the need to focus not just on the work done in regular and special sessions of the HRC but also specifically on the **work done by the HRC mechanisms** like the UPR, Special Procedures, the Complaint Procedure, the Advisory Committee and other mechanisms.

Operative Para 15: *cf. above*

Analysis:

- “*in its work and that of its mechanisms*”(…) “*including in all phases of the universal periodic review, the Advisory Committee and the review of mandates.*”: Here some of the

mechanisms of the HRC that need to integrate a gender perspective are specified: the UPR, the Advisory Committee, and the Review Mandates.

In operative paragraphs 16 to 19, Resolution 6/30 specifies how the integration of a gender perspective should be carried out, emphasizing three of the HRC's main mechanisms: the UPR, Special Procedures, and Advisory Committee.

Title: *Universal Periodic Review*

Operative Para 16: *The HRC “Urges all stakeholders to take into full account both the rights of women and a gender perspective in the **universal periodic review**, including in the preparation of information submitted for the review, during the review dialogue, in the review outcome and in the review follow-up”*

Operative Para 17: *The HRC “Encourages States to prepare the information described in paragraph 15 (a) of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 through broad consultation at the national level with all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations active in addressing gender issues and the human rights of women and girls”*

Title: *Special Procedures and Advisory Committee*

Operative Para 18: *The HRC “Requests all **special procedures and other human rights mechanisms** of the Human Rights Council and the **Human Rights Council Advisory Committee** regularly and systematically to integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of their mandate including when examining the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination against women and to include in their reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls, and welcomes the efforts made by most special procedures and other human rights mechanisms in that regard.”*

Operative Para 19: *The HRC “Encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the special procedures and other human rights mechanisms for the integration of human rights of women and a gender perspective in their work.”*

Analysis:

- “*encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the special procedures and other human rights mechanisms*”: In this segment, it is emphasized that the HRC mechanisms should **work together** and help each other to achieve the effective integration of gender perspective. This would include exchanging information, lessons learned and sharing best practices in this regard (op para 6)

Intersectional approach

Finally, Resolution 6/30, underscored the necessity for the HRC to adopt an intersectional approach in its gender mainstreaming strategy to address embedded and interlocking systems of oppression at the root of gender discrimination by including an analysis of the impact intersectional discrimination may have on the enjoyment of HR. This is visible in Resolution 6/30’s first operative paragraph:

Operative Para 1: *The HRC “recognizes the importance of examining, from a gender perspective, the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination and conditions of disadvantage, their root causes and consequences, and their impact on the advancement of women and the enjoyment by women of all human rights, in order to develop and implement strategies, policies and programs aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and to increase the role that women play in the design, implementation and monitoring of gender-sensitive anti-discrimination policies.”*

Analysis:

- “*recognizes the importance of examining, from a gender perspective, the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination and conditions of disadvantage*”: In the first paragraph of the resolution, the HRC underscored the importance of adopting an **intersectional approach** to gender issues. This is important as the HRC explicitly decided to highlight the intersectional nature of gender mainstreaming in resolution 6/30.

- “*their root causes*”: This approach also underscores the need to **address embedded and interlocking systems of oppression**.
- “*consequences, and their impact on the advancement of women and the enjoyment by women of all human rights*”: This highlights that the **impact of intersectional discrimination** should be taken into account when mainstreaming a gender perspective.

Creation of an Accountability Mechanism

Most importantly, Resolution 6/30 aimed to ensure that gender would be addressed annually as part of the agenda of the HRC. To this end, Resolution 6/30 institutionalized two annual discussions on gender issues as part of its agenda. In the OHCHR’s 2009 report it is described that: “*The purpose of one annual meeting is to discuss the substantive issue of the human rights of women, including the question of violence against women. The purpose of the second is to discuss the methodology for how to integrate a gender perspective throughout the Council and its mechanisms. Evaluating its own work is an innovative feature of the Human Rights Council*” (A/HRC/12/46, para. 26). The creation of the first annual meeting was established through Resolution 6/30 20th operative paragraph:

Operative Para 20: “*Decides to incorporate into its programme of work sufficient and adequate time, at minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss the human rights of women, including measures that can be adopted by States and other stakeholders, to address human rights violations experienced by women;*”

The second annual panel meeting to discuss the appropriate methodologies to adopt for the achievement of the goals stated previously and for the Council to consistently evaluate its own work and suggest ways of improvement, is the main focus of our research. This annual panel was designed as a mechanism for ongoing self-assessment to continually improve its integration of a comprehensive gender perspective. This Panel was defined in Resolution 6/30 as an “*annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its (the HRC) work and that of its mechanisms, including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced*” (A/HRC/RES/6/30, para. 22). This last sentence underscores the significance of accountability and solidifies the annual Panel as a self-monitoring mechanism of the HRC. The role of the Panel as an accountability mechanism was reemphasized by the opening orators in their speeches at the panels

in 2010¹⁷, 2011¹⁸, 2013¹⁹, and 2019²⁰ instructing the Council to hold up a mirror to its own actions. This second annual meeting, which is the central focus of our study, was established through Resolution 6/30 22nd operative paragraph:

Operative Para 22: *The HRC “welcomes the panel discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council, held on 20 and 21 September 2007, and decides to incorporate into its program of work an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms, including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced.”*

¹⁷ 2010: Kyung-wha Kang, the Deputy High Commissioner said: “The Human Rights Council has explicitly been called upon by the General Assembly to integrate attention to gender perspectives relating to all issues on its agenda, including the development of its methods of work. In its resolution 6/30 entitled, "Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system", the Human Rights Council reaffirmed its commitment to effectively integrate the human rights of women as well as a gender perspective, in its work and that of its mechanisms. This is supposed to be done in a **systematic and transparent manner** including in all phases of the Universal Periodic Review, the Advisory Committee, and the review of mandates. To this end, the Council also decided to hold an annual meeting to discuss the appropriate methodology. **Evaluating its own work**, and **suggesting ways of improvement**, is an innovative and welcome feature of the Human Rights Council. The holding of this annual discussion illustrates the importance the Council attributes to gender integration and its **openness to enhancing its work**.”

¹⁸ 2011: The opening orator Mr. Bacre Ndiaye, Director of the HRC and Treaties Division says: “I recall that since 2006 resolution 6/30 entitled integrating the right of women throughout the UN system, has constantly reaffirmed its commitment effectively integrate the right of women as well as the gender perspective in his work and that of his mechanisms. The **constant self-scrutiny of the human council** in the past three years focused respectively on special procedures the universal periodic review and the thematic discussion on lessons learned shortcomings and future challenges...”

¹⁹ 2013: The UN High Commissioner, Navanethem Pillay, said : “This resolution, I quote, urges all stakeholders to take into full account both the rights of women and gender perspective in the universal periodic review **the panel will help us assess our progress**”.

²⁰ 2019: the UN assistant High Commissioner, said: “As you are aware among the decade ago the then newly established human rights council adopted resolution 6/30 in which it set out its **commitment to consistent and systematic gender integration** throughout all aspects of its work and indeed **across the entire human rights architecture**” (...) “Gender integration is in everyone's interest with greater progress better integration inclusive relevance higher participation will continue to require leadership and political will on the one hand and deliberate measures and accountability on the other **strong leadership clear objectives accountability for their delivery on the floor of this council and through its decision making processes are key** ingredients to fulfill and maintain the role that this peak human rights body can and should play globally and **is consistent with the spirit and intent of its resolution 6/30**”

Analysis:

- “welcomes the **panel discussion** on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council, held on 20 and 21 **September 2007**”: This refers to the **first-ever panel** discussion on the topic of gender mainstreaming, we have therefore included this panel discussion that took place in 2007 in our analysis.
- “decides to incorporate into its program of work an annual discussion”: Given the success of the 2007 panel discussion, the HRC decided to **institutionalize this discussion** and turn it into an annual panel.
- “on the integration of a gender perspective **throughout its work and that of its mechanisms**”: The choice of the word throughout was made, to specify that a gender perspective needs to be incorporated **across the entire architecture** of the HRC and its work, not just in some aspects of its work but rather **in all of its work** and also in all of the work of **all the HRC mechanisms**.
- “including the **evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced**”: This sentence is one of the most important of the resolution concerning the gender integration panel. It is here that the HRC defines the gender integration panel as an **accountability mechanism** of the HRC for its commitment to integrate a gender analysis across all its work. These panels should allow the HRC to **self-scrutinize** its **achievements** in terms of gender integration, what **remains to be achieved**, and **where efforts should be directed**. This **self-assessment** should result in the identification of a **way forward** and **concrete proposals** that could be adopted.

Finally, Resolution 6/30 reaffirmed the important role of women human rights defenders, civil society, and NGOs in promoting and protecting the HR of women. It reiterated the need for integrating a gender perspective through using gender-inclusive language in the formulation, interpretation, and implementation of HR instruments, as well as in reports, resolutions and/or decisions of the HRC and its various mechanisms and other HR mechanisms. A summary of the stated objectives of Resolution 6/30 can be found in the table bellow.

Summarizing the Stated Objectives of Resolution 6/30

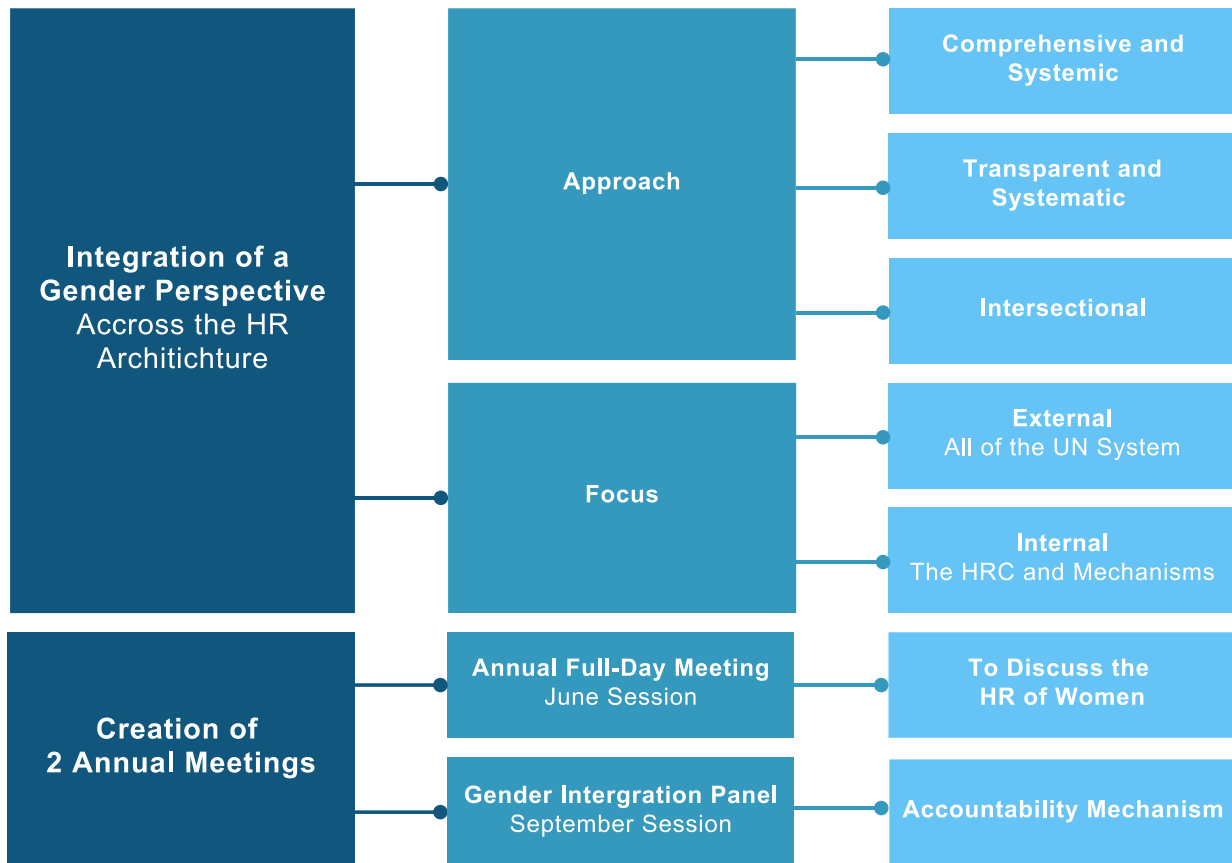


Figure 4: Summary of the stated objectives of Resolution 6/30

Importance of Resolution 6/30

Resolution 6/30 was essential in ensuring that the newly created HRC would prioritize gender in its agenda, preventing women’s HR from being relegated to a mere “women and children” section. Indeed, during the institution-building phase, some States sought to exclude gender from the Council’s agenda, raising concerns that it might only be addressed sporadically. Resolution 6/30 guaranteed ongoing attention to gender issues through biannual Panel discussions and established a foundational framework for gender mainstreaming across all Council projects. The former head coordinator of the OHCHR women’s rights and gender unit emphasized its significance, noting that “*without this Resolution, you would not have the focus expecting every thematic special procedure to integrate a gender perspective into its work*” (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). This Resolution also embedded a self-assessment mechanism in the HRC architecture

via the gender integration Panel, the HRC's sole monitoring tool, intended to sustain progress in gender mainstreaming despite occasional lapses in Member States' awareness of its purpose (*Ibid*).

To better understand the impact and execution of the Panel, we are now going to delve into the topics and themes addressed in the panels since 2008, the selection of chairpersons, moderators, opening orators, keynote speakers, and panelists, the engagement of States and civil society groups, the dynamics of these discussions, and the inclusion and exclusion of certain actors.

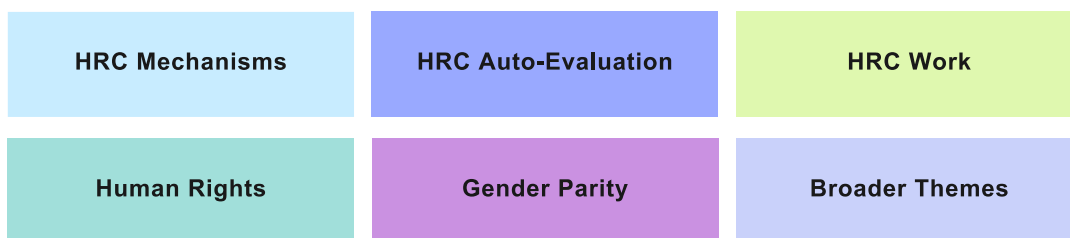
5. The Way the Implementation of the HRC Gender Integration Panel Unfolded

5.1. *Topics and Themes* Addressed in the Panels since 2008

Yearly Themes

The HRC held its first-ever Gender Integration Panel discussion on the 20th and 21st, September 2007, at the HRC’s 6th session. This Panel was entitled “Integration of a gender perspective in the Work of the Human Rights Council” and was held under Item 8 of the general debate “Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”. Through its Resolution 6/30, welcoming the Panel held in September, the HRC annualized the discussion on gender integration into its work program, by creating an annual Panel discussion. Each year’s discussion was meant to address a specific theme or rather an aspect of the gender integration work that had to be reviewed or that needed to progress. The theme of the Panel is thought of each year by the OHCHR, their strategic goal is to make the theme align with their work plan so that the recommendations made during the discussion can advance the objectives of gender integration they are targeting (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). The theme is then discussed with the permanent missions of the sponsoring States. Once the theme is agreed upon, the resolution’s sponsors run the theme with their capital to get definitive approval. Sometimes the theme is also requested by the HRC during a session. For example, during the 19th session, the HRC asked for the annual discussion on integrating a gender perspective in 2012 to focus specifically on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) of women in relation to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The aim was for the outcomes of this discussion to support the High Commissioner’s report on implementing resolution 19/5, which addresses ESCR worldwide.

We observed a diversity of themes addressed across the years, and decided to categorize them into six groups:



Themes of the Panels by Year

Year	Theme	Title of the Panel Discussion
2007	First Gender Integration Discussion	Discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council
2008	Special Procedures	Integrating a gender perspective into the work of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council
2009	The UPR	Integrating a gender perspective in the Universal Periodic Review
2010	Revisiting 2007-2010	Integrating a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council: lessons learned, shortcomings and future challenges; 2007-2010
2011	Institutional Action	Promoting gender equality as institutional practice: from policy to action
2012	ESCR of Women	Economic, social and cultural rights of women
2013	The Contribution of Civil Society	Civil society's contribution to the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms
2014	Country-Focused Work	Gender integration in the country-focused work of the Council
2015	Gender Parity	Gender parity and its contribution to gender integration in the work of the Human Rights Council
2016	Resolutions and Recommendations	Gender integration in the resolutions and recommendations of the Human Rights Council
2017	The UPR and SDG 5	The Universal Periodic Review and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5)
2018	HR Investigations	Gender integration and human rights investigations: strengthening a victim-centered approach
2019	Gender Parity Gender-Responsive Initiatives	Gender-responsive initiatives to accelerate gender equality
2020	Intersectionality	Economic, social and cultural rights of women
2021	Gender Digital Divide COVID-19	Civil society's contribution to the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms
2022	Freedom of Expression	Gender integration in the country-focused work of the Council
2023	Gender Parity	Gender parity and its contribution to gender integration in the work of the Human Rights Council

Figure 5: List of themes of the Panel by year

Through a thorough analysis of each year's Panel recording and concept note, we have identified changes in the themes addressed during the Panel discussions. We have organized our observations in three periods.

First Period: The Early Years

In the early years, the focus was on gender integration in two of the main HRC mechanisms described in Resolution 6/30, the special procedures (2008) and the UPR (2009), topped off by a self-assessing discussion of progress made in the first three years and challenges remaining (2010). The Panel served as a clear self-assessment mechanism for the HRC, reflecting the intentions set by people creating the themes.

Following insights from SP representatives, Miloon Kohtari and Radhika Coosmaraswamy, in 2007 and 2008 Panels, the discussion aimed to assess progress and challenges regarding the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the UN special procedures. Three of the four panelists, who were special rapporteurs, highlighted advances and challenges in incorporating gender perspectives into their work. The OHCHR's 2009 report noted that "*the panel provided many practical recommendations for the special procedures to fulfill Resolution 6/30, including specific recommendations relevant to the individual mandates*" (A/HRC/A/HRC/12/46, para. 31). This resulted in significant initiatives by mandate holders to integrate gender perspectives, such as developing guidelines for their Manual of Operations (*Idem*, para. 60). However, by looking at a letter by a group of non-governmental organizations addressed to the Advisory Committee of the Special Procedures in view of the invitation for the submission of comments on the Manual dated June 2007, we can observe prior efforts by civil society actors to include and implement paragraph 16 of the Resolution 2005/42 of the Commission of Human Rights, that calls for a systematic integration of "a gender perspective into the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on and qualitative analysis of human rights of women and girls [...]" (ARC et al., 2007, para.16). Furthermore, the OHCHR report underscored that these efforts of gender integration had primarily resulted in "highlighting interlinkages between forms of violence against women" and emphasized the need for special procedures to broaden their analysis to consider all "intersections between their mandate and the human rights of women and girls" (*Idem*, para. 43).

In 2009, following on from the 2008 discussions, the focus was again on integrating a gender perspective throughout the UPR process, as mandated by Resolution 5/1, with a principle that “the universal periodic review must fully integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of the review” (A/HRC/RES/5/1 para. 3 cited in A/HRC/A/HRC/12/46 para. 35).

In 2010 the Panel concentrated on self-assessment and auto-evaluation of the progress made since the implementation of Resolution 6/30 three years prior, by “including the evaluation of progress and challenges experienced” (A/HRC/6/30, para. 22). The 2010 Panel primarily aimed to identify insights, areas for improvement, and obstacles to integrating a gender perspective into the council's work. This discussion was crucial within the broader UN General Assembly-mandated review of the Council's operations, occurring in 2009-2010, marking five years since its establishment in March 2006. The Panel's objective was to propose recommendations for the comprehensive review process.

In these early years, Panel discussions aligned with the objectives of Resolution 6/30, by assessing HRC mechanisms internally. The objectives, detailed in the concept notes, led to concrete recommendations for implementation in special procedure mandates and the UPR process. The 2008 and 2009 concept notes aimed to raise awareness of integrating a gender perspective into special procedures and the UPR, discussing practical methods and challenges (OHCHR, 2008; 2009). Speakers offered constructive criticism and advice, indicating the OHCHR's intention for practical, outcome-driven discussions. However, some States also addressed thematic issues related to women's rights (see Annex1).

Second Period: Focus on the HRC's work

From 2011 to 2018, focused mainly on various aspects of the HRC's work. Furthermore, we observed a digression from this trend in 2012 to focus on ESCR, a welcome return of a focus on the UPR in 2017, and a discussion on gender parity in 2015 which will be analyzed in a separate section.

The 2011 discussion aimed to focus on an area described by the OHCHR in the related concept note as “*remaining relatively overlooked in structure and functioning of the HRC, despite important references in Resolution 6/30*” (OHCHR, 2011). The objective was to explore effective strategies for institutionalizing gender integration into organizational structures. The discussion

aimed to offer insights into potential methods for integrating gender equality into the structure and operational procedures of the HRC and its mechanisms. This initiative was directed towards implementing these principles within the Council's operations and fostering a culture and structure committed to gender equality. One of the panelists, Aparna Mehrotra, was the Focal Point for Women in the UN System of the newly established UN Women which promotes and monitors gender mainstreaming within the UN system. She and other panelists' participation contributed to giving concrete recommendations on how to institutionalize gender mainstreaming.

In 2012, there was a notable shift in HRC discussions. For the first time, the theme did not center around a specific HRC mechanism or area of the Council's work. At its 19th session, the Council directed the annual discussion to concentrate on issues related to ESCR of women and their empowerment, while assessing progress towards achieving the MDGs. This expanded the Panel's scope beyond self-evaluation to analyzing advancements in various ESCR areas, aiming to address the MDG's shortcomings in promoting HR and women's rights. Panel discussions covered housing, reproductive rights, education, healthcare, and women's participation in public life. Civil society groups also advocated for the ESCR of women with disabilities, sex workers, lesbians, unmarried women, and single mothers during this session.

In 2017, the Council revisited integrating a gender perspective in the work of UPR but focusing more specifically this time on its alignment with SDG 5 and its potential to advance it. One panelist was working in the UPR process, alongside others closely involved. Some panelists and NGOs issued concrete recommendations for how the UPR could enhance State accountability and bolster SDG legitimacy through aligned recommendations and reporting rules with SDG indicators. This marked the first and only time across the years that one of the HRC mechanisms that had been assessed in the early years was reevaluated, and this brought further positive outcomes through self-reflection and the formulation of some recommendations for improvement.

In 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018, Panel discussions addressed various aspects of HRC's work. In 2013, it concentrated on civil society's role in promoting gender integration across the HRC's activities, including special procedures and the UPR, which was explored through statements, side events, and follow-up processes. The 2014 Panel focused on integrating a gender perspective into the HRC's country-focused work, including its geographic special procedures and fact-finding missions. In 2016, discussions centered on embedding gender perspectives into HRC resolutions

and recommendations beyond gender-based violence or parity, aiming to propose actionable improvements. In 2018, the discussion focused on the integration of a gender perspective into HR monitoring and investigations, examining the use of gender-sensitive methodologies by investigative teams, international commissions of inquiry (CoIs), and fact-finding missions (FFMs).

Initially, these four topics aligned with Resolution 6/30's objectives. However, over time, fewer panelists focused on integrating a gender perspective into the Council's work. Instead, discussions often strayed towards highlighting personal achievements and contributions to gender equality or addressing aspects of gender equality that interested them. For instance, during the 2013 and 2014 sessions, which centered on civil society's role and country-specific initiatives, panelists included special rapporteurs, HRC personnel related to the annual theme, and civil society representatives provided recommendations to enhance gender integration in country-specific efforts and increase civil society participation. In contrast, sessions in 2016 and 2018 focused on resolutions, recommendations, and HR investigations. While one panelist in 2018 addressed gender mainstreaming in HR investigations, others missed opportunities to discuss concrete steps for integrating gender into resolutions and investigations.

Third Period: Moving Away from the Initial Objectives, Towards a Thematic Approach

In the last period, from 2019 to 2023, the focus shifted from HRC mechanisms and the work of the HRC to broader themes related to gender equality, such as the gender digital divide or women's freedom of expression, moving away from the original purpose of this annual Panel discussion.

The 2020 discussion introduced intersectionality as its theme for the first time: while civil society and progressive States had occasionally mentioned intersectionality in previous Panels, it had never been the central theme. This theme, as outlined by the concept note, aimed to examine "*the importance of a closer examination of gender-based discrimination with respect to other dimensions of the human condition, such as race, ethnicity, nationality, location, religion, socio-economic status, indigenous, minority, migration status, profession, disability and/or age*" (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2020). However, the discussion mainly served as an introductory platform for States to understand intersectionality and share national practices. Indeed, during the discussion, most participants focused on defining

intersectionality and its importance, rather than analyzing its implementation within the HRC or the challenges ahead. Although a few panelists suggested general recommendations such as “integrate an intersectional gender perspective into every analysis and program” or “integrate an intersectional perspective into policies”, no specific actionable recommendations were put forward.

In 2021, during a predominantly online meeting due to COVID-19, the Council addressed the gender digital divide. Similar to 2020, the topic took a thematic approach, focusing on defining and mitigating the divide at the State level, rather than exploring its specific impacts on the HRC or Council-wide strategies. Among panelists, only two referenced the HRC, while others did not. The concept note outlined five objectives, primarily centered on understanding and discussing the gender digital divide, with the final objective touching on the HRC’s potential role in addressing it (OHCHR, 2021). However, both in the note and during the discussion, the original objectives set forth in Resolution 6/30 for the annual Panel were largely overlooked.

In 2022, the discussion focused on overcoming gender-based barriers to freedom of opinion and expression, emphasizing the intersection with gender discrimination rather than specific HRC mechanisms. The goal was to identify and dismantle the root causes of these barriers, highlighting obstacles women face in exercising these rights with limited focus on internal assessments of the HRC’s mechanisms. While some panelists mentioned ways to mainstream gender within the HRC, there was little evaluation of how these barriers have been addressed within the Council’s framework. Many panelists provided recommendations for HRC action, though most States and NGOs seemed to lack a clear understanding of the discussion’s purpose. States largely repeated facts already mentioned by experts without self-critique, making the discussion tense, particularly as States are often implicated in repressing and criminalizing gender-diverse individuals expressing their opinions.

Themes in recent Panel discussions have increasingly strayed from the original objectives set by Resolution 6/30, leading many actors to lean off-topic in their interventions. This shift is concerning, as numerous aspects of the HRC’s mechanisms and the Council’s work still require evaluation, and gender integration remains underdeveloped in many areas of the HRC. Discussing broader topics, as seen in recent years, deviates from the panel’s intended role as an internal self-assessment mechanism for the HRC. While these discussions may be intriguing, they are more suited for the annual full-day session on the human rights of women held in June. The separate

establishment of these two panels was specifically to maintain this panel's focus on internal self-assessment.

An Intensive Focus on Gender Parity since 2015

Since 2015, three out of nine Panel discussions have focused on gender parity. This theme was the primary subject of the 2015 and 2023 discussions. Although the 2019 discussion was titled “Gender-responsive initiatives to accelerate gender equality,” its stated aim in the concept note was to review progress since the 2015 discussion on gender parity and to analyze ongoing challenges to achieving parity in international human rights bodies. The discussion was also meant to discuss new gender-responsive initiatives, but in effect, all the initiatives addressed were focused on advancing gender parity.

These Panels initiated actions towards equitable gender representation within the HRC, in line with Resolution 6/30. This led to efforts enhancing women's presence in the HRC and its mandates, including special procedures. In 2019, Resolution 41/6 requested a report on women's representation in human rights organs, analyzed at the forty-seventh session in June 2021, and supported by Resolution 50/18 in 2022 urging enhanced women’s participation in the HRC. The 2023 Panel revisited these efforts.

During the 2023 discussion, panelists noted positively that there had been an increase in the designation of women in special procedures mandates. They also highlighted that the UPR had issued twice as many recommendations on gender parity than in previous cycles, and that treaty bodies had observed an increase in women experts in committees. Additionally, they pointed out that OHCHR had closed its own gender gap with 58% of its staff and 50% of senior managers being women. They also noted that the OHCHR had developed guidelines to help States achieve the goal of gender parity and that the UN High Commissioner for HR had committed to parity for panelists and to the meaningful involvement of young women and girls from various backgrounds in programs of the OHCHR. These advancements could never have been achieved without the adoption of Resolution 6/30 mandating gender parity and creating a space to discuss ways to improve representation in the HRC.

Despite progress, achieving gender parity across all HRC mechanisms and human rights bodies remains a significant challenge, with concerns over focusing solely on numerical metrics rather

than fostering inclusive representation. However, it is crucial to recognize that numerical approaches should not overshadow the broader goal of fostering diverse and inclusive gender representation; it overlooks the reality that gender alone does not ensure a commitment to advancing gender equality or dismantling intersecting systems of oppression. This perspective can also oversimplify the diversity among women and neglect the vital inclusion of women from marginalized backgrounds facing multiple forms of discrimination.

Sub-Themes Addressed in the Panels since 2008

For each year, our analysis has meticulously identified the sub-themes and topics addressed by panelists, States, and non-State Actors, (see Annex 1). We have seen that the Panel's focus has occasionally shifted away from core objectives towards broader themes that, while important, may not always directly contribute to actionable outcomes or advance comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategies. These include discussions on the digital divide and climate change (highlighted in 2021 and 2022), as well as topics like gender budgets, abortion, indigenous rights, the feminization of poverty (particularly noted in 2011), and the socio-economic impacts of global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, LGBTQIA+ issues, despite their significance, have garnered sporadic attention (notably in 2014 and 2020) and often lack sustained focus needed to address the multifaceted challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ communities globally.

Conversely, certain themes have consistently received robust attention. These include the implementation of national laws and policies by States, which underscores the practical steps taken by governments to promote gender equality. Gender-based violence remains a prominent and recurring theme in HRC discussions, with a focus on systemic solutions, evidence-based measures, and legal frameworks evident in sessions across various years (such as 2007, 2008, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2022). Similarly, Women's Participation and Representation have been highlighted in multiple sessions, addressing issues of political participation, senior leadership representation, and the achievement of gender parity (notably discussed in 2007, 2008, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2023).

5.2. Evolution of the *Format* of the Panel

2008-2010

Initially, from 2008 to 2010 the Panel discussion lasted 3 hours. The introduction took 45 minutes, including podium speakers' statements and panelists' 8-minute presentations. This was followed by a 2-hour interactive dialogue divided into two slots of 1 hour. Each slot included statements from States, observers, UN agencies, and Civil Society made their statements (45 minutes). The moderator concluded with 15 minutes of remarks.

2011-2017

In 2011, "*following extensive consultation with co-sponsors of the initiative*" (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024), the OHCHR introduced a new format. In its statement, the opening orator explained: "*The panelists will not deliver statements during their presentation, but rather answer questions put to them by the moderator to ensure an interactive dialogue. Likewise, I would call on participants intervening from the floor to the extent possible to this experimental format by formulating statements to ask questions or comments to the speakers as proposed in the guidance note for member States*"(Ndiaye, 2011). This new format made the discussion way more interactive, giving twice more speaking time to panelists and reducing the speaking time for States. In 2014, the format came back to a similar one to 2008, giving more speaking time to States again but retaining panelists' statement responses to the moderator (see Annex 1 bis).

2018-2019

In 2018, the HRC adopted Resolution PRST OS/12/1 titled "Enhancing the efficiency of the HRC, including by addressing financial and time constraints." This resolution limits panel discussions during regular sessions to two hours, with a maximum of four panelists including the moderator, ensuring gender and geographic balance . The Resolution also encourages sponsors to consider the multiannual program of work to reduce their number (PRST OS/12/1, paras. 7 &8). This change led to reorganized panel discussions with reduced interactivity and fewer opportunities for panelists to engage with statements from stressed participants, and it also limited the maximum number of panelists to four (see Chapter 6.4), limiting opportunities for States (see Chapter 6.5) and civil society actors to speak (see Chapter 6.6).

2020-2023

In 2020, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings shifted to a hybrid format with most participants joining online (see Annex 1 bis). During this time, the role of the moderator was entirely abandoned, resulting in a loss of interactivity. Panelists reverted to delivering simple statements, and States seldom responded to presentations, instead opting to read prepared statements. Even after in-person meetings resumed in 2023, the moderator's role was not reinstated, leading to a permanent loss of interactive dialogue. When asked about the elimination of the moderator's role, the head coordinator of the women's rights and gender unit, organizer of the inaugural gender integration Panel, remarked neutrally, *"I am surprised by the absence of a moderator. It contrasts with our original intention for interactive discussions. For any NGO event, the lack of a moderator would be unimaginable, as it would lead to one-sided conversations. It seems indicative of possible fatigue"* (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

5.3. Chairpersons, Moderators, Opening Orators, Keynote speakers, and Others Selected to Speak on the Panels

Type of Speakers

Over the years, podium organization during Panel discussions has varied a lot. Apart from panelists, we identified four types of podium orators: chairpersons, moderators, opening orators, and keynote speakers (including those making a "welcome address") (See Annex 2).

The chairperson position was exclusively occupied by the president or the vice-president of the OHCHR (years without specific information are noted in blue). Their role included briefly presenting the topic and welcoming the panelists, the moderator, opening orator, and keynote speaker. In their opening statement, they usually reminded procedural guidelines such as speaking time limits and opportunities for State actors to contribute. In some years, chairpersons would also state discussion objectives and encourage interactive participation from attendees through comments and questions based on panelists' presentations.

In years with a moderator, their role included defining the scope of the theme, animating and leading the lively discussion by asking a different question to each panelist. Each panelist would

then in turn respond to the questions of the moderator. Moderators also control the time and rhythm of the whole discussion, managing the discussion's pace and format as needed.

Opening orators were most of the time the UN High Commissioner for HR or the Deputy High Commissioner. In their opening statements, orators usually presented the topic of the Panel, some data, report, or information on the subject produced by UN organs, and their views on the importance of the matter and the approach to be taken when discussing it.

The keynote speakers were distinguished guests who gave the main address at the Panel discussion. The keynote speaker's role frequently was to feature as the headline speaker at an event to deliver an engaging speech focusing on the conference's topic. In the case of this annual Panel discussion of the HRC, across the years studied, two such speakers opened the discussion.

Chairperson

The Chair has consistently been occupied each year, playing a central role in facilitating discussion by granting speakers the floor. Initially, such as in 2011, the chairperson used to make an extensive presentation about the history and goal of the Panel, exposing the aims and objectives of Resolution 6/30 and the specifics of how the discussion would aim at institutionalizing gender integration in this specific session. In contrast, in the latest year studied, 2023, however, the vice-president's presentation was notably shorter and omitted the Resolution's aims and objectives altogether.

Chairperson's introductory remark on the context of the annual discussion being held:

2011	2023
<p>HRC's president: "We shall now proceed with the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the HRC. Resolution 5/1 recognizes the importance of integrating a gender perspective in the work of the council by establishing it as a principle of the agenda and framework for the program of work. In its resolution 6/30 entitled 'integrating the HR of women throughout the UN system' the council decided to incorporate into its program of work and annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced.</p> <p>The focus of this year's annual discussion will be to look at the institutional implications of gender integration. The objective of the panel will also be to reflect on key measures to institutionalize gender integration in organizational structures with a view to achieving gender equality. Lessons learned and experiences will be shared by panelists."</p>	<p>HRC's vice-president: "We will now begin the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the HRC and that of its mechanisms as mandated in council resolution 6/30. This year's theme is revisiting gender parity and its contributions to the integration of gender into the work of the international human rights bodies including the HRC and its mechanisms."</p>

In 2011, we can see that the President provided historical context on the establishment of the Panel and the objectives of the annual discussion as stated in HRC resolutions. The President also outlined the current discussion objectives. However, in 2023, the Vice-President no longer did this. The chairpersons' remarks have overall shortened until they were narrowed down to only the most basic formalities.

Figure 6: Chairperson's introductory remark on the context of the Panel

Opening Orator

There was an opening orator each year, except in 2007 and in 2009. The UN High Commissioner for HR spoke 5 times, the Deputy High Commissioner 6 times and other years saw directors from OHCHR divisions. In early years like 2011 and 2012, the opening orators reaffirmed the significance of the annual discussion on gender integration, highlighting gender inequalities and their operational dynamics. They reported on gender integration within the HRC's work and mechanisms, showcasing recent achievements, ongoing initiatives, successful efforts, and identified challenges. In years focusing on specific HRC mechanisms, like in 2017 on the UPR, the High Commissioner reported progress, remaining challenges, and improvement directions for gender integration within those mechanisms. In 2015, 2019, and 2023, when gender parity was addressed, the opening orator reminded reasons for its importance and then stated some statistics of parity in national organs like parliaments, permanent missions at the UN, and HR organs like the HRC mechanisms, Panels and remaining challenges. In these discussions, the presentations made by the opening orators guided the Council in scrutinizing gender integration and restructuring its institutional framework to integrate a gender perspective effectively.

However, in broader-themed years like 2019 and 2020, addressing intersectionality and the gender digital divide were addressed, opening orators were not dedicated at evaluating the state of gender

integration in HRC but rather turned out to be more general presentations on the topic. For instance, in 2019, the High Commissioner discussed intersectionality broadly and how black women, women with disabilities and indigenous women experience sexism differently without exploring its integration into the Council's work. Her intervention, however interesting and passionate, did not contribute to discussing practically how to integrate an intersectional perspective in the Council's work [MOU2]. Similarly, in 2020, the focus remained on defining the gender digital divide rather than practical integration strategies. Therefore, the relevance of the orators' speeches depended greatly on the topic addressed and on their knowledge of the objectives of this annual Panel discussion as a self-reflective mechanism for the Council.

Keynote Speaker

Across the years there were two keynote speakers. In 2015, Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians took the floor at the beginning of the Panel. She made a speech in favor of achieving gender equality, stating some issues and acts of violence women are facing worldwide as well as demands of actions to be adopted by the council. In 2011, Laura Dupuy Lasserre, the first woman to serve as President of the HRC made a "welcome address" to the Council, on her own initiative, the Vice-President chairing that year, and as the first woman president of the HRC. We observed that since 2016, no more keynote speakers or persons making a "welcome address" were accommodated during the discussions. We do not know if such a speaker would be accommodated again if requested, as it happened both times only on a special occasion.

Moderator

The moderator played an important role in facilitating dialogue and ensuring the interactivity of the discussion during the Panels. They introduced topics to panelists, brought info together, energized the conversation, and directed the flow, cadence, and duration of discussions. After that, each panelist answered the moderator's questions in turn. According to the head coordinator of the women's rights and gender unit of the OHCHR, effective moderation requires skill and humility, emphasizing the role of bringing cohesion and balance without overshadowing panelists (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024).

However, due to the shift to online formats following COVID-19 in 2020 the moderator role was not reinstated in 2022 and 2023, coinciding with reduced panel durations since 2018. Indeed, in

Resolution PRST OS/12/1 “*Enhancing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council, including by addressing financial and time constraints*”, a specific mention of the moderator was made: “[*The HRC*] decides to continue the practice of limiting to two hours the duration of Panel discussions held during regular sessions, limiting the number of panelists to four, including the moderator, and ensuring a proper gender and geographic balance among the panelists” (PRST OS/12/1, para.7).

Overall

We observed that over the years fewer speakers have made statements from the podium. The chairpersons’ presentations became shorter, less detailed, and less insightful overtime. The opening orator’s speech has become more thematic and stopped addressing the objectives of the Panel and the role of the moderator was abandoned. This led to a diminishing in contextualization and guidance throughout the discussion.

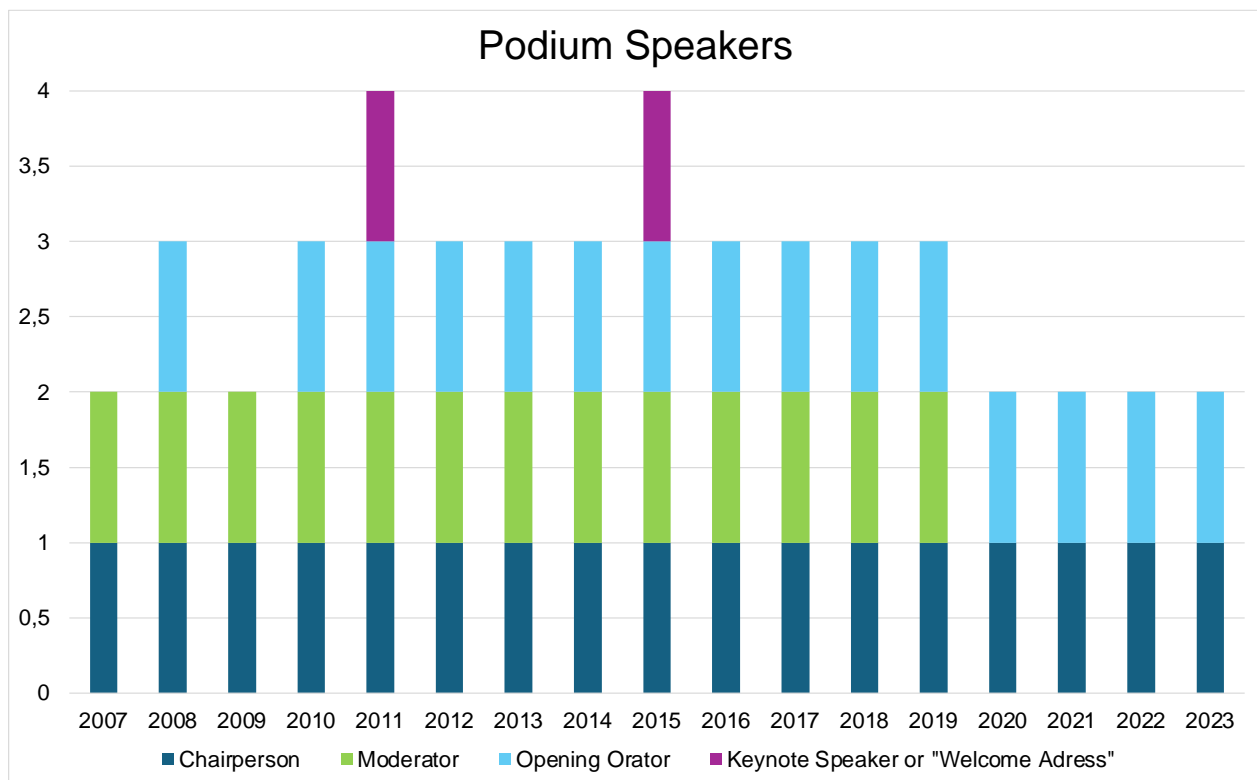


Figure 7: Graph of the podium speakers by year

5.4. Panelists Selected to Speak on the Panels

Panelists Contributions in Gender Panels

We have observed that panelists in the Panel discussions tend to present expert knowledge, share personal experiences, provide diverse perspectives, and engage with other panelists and the audience. The panelists selected for the HRC annual gender Panels from 2007 to 2023 included experts from various fields such as human rights, gender equality, and international organizations.

Selection Process

The head coordinator of the women's rights and gender unit informed us about the process of selecting panelists for discussions on gender integration at the HRC being rigorous and meticulously designed to ensure both expertise and relevance (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). Panelists were selected based on their extensive experience in HR advocacy, with a particular focus on women's rights, following thorough consultations with key stakeholders such as OHCHR and co-sponsoring States (Ibid.). This rigorous selection process prioritizes individuals who have shown a strong dedication to advancing gender perspectives within the Council's mechanisms. Additionally, reducing Panel time and limiting the number of speakers has affected their ability to debate, provide recommendations, and address questions effectively.

Evolution of Panelists Selection

Over time, the selection of panelists for the Gender Panel has evolved, reflecting an increasingly diverse range of expertise and perspectives (see Annex 3). Analyzing this evolution revealed trends in the selection process, shedding light on whether panelists predominantly come from feminist or gender-based institutions, possess technical expertise, or have backgrounds unrelated to the theme.

In the earlier years, such as 2007 and 2008, panelists included individuals from various backgrounds, including civil society representatives like Charlotte Bunch from the Center for Women's Global Leadership. This trend continued with the inclusion of experts like Sandeep Prasad, a gender expert, and Gulnara Shaninian, in subsequent years. These appointments suggest a concerted effort to incorporate voices from feminist and gender-focused organizations, indicating an emphasis on thematic expertise in gender issues.

As the years progressed, there was a noticeable increase in the representation of individuals affiliated with international organizations like UN Women and various human rights bodies. For example, panelists such as Reine Alapini Gansou from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and Marcos Nascimento from Promundo brought institutional knowledge and expertise in gender mainstreaming. Additionally, the inclusion of experts from bodies like the UN Office at Geneva and the Danish Institute for Human Rights reflects a shift towards technical expertise in gender and human rights mechanisms within the HRC. Moreover, the diversity of panelists expanded to encompass professionals from different regions and sectors. For instance, experts like Hala Ghosheh from the Gender Social Fund Jordan and Jane Hodges from the Gender Equality Bureau for the ILO provided insights from their respective regions and fields, contributing to a more holistic understanding of gender issues.

In recent years, there has been a continued emphasis on thematic expertise, with panelists such as Mozn Hassan from Nazra for Feminist Studies and Julie Posetti from the International Center for Journalists. However, there has also been an increased focus on intersectionality, as seen with the inclusion of experts like Tatiana Vasconcelos, a disability consultant, and Pragna Patel from Southall Black Sisters.

Impact of Panelists Numbers

Over the years, we observed that the number of panelists in the HRC gender Panels has fluctuated between three and six. Recently, however, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of panelists, coinciding with a shortening of the overall Panel time. This reduction posed significant challenges to the depth and breadth of discussions. With fewer panelists, there is less opportunity to include diverse voices, particularly from underrepresented groups such as NGOs and Global South representatives. This can lead to a narrower range of viewpoints and experiences being discussed. The richness of the dialogue diminishes as fewer panelists may lead to repetitive or overlapping insights, reducing the overall effectiveness of the discussions. Fewer panelists mean that each individual has to cover more ground within the limited time.

Distribution and Diversity

In the subsequent analysis, we have identified eight main groups, each delineated as follows: HRC Advisory Committee, advising the UN Human Rights Council on thematic human rights issues;

Working Group, established by the OHCHR to address specific human rights concerns or thematic areas; Special Procedures, independent HR experts appointed by the OHCHR to investigate, monitor, and report on human rights issues globally; UN Agency, responsible for specific areas of expertise or focus; International Organization, such as the UN itself or other international bodies; Non-Governmental Organization, independent groups that work on various issues, including human rights, outside government control; Civil Society, which refers to the collective of non-governmental organizations and individuals working to promote various social causes and human rights; and Governmental, relating to governments or State authorities.

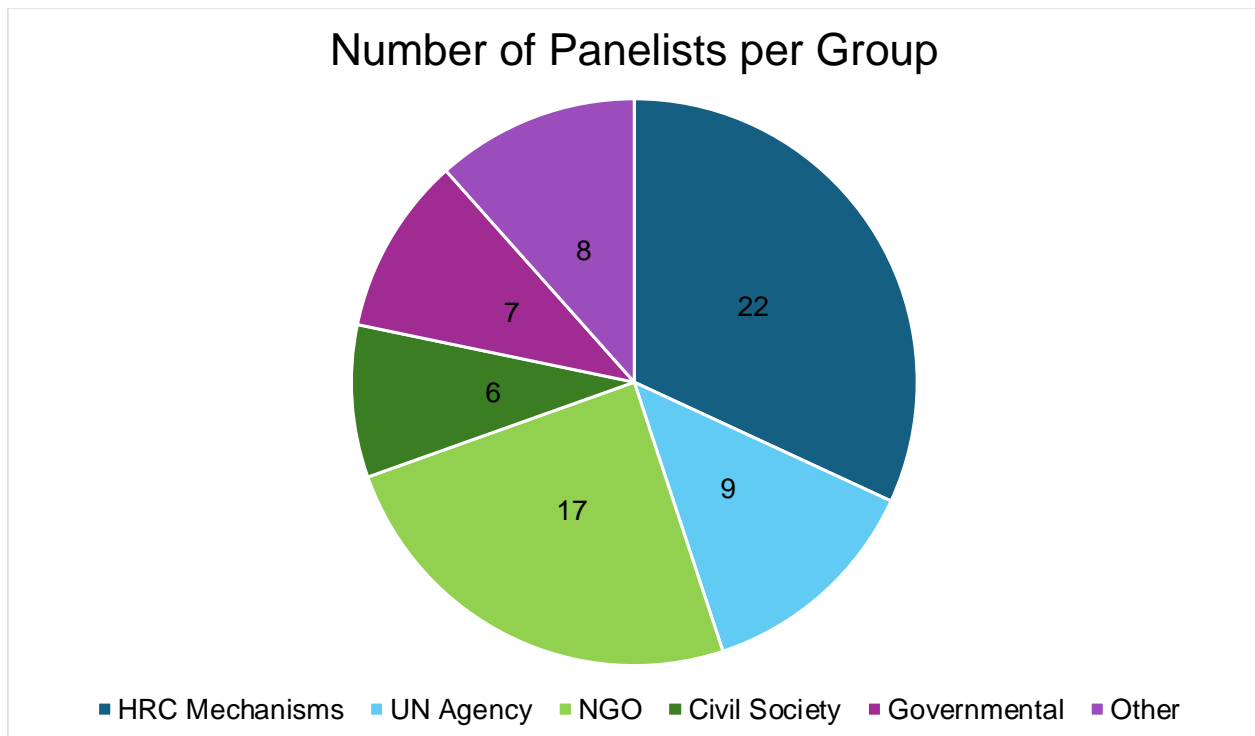


Figure 8: Graph of the number of panelists per group

The panelists come from various groups such as Special Procedures, UN Agencies, NGOs, Civil Society, Governmental bodies, and other entities. The distribution over the years is as follows: Special Procedures with 15 panelists, UN Agencies with 9 panelists, NGOs with 17 panelists, Civil Society with 6 panelists, Governmental bodies with 7 panelists, and other entities with 5 panelists (see Annex 3). The data indicates that NGOs are the most represented group, followed by Special Procedures and UN Agencies. This diversity reflects a broad range of expertise and perspectives contributing to the discussions. Indeed, while NGOs are the most represented group, their presence should be further bolstered to ensure diverse, grassroots perspectives are adequately voiced. A

focused effort to enhance representation from the global south is crucial for a more inclusive and comprehensive discussion on gender issues.

We then analyzed the gender distribution of the panelists over the years to gain insights into the representation within the Panels. Our analysis adhered strictly to the gender identifications provided by OHCHR during the panels, and we did not make any assumptions.

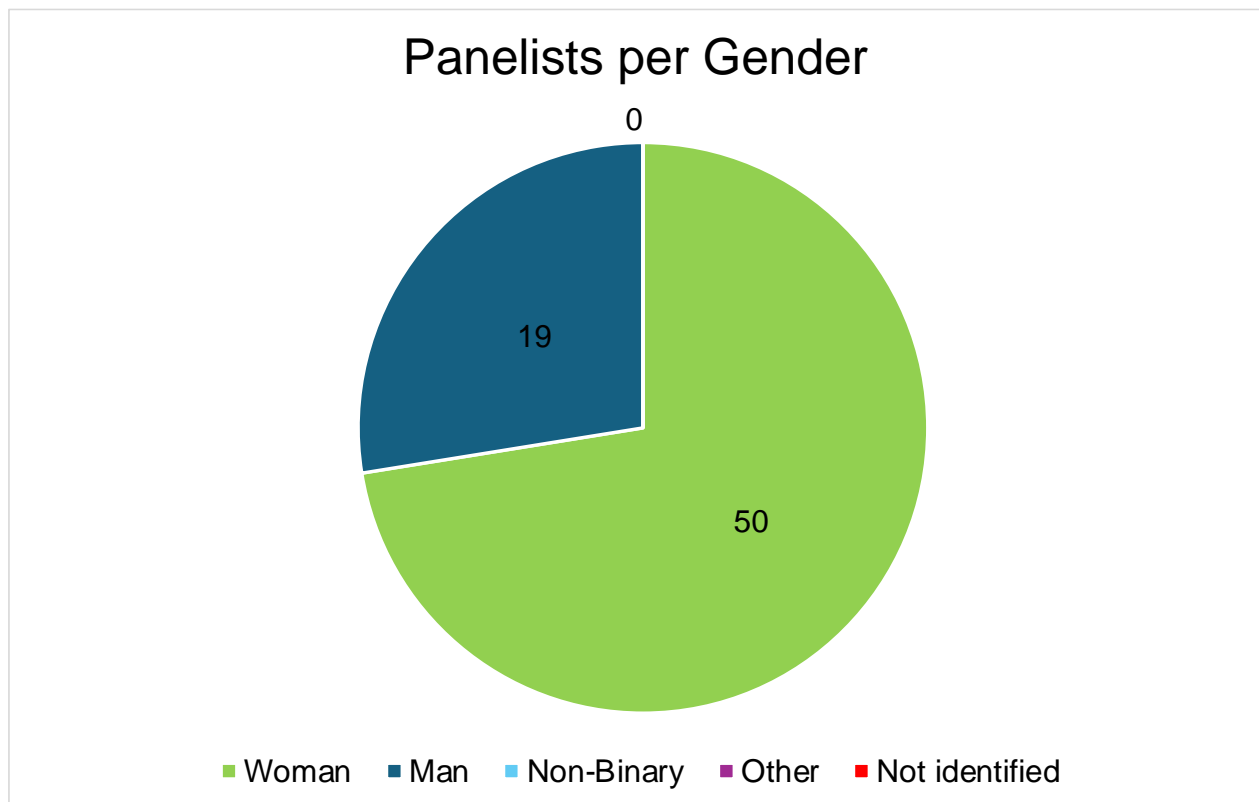


Figure 9: Graph of the number of panelists per gender

Among the panelists, women constitute a significant majority, with 50 out of 69 members being women, while men account for 19 (see Annex 4). It reflects a concerted effort to amplify women’s voices, experiences, and perspectives, recognizing their unique insights and expertise in advancing gender mainstreaming agendas. It serves as a powerful symbol of empowerment and representation for women globally within the HRC – especially on issues that directly affect them.

5.5. *States* who Engaged in the Panels by Making Oral Interventions

Modalities of State Participation

Every year, UN Member States, whether HRC members or observers, can make oral statements during Panel discussions. The list of speakers is established through an online inscription system, which opens prior to the day of the meeting. In the past, this list remained opened until the maximum number of speakers was reached (e.g., up to 30 for a 60-minute panel). State interventions were always limited to 2 minutes each. Per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups of States were moved to the beginning of the discussion. This meant that many times the European Union and other States speaking on behalf of regional organizations tended to speak at the beginning of the Panel. The Chair encouraged interactive response to panelists' interventions, often prompting questions. Delegates unable to take the floor due to time constraints were able to upload their statements on the online system to be posted on the HRC Extranet in the aftermath.

Number of States Making Oral Interventions

Over the years, many States have made oral interventions during the Panel discussions. The number of States intervening has varied, with an overall tendency to diminish over time (see Annex 6). In 2011, participation dropped from an average of 30 States to just 21. This decline is most probably linked to the change in the format in 2011 aimed at enhancing interaction, reducing the time available for State interventions from two slots of 45 minutes to only one slot of 45 minutes. This particularly low number of participants may also be due to a conflicting meeting, or to a lack of interest in the topic that year which was 'Institutional Action'. Similar decreases occurred in 2018, matching with the adoption of Resolution PRST OS/12/1, which reduced the time of the Panel discussion from 3 to 2 hours. Furthermore, we observed that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, participation was particularly low, although in-person meetings in 2023 marked a return to higher attendance levels.

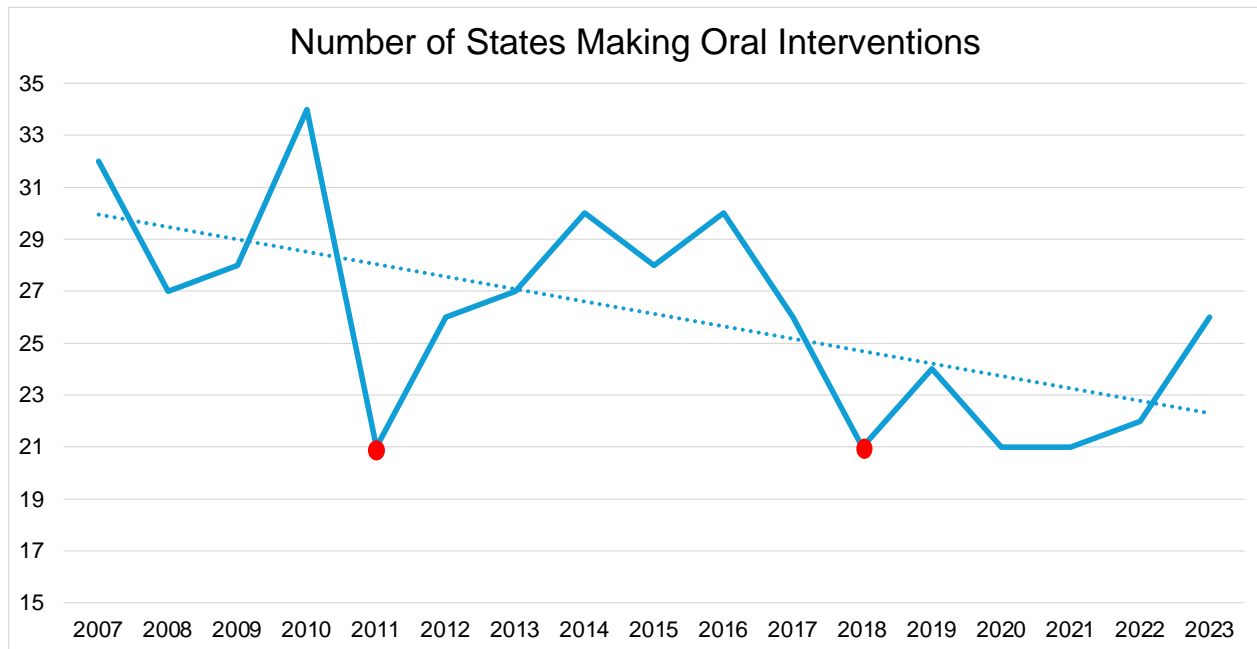


Figure 10: Graph of the number of States making oral interventions

Regional Representation

In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly Resolution 60/251, the HRC's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows:

- African States: 13 seats
- Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats
- Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats
- Western Europe and other States: 7 seats
- Eastern European States: 6 seats

All UN member States are allocated to one of these geographical groups and both HRC member States and UN member States as observers of the Council can participate in the Panel discussions.

Over the years we observed, geographical participation has varied. We saw that in 2007, when discussions were extended to six hours, participation rates were highest and evenly distributed

among geographical groups. However, in other years, such as 2009, 2010, 2018, 2021, and especially 2014, there was a great disproportion in the geographical distribution of State speakers.

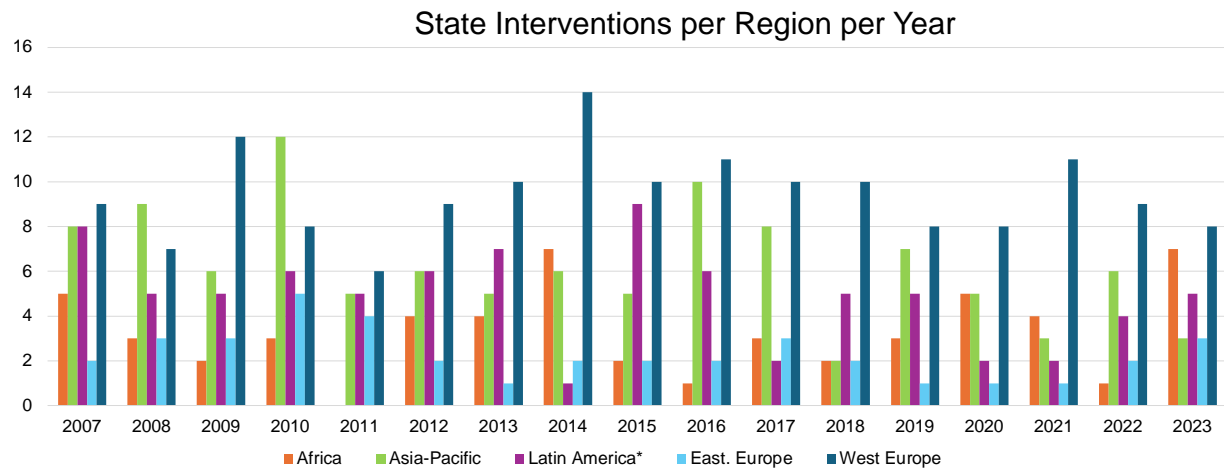


Figure 11: Graph of the State interventions per region, per year

Overall, proportionally to their total number of seats at the Council, Western European* States have spoken extensively more than other regions, followed by Latin American* States. This is probably linked to the fact that the main sponsors of resolution 6/30 and the gender integration panel are all Latin American and Western States.

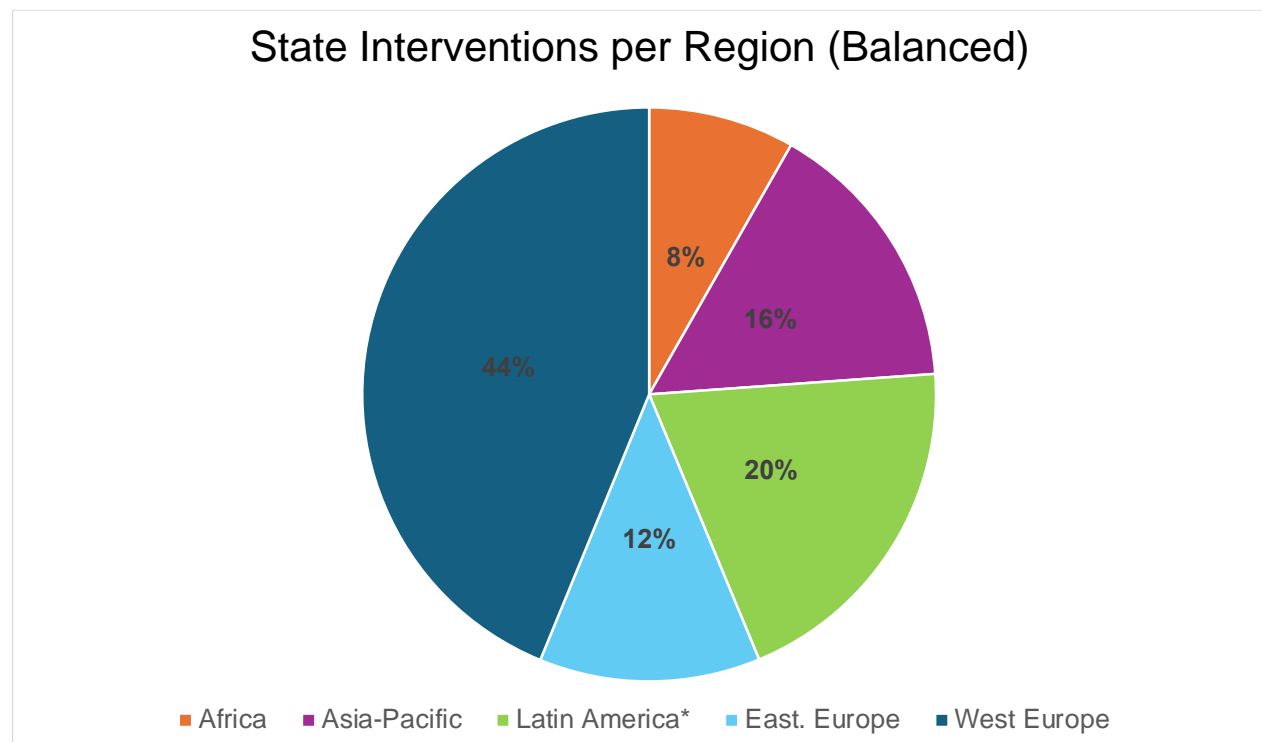


Figure 12: Balanced graph of the State interventions per region

Furthermore, regional groups organize through the modality of joint statements. These groups include the African group, the Asian Group, the Arab Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), Nordic-Baltic Countries, Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Benelux Countries, etc. They designate one of its members that deliver the statement on their behalf, noting at the beginning of the statement that they are speaking in the name of their group. The European Union has a particular status as it can make oral interventions in its own name at the Council, benefiting from an enhanced observer status. As Panel sessions shorten and speaking opportunities decrease, joint statements have become more frequent.

Proportion of Member States vs. Observer States

The HRC is composed of 47 member States, each with a limited mandate of three years, but the participants in the Panels are not only members of the HRC many times other UN member States who are not currently sitting in the council also participate in the discussion. We observed that the majority of participants in the gender integration Panel are observer States and not active member States of the HRC. Furthermore, we observed that out of the 47 States who are members of the HRC a lesser proportion of them participated in this Panel over the years.

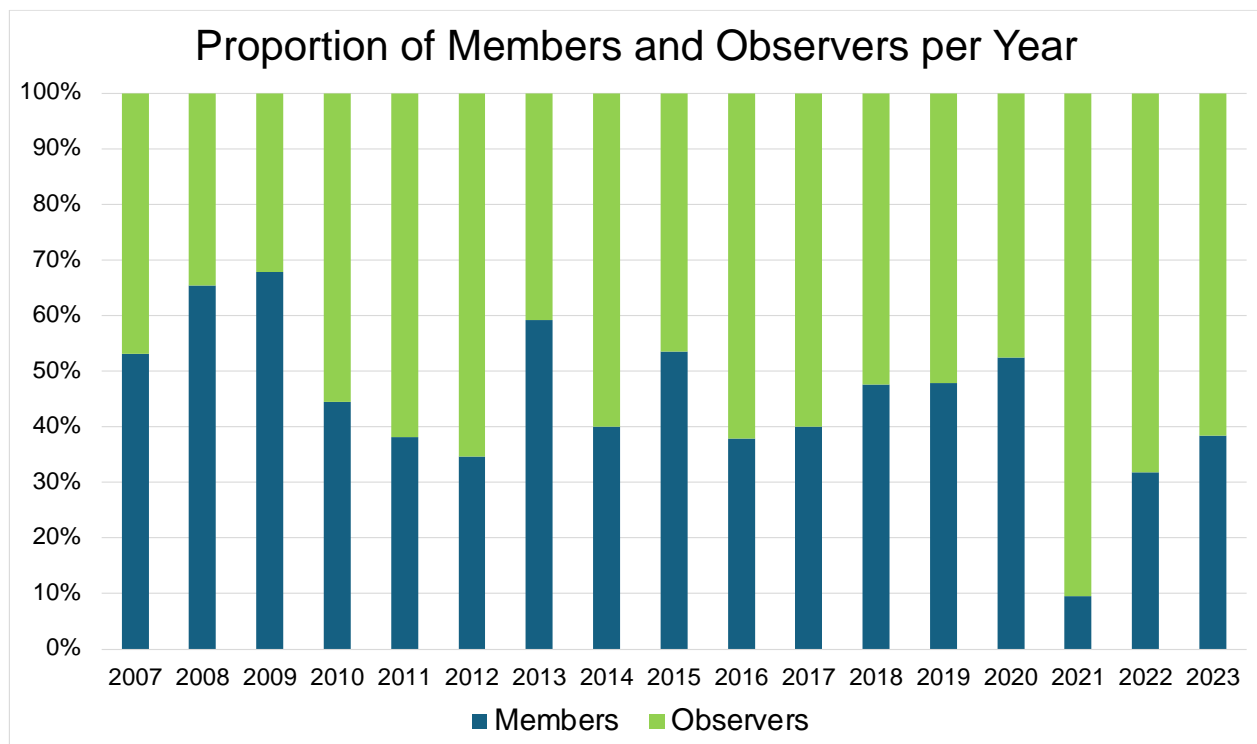


Figure 13: Graph of the proportion of members and observers per year

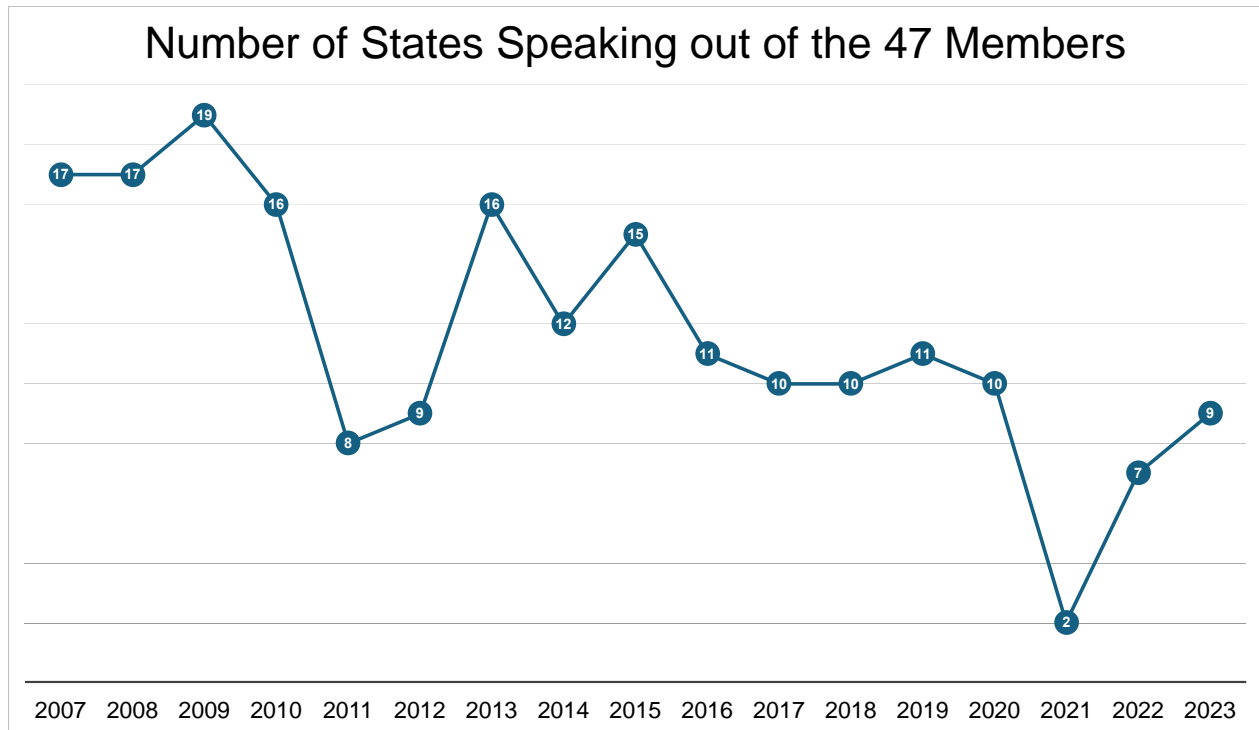


Figure 14: Graph of the number of States speaking out of the 47 members

5.6. Civil Society Groups Who Engaged in the Panels by Making Oral Interventions

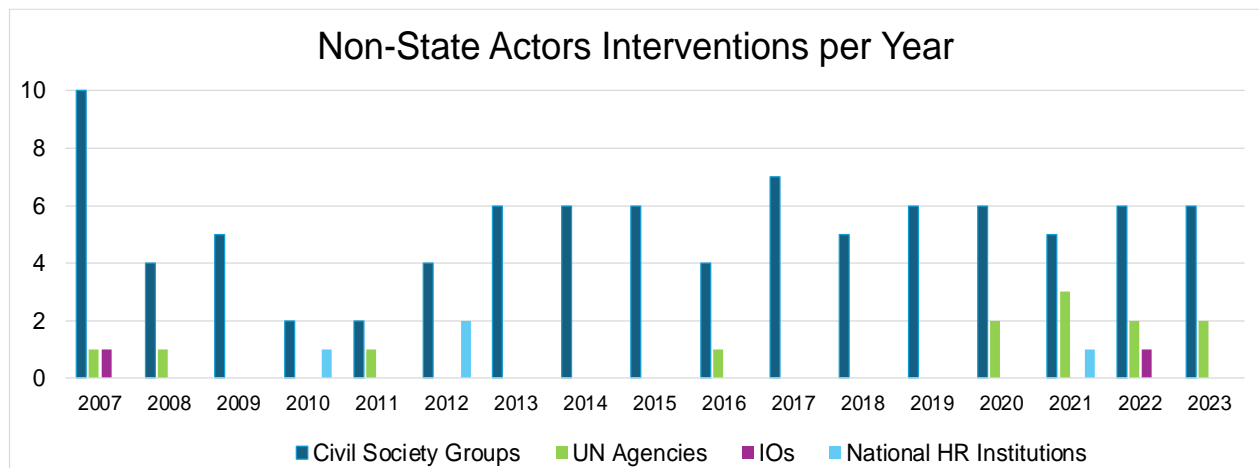


Figure 15: Graph of non-state actors' interventions per year

Civil Society Participation

We observed that from 2007 to 2023, 109 Civil Society Groups have spoken. Among them, 90 were part of civil society groups, 13 were UN Agencies, 2 were International Organizations (IOs),

and 4 were national institutions. The contrast in participation between Civil Society Groups and States from 2007 to 2023 is noteworthy. While 109 groups represented civil society organizations, a total of 442 States participated in discussions during the same timeframe. This indicates a considerable disparity in participation granted between governmental and non-governmental actors. While States contribute perspectives and policies, the active involvement of Civil Society Groups and other entities enriches the dialogue with grassroots insights, specialized knowledge, and alternative viewpoints.

Role of NGOs in Gender Mainstreaming

In the Panel, NGOs fulfill vital roles in analyzing and advancing the discussion on gender mainstreaming and its mechanisms. They offer invaluable insights to shape policies and practices prioritizing gender equality and inclusion. NGOs conduct research and gather data on gender-related matters, providing evidence-based insights into the efficacy of existing policies and identifying areas needing improvement. They also play a critical role in monitoring the implementation of gender mainstreaming initiatives and assessing their impact. They ensure that commitments made by the HRC are upheld and measure progress towards established gender equality objectives.

Trends in NGO Participation and Contributions

We noted fluctuations in the participation of NGOs on the Panel over the years. Although there is no consistent pattern of increase or decrease, it is apparent that since 2020, there has been an increase in the engagement of Civil Society Groups in the debate, despite a reduction in their allocated speaking time.

Several NGOs have spoken multiple times throughout the years, suggesting a continued commitment to the Panel's objectives and ongoing interest in contributing to gender mainstreaming efforts. Notable examples include Action Canada for Population and Development (mainly on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative), International Service for Human Rights, and Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, among others, which have been actively engaged for multiple years.

While the overarching theme across all NGOs is gender mainstreaming, there are variations in the specific topics or issues addressed by different organizations over time. Initially, NGOs primarily focused on core gender equality issues, such as women’s rights advocacy, reproductive health, and gender-based violence. However, in recent years, we observed a broadening of focus areas, with NGOs addressing a wider range of gender-related issues, including LGBTQIA+ rights, youth empowerment, environmental justice, and social inclusion. This reflects a growing recognition of intersectionality within gender issues, as well as a shift towards broader themes, moving away from the original objectives of the Panel. There are instances where organizations seemed to focus on issues other than HRC mechanisms. Examples include the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, World Blind Union, World Jewish Congress, European Union of Public Relations, and the Marriage Foundation. The presence of NGOs focusing on topics other than gender, marginalized groups, race, or the Global South seemed to be persistent but remains relatively low.

Additionally, there appeared to be a noticeable increase in the number of joint statements made by NGOs over the years, especially in the later years of the analysis. Joint statements involved collaboration among multiple NGOs to deliver a unified message within a limited timeframe.

5.7. Ways in which Actors *Engaged* in the Discussion

During the Panel discussions, all the actors described in the previous sections engage in the discussion by making oral interventions. The discussion is meant to be an interactive dialogue between the podium (opening orator(s) and panelists) and the floor (States, UN agencies, civil Society), guided by the chairperson and/or the moderator. Keeping in mind that this discussion is meant to be an interactive dialogue among actors reflecting on gender integration in the work of the council and its mechanisms, assessing progress, and challenges, and suggesting ways forward as mandated by Resolution 6/30, we observed patterns in how actors engage in the discussion. Over time, these patterns have been reinforced, and the stated objectives of the panel discussion seem to have been forgotten by most actors.

Equivocation Between Women and Gender

In the 17 panel discussions we analyzed, we observed a common tendency from actors, particularly Member States, to equate gender with women or women’s rights, often reducing it to violence against women. The binary understanding of gender, encompassing only traditional categories of

women and men as homogeneous, stereotyped groups, is still prevalent. The dominant nomenclature used by States is “women and girls.” While this expression is intended to include children, it is often purely performative, as few actors address how power structures, including patriarchy, affect children’s human rights.

In its 2009 report A/HRC/12/46, the OHCHR noted that: “*while the meaning of ‘gender’, ‘gender mainstreaming’, ‘gender equality’ and ‘gender parity’ have been clearly spelled out in numerous UN policy documents, there remains a divergence of views and understanding among Member States as to the respective definitions, which sometimes hampers optimal effectiveness and debate*” (A/HRC/12/46, para. 33). During the very first Gender Integration Panel in 2007, the Deputy High Commissioner dedicated a significant portion of her presentation emphasizing the significance of language and clarifying definitions. She stressed the adoption of a HR-based approach with a gender perspective, highlighting it impacts not only women and girls but also requires an examination of the HR implications for men and boys (A/HRC/12/46, para. 33).

We argue that gender analysis should encompass more than addressing the HR implications for women and girls and men and boys but should rather look at the way embedded and interlocking power structures, notably patriarchy, affect the enjoyment of HR of all, especially marginalized groups. Recently, some NGOs, some panelists, and some progressive States have started using the term “*people of gender diverse identities*”, allowing for more inclusive discourse. This is crucial as patriarchal systems undermine the HR of not only women but also children, racialized people, indigenous people, LGBTQIA+ persons, migrants, sex workers, disabled people, the poor, and other marginalized groups, etc. Overall, Equating gender with women hinders nuance and complexity in addressing gender perspectives and excludes affected actors from the discussion. This narrow focus on some women’s rights, without dismantling the power structures behind their oppression, is dangerous as it ignores discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors.

Performative Speeches and Lack of Focus in HRC Discussions

Many statements made by States are largely performative and devoid of relevant content. The States’ interventions often feel disconnected from the general discussion or the theme of the Panel. Despite having only two minutes, most States re-explain the issue at hand, often repeating data

already provided by panelists (e.g., restating women's employment statistics in HR bodies in 2023), making their contributions repetitive and unproductive. Furthermore, States typically emphasize the existence of problems without proposing solutions, giving the impression that they are merely ticking a box to show they understand the topic.

One of the main challenges to the effectiveness of the gender integration Panel discussions is that most actors do not seem to understand the goals of the discussion, that is to reflect on the State of gender mainstreaming in the HRC by evaluating progress and challenges and making recommendations of ways forward. Most actors rather discuss the topic thematically rather than how to integrate this perspective into the work of the Council and into its mechanisms. For example, during the 2020 Panel on intersectionality, most actors merely defined intersectionality and listed relevant identities without addressing its integration into the HRC's mechanisms. Consequently, there was little evaluation of the HRC's efforts to incorporate intersectionality, and few concrete methods or recommendations were suggested, except by panelists or civil society actors. Some States and civil society actors even neglect the year's topic entirely during panel discussions.

Lack of Interactivity

Despite the intent for the second part of the Panel to be interactive, very few States reacted to the panelists' presentations in a meaningful way or asked questions. When questions were asked, they were often vague, broad, untargeted, and were not in line with the stated objectives of the Panel as a mechanism for internal assessment of the HRC. Furthermore, many questions remained many times unanswered by the panelists. States tend to approach discussions individually or regionally, focusing on their achievements and learning rather than engaging in meaningful dialogue with others. Their sovereignty and internal oppositions hinder group collaboration, dialogue, and idea exchange, thus impeding effectiveness and institutional progress.

Focusing on National Work

Another recurrent aspect of State interventions is their tendency to display national improvements regarding gender issues, sometimes sharing good practices they have adopted. While national improvements are positive, there are downsides to these speeches. Firstly, these interventions often paint an overly positive picture of the national situation, which does not reflect the complex reality

and rarely addresses what remains unaddressed. The lack of self-criticism by States limits the conversation. Secondly, the good practices described do not contribute to discussions on improving gender integration in the work of the Council. An exception in 2023 was Chile's adoption of gender parity considerations in electing international diplomats, which was commended as a model for other States. Such sharing of national improvements would be better suited for the annual full-day discussion in June unless they inform how the HRC's work could better integrate a gender perspective.

Avoidance of Certain Topics

A striking aspect of these interactions was the strategic avoidance of certain topics by some actors. This avoidance often stems from a desire to maintain harmony or to avoid confronting uncomfortable truths that challenge prevailing norms or power structures.

Among the frequently sidestepped issues are intersectional concerns, encompassing complex, interrelated forms of discrimination. These include LGBTQIA+ rights, intergenerational poverty, post-colonial oppression, trans rights, sex worker rights, and the decriminalization of marginalized individuals and abortions. For instance, it was not until 2014 that the term “LGBTI” was first used at the HRC, highlighting the importance of including “LGBTI” women. Addressing these topics means tackling societal complexities, challenging conventional gender narratives, and exposing structural inequalities that perpetuate systemic injustice. Consequently, some actors, particularly States, prefer to focus on less controversial subjects. In 2021, during discussions on women’s freedom of expression, most States emphasized individuals attacking women for speaking freely, while neglecting their own policies that censor and restrict this freedom. They often addressed broader social structures without acknowledging their own practices or only praised their positive actions. In contrast, panelists and NGOs highlighted the broader issue, illustrating how States and elite politicians participate in censoring and repressing women who voice their opinions.

Debated Solutions

Even when actors agreed on the existence of an issue, they often disagreed on solutions. For instance, some advocated gender parity as key to integrating a gender perspective in the HRC, while others promoted a more inclusive approach considering marginalized women’s experiences and intersecting discrimination. Civil society organizations frequently called for decriminalizing

marginalized groups like sex workers and trans individuals, alongside increased funding and participation in discussions. States typically resist such measures, preferring to maintain the status quo. Some civil society groups argue for addressing underlying power structures like patriarchy, colonialism, and racism to tackle gender inequalities, but many states resist systemic changes, opting instead for limited reforms benefiting privileged women. In 2020, various actors proposed different solutions, with some prioritizing gender parity and others advocating intersectional approaches. Civil society pushed for more resources and discussion time, while states favored austerity measures and reduced funding. This resistance persisted into 2023, with most states preferring individual issue-based approaches over comprehensive HRC mechanisms.

5.8.Lack of Inclusion of Certain Actors in the Panel Discussions

Based on our analysis of Panel discussions over the years, and taking into account insights from various interviews, it becomes clear that some stakeholders are not included and others are over-represented on Panels. This ultimately detracts from the quality and inclusiveness of these important discussions.

Overrepresentation of States

First of all, State representatives were overrepresented on the Panels. This dominance of State actors often overshadows the contributions of civil society, which are crucial to a comprehensive understanding of gender issues and effective self-assessment. States play a crucial role in sharing their perspectives and lessons learned; however, the current format insufficiently accommodates civil society voices. This imbalance hinders the fostering of meaningful and diverse debates, which are essential for effectively addressing these issues, implementing accountability, and disseminating useful, and important knowledge.

Underrepresentation

A critical insight from the interview with the director of global policy & advocacy was the underrepresentation of individuals based in the Global South. Although the OHCHR strives to include representatives from various regions, there is a tendency to select individuals from the Global South who reside in the Global North. This practice inadvertently prioritizes perspectives from the Global North, which often lack the depth and context of experiences from the Global

South. She argues that this imbalance perpetuates a limited understanding of gender issues, often reflecting a form of “white feminism that does not encompass the diverse realities faced by women in the Global South” (Interview 1: director of global policy & advocacy, May 2024).

Scholar Jordaan also advocates for more Global South leadership in the HRC, especially regarding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) issues (Jordaan, 2016). Leadership at the HRC (see chapter 2, p.9) requires substantial resources, such as adequate diplomatic staff in Geneva and a wide network of national embassies, which many global South countries lack, limiting their ability to take the lead (Freedman, 2014). While their argument is addressing underrepresentation of Member States, this reality must be noted.

Obstacles to Civil Society Participation

Civil society participation is also hampered by explicit and implicit obstacles. The observations of the senior policy advisor from CWGL reveal instances of repression of civil society speakers, particularly those deemed too provocative or potentially disruptive. This resistance can take the form of outright refusal or self-censorship on the part of organizers who are not prepared to accept them. She stresses the importance of including members of marginalized communities in the States, not just by including a representative, but by involving them throughout the process. This approach involves working with panelists and civil society to ensure that their voices and views are fully represented and considered. Such practices limit the inclusion of critical voices that could challenge the status quo and bring new perspectives to the discussions (Interview 2: former senior policy advisor, May 2024).

6. Discussion

6.1. Findings

Legal Basis and Resolution 6/30

The basis for our analysis rests on foundational, legal documents such as the IB package and relevant resolutions (Res. 6/30, Res. 5/1), encompassing a broader framework beyond our own findings. It is imperative that States adhere to the commitments they initially agreed upon, including those negotiated during informal sessions where disagreements were voiced and concerns duly addressed. Resolution 6/30, in particular, underscores its objectives rooted in promoting gender integration and human rights within the HRC's mechanisms. Key paragraphs emphasize the unique role of the Panel in pioneering discussions that foster self-reflection and actionable initiatives among Member States, aiming to set a precedent for progress in addressing gender integration in the HRC mechanisms and advancing human rights globally.

Groundbreaking Mechanism

It has been seen that Resolution 6/30, particularly with the establishment of the gender integration Panel, was pioneering and innovative within the HRC upon its inception. It remains the foundational legal framework supporting all gender mainstreaming programs and initiatives within the Council. This Resolution introduced the first annual Panels held by the HRC, marking the beginning of “an era of Panel discussions” (Interview 3: former head coordinator, June 2024). The creation of the Panel was particularly groundbreaking, providing a self-assessment mechanism for the Council to be held accountable for advancing gender mainstreaming. This mechanism stands as the sole one of its kind within the HRC system. Despite its unique mandate, States have often treated it as routine, failing to fully harness its potential to drive significant progress in integrating gender within the Council's framework (*Ibid.*)

Themes Addressed

The selection of themes for the Panel, chosen by the OHCHR and 6/30 sponsor States, undergoes a progressive shift over three phases, moving away from its stated objectives (see chapter 6.1). The Panel should distinguish itself from the annual full-day meeting on the HR of women by prioritizing self-mirroring discussions addressing the work of the HRC including the work of all

its mechanisms. It is essential to maintain a balance in the thematic focus, ensuring that discussions remain useful and focused on mechanisms without becoming too broad, which dilutes their impact. If themes like ‘intersectionality’ or ‘the gender digital divide’ are chosen for the Panel, the discussion should address how to integrate an intersectional perspective in the Council’s work or how the gender digital divide operates in the HRC’s work and online meetings. The most effective discussion in terms of advancing gender mainstreaming were the early discussions whose yearly theme focused on a specific aspect of the HRC’s work or on one of its mechanisms. Such an approach should ensure that meaningful discussions about marginalized groups and contentious topics are addressed while ensuring that the primary objective is respected. To ensure that marginalized people’s perspectives are taken into consideration, inclusivity should be increased, and their meaningful participation ensured so that relevant actors may hold the HRC accountable in taking their differentiated experiences into account when integrating a gender perspective into its work.

Overall, gender parity was the most recurrent theme, benefiting from a disproportionate focus, given that most of the HRC mechanisms have yet to be addressed by this Panel. For instance, there has been no comprehensive assessment of gender integration within the special procedures of the HRC for the past 16 years. Similarly, the integration of gender perspective in the UPR process has not been revisited for seven years. Even though increased representation and inclusion are key, solely focusing on counting the number of women and men in the HRC bodies will not lead to significant advancements in terms of gender integration. The Council should rather focus on giving a privileged position and access to marginalized gender diverse persons. Moreover, there is a pressing need to explore the concrete integration of an intersectional perspective within the HRC’s operational structure as mandated by 6/30 paragraph 1 (see chapter 5.5). While the concept of intersectionality has been acknowledged, its practical application remains underexplored, particularly in specialized mechanisms. Finally, this Panel has yet to address gender and intersectional integration in other mechanisms than the UPR and special procedures notably: working groups, expert mechanisms, the advisory committee, the complaint procedures, the HRC consultative group, and maybe even the HRC Bureau or HRC-mandated investigative bodies. Addressing these gaps is crucial for ensuring gender mainstreaming across all aspects of the HRC’s mechanisms. Additionally, there is a notable absence of discussions on integrating gender perspectives in treaty bodies, despite Resolution 6/30 mandating “*the need to integrate a gender*

perspective in a more systematic way into all aspects of the work of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies”(A/HRC/RES/6/30, para. 8). To enhance accountability and progress, regular self-assessment sessions akin to the 2010 discussion would also be essential. These sessions would facilitate ongoing evaluation of the council’s efforts towards gender integration and assess the tangible outcomes produced by the Gender Integration Panel.

Podium Speakers and Panelists

We noted that in recent years, podium speakers and panelists do not often begin sessions with a clear reminder of the panel’s objectives, a practice which was common in early years. This default has led to a lack of focus, coherence, and effectiveness throughout the discussions. Moreover, there is a noticeable gap in addressing gender integration in the work of the HRC and of its mechanisms by panelists in comparison with early years. An increased focus of panelist’s analysis on the State of gender integration in the HRC, and recommendations of methodologies, solutions and ways further to fill the gaps identified, could significantly enhance the relevance and impact of these discussions. This approach would ensure that States and stakeholders are informed of the latest advancements and challenges regarding gender integration in the HRC, thereby fostering more inclusive and forward-thinking dialogue.

Interventions from the Floor

We raised concerns regarding the disproportionate representation of the Western European group compared to other regional groups, we observed the need for balanced participation to ensure diverse perspectives are adequately considered. We believe it would be important to incorporate opinions from a broader array of States beyond just sponsors, advocating for the active and effective involvement of other HRC members. But most importantly we observed that the meaningful participation of civil society actors including NGOs and Human Rights defenders as well as of marginalized individuals, was hindered by the adoption of “efficiency measures”. Such restrictions on civil society spaces have a disproportionate impact on structurally marginalized groups whose concerns do not receive sufficient time and attention. This inclusivity is vital for the council’s self-reflective mechanism to function effectively, as we must remember that civil Society actors were central to its inception. We suggest enhancing the role of non-State actors in the evaluation process, the preparation of Panels, and the debates held as we have observed that they

are most likely to hold the council accountable and suggest innovative solutions and methodologies in line with marginalized individual's needs.

Format and Inclusivity

The Panel's preparation should ensure States receive sufficient resources, including informational materials on the stated objectives, as well as expert's assessments and findings on the State of gender integration, these are vital for informed discussions and decision-making by all actors involved in the Panel discussion. These resources would also reinforce the Panel's objectives, maintaining focus and purpose in dialogues. We have a notable concern regarding the disappearance of the role of the moderator since 2020, impacting the facilitation of constructive dialogue. Moreover, as time allocations have decreased over the last year, speeches have suffered in terms of depth, relevance, and impact, limiting the substantive contributions delegates can make. This reduction in time has also impacted the dialogue around accountability, with fewer opportunities for panelists and other stakeholders to hold the HRC and Member States accountable for their commitments and actions. Moreover, there is a need for all actors to be reminded that these Panels should focus on assessing where integration is lacking and what hinders progress, that statements should suggest concrete solutions and actions to improve gender integration, and that national practices if shared, need to contribute and inform the advancement of gender mainstreaming across the HR architecture.

Resources

Unfortunately, many of the above concerns go hand in hand with a general lack of resources allocated for gender integration and would necessitate an increase in funding and capabilities to be addressed. Resources should notably increase, for the OHCHR to be able to efficiently conduct evaluations on where gender integration is lacking, and present the state of the art at the beginning of each Panel; for the HRC to be able to gather suggested solutions during Panel discussions and implement them; and to ensure that there is sufficient budget to accommodate the invitation of marginalized individuals coming notably from the global south and their meaningful participation.

6.2.Recommendations

Using Gender Integration Methodologies

- Implementing gender integration methodologies for identifying the measures required to achieve substantive equality between women and men, especially in the enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights.

Reinforcing the Panel as an Accountability Mechanism for the HRC's Internal Work

- Focusing each annual discussion on addressing the internal work and structure of the HRC while simultaneously incorporating the stated objectives of resolution 6/30.
- Regularly reviewing and evaluating the Council's efforts to integrate a gender perspective systematically.
- Presenting a report on the state of gender integration of the precise aspect discussed that session, including what had been achieved, what is lacking and what difficulties may be faced.
- Keeping thematic topics for the annual full day discussion on the rights of women.

Deepening the Analysis and Address Power Structures

- Deepening and broadening the Council's understanding and actions on gender equality.
- Stop equating gender with women and start addressing underlying power structures and stereotypes that lead to discrimination along gendered lines of all gender diverse people by adopting an intersectional feminist decolonial approach to gender mainstreaming.

Improving Interactivity and Meaningful Participation

- Providing historical context about the establishment of the Panel and the objectives of the annual discussion as stated in the Resolution (President).
- Focusing opening orators' speech on the situation of gender integration within the work of the Council, presenting data and information about what has been done and what is lacking, address each mechanism of the Council.

- Bringing back the moderator function
- Improving Interactivity, by asking States:
 - to react to the panelists presentation
 - to address the topic of the present panel
 - to focus internally on the HRC's work and that of its mechanisms
 - to only mention work done internally, if it is a good practice that may inform the HRC of a meaningful solution to improve gender mainstreaming in its work
 - to suggest solutions to issues discussed that the HRC could adopt
- Maintaining and expanding the participation of civil society in HRC panels and discussions. - Recognizing the value that civil society representatives bring to the table, offering grassroots insights, specialized knowledge, and alternative viewpoints.
- Increasing the number of panelists and Civil society speakers per panel and keep their speaking time sufficiently long.

Increasing Funding, Time, Resources and Facilitate Access

- Increasing funding for the OHCHR to be able to produce a yearly report on the state of gender integration in the work of the HRC and of each of its mechanisms
- Increasing funding and infrastructure for improved access to marginalized individuals (children, disabled people, people lacking financial resources, etc..)
- Providing training and resources to enhance their understanding and application of gender mainstreaming in their work.

7. Conclusion

The present Applied Research Project analyzes Resolution 6/30 of the HRC on gender mainstreaming within the UN system and the Gender Integration Panel it created. It establishes the historical context of the Gender Integration Panel otherwise absent in the literature and highlights the significance of feminist political efforts in establishing this mechanism. Through a rigorous analysis of the 17 Panels from 2007-2023, the research team observed the evolution of themes, format, speakers, systems of interaction, and inclusion across the years. The stated objectives of self-assessing and mainstreaming gender considerations in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms were implemented with differing efficiency across the gender integration Panels. The intensity that was prevalent in the first editions (2007-2011) has gradually diminished in recent years, as discussions have shifted towards focusing on gender equality-related themes.

Several recommendations were given to bring back the initial objectives stated in Resolution 6/30 back to the forefront as well as improving its implementation, specifically for the Gender Integration Panel. One main recommendation seeks to revive the way the objectives of the Panel were recalled by opening orators in early years. To tackle the lack of interactivity, reintroducing an independent moderator would contribute to more dynamic discussions. Addressing the initial objective of self-assessment, a stronger accountability mechanism must be established, either by constructing a tracking system for recommendations generated during discussions, thereby facilitating the implementation of said recommendations.

Given the limitations of the research project, particularly regarding access to informal negotiations, informal notes, recordings of all years, documentation and key actors in the establishment of Resolution 6/30 (e.g civil society actors and Member States), the following questions remain to be addressed and would benefit from further research endeavors:

- What were and are the positions and views of Member States (co-sponsors or not) regarding Resolution 6/30?
- What happened behind the scenes at the informal negotiations of Resolution 6/30? Are there any existent notes accessible from these negotiations? Is there any other content, formulations or nomenclature that was deleted from early drafts?

- What other civil society actors (individuals and NGOs) were behind the establishment of Resolution 6/30, knowing the importance of their inputs for the content of the Resolution? Could their involvement in Res 6/30 be an example of the crucial role played by civil society in the UN?
- What is the impact of the Gender Integration Panel on the HRC's gender mainstreaming efforts? Can change within the institution be assessed or even linked to the Panel, considering the limitations of establishing causal relations in the UN system? Can the impact of the Panel on improving the protection and enjoyment of HR for gender diverse marginalized individuals be assessed?
- What are the implications of other aspects included in Resolution 6/30 for the UN gender mainstreaming strategy, since this research project focused primarily on the gender integration Panel?

Concluding, this research project acts as an important reminder of the history behind the adoption of Resolution 6/30 and its groundbreaking role in advancing gender mainstreaming within the UN system. It may also serve as a support for revitalizing the efficiency and the focus of the Gender Integration Panel towards the accountability its creators intended it to bring about. This report also has the potential to support and inspire future advocacy for the strengthening of gender integration within the mechanisms of the HRC and the broader UN system.

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9. Appendix

Annex1 Sub-Themes Addressed per Main Themes

	Main theme	Sub-themes
2007	First gender integration discussion	Definition of Gender Mainstreaming
		Violence against women
		Monitoring
		Implementation
		UPR
		Special Procedures
		Men and their disproportionate HR violations
		Gender analysis
		Gender perspectives
		Gender considerations
		Sex-disaggregated data
		Protection gap for women
		Gender balance (e.g in SP, Advisory Committee)
		Gender dimensions in policy
		Gender as cross-cutting issue
		Intersectionality (intersection of discriminations)
		Important role of civil society
		Gender-specific human rights research
		Gender budgets
		Political will /resources
		GI as dual process/two-track approach
2008	GM in Special Procedures	Political participation
		Differentiated attention perspective
		Protection of women's rights
		Indigenous women's rights
		Inclusion of gender perspectives into thematic and country reports
		Reports on gender-specific forms and consequences of HR-violations
		Colonialisation and globalization altering indigenous gender roles
		Awareness promotion within all UN bodies
		Indigenous women facing multiple layers of discrimination
		Monitoring implementation of laws and policies
		Incorporation of cultural perspectives (of indigenous women) in implementation

		Gender dimension in children's rights violations
		Multisector analysis
		Rights approach
		Gender lens
		Systemic solutions against violence against women
		Evidence-based measures
		(Myth of) gender neutrality
		Thematic protection gaps between mandates
		Gender balance
		Gender expertise as desirable characteristic for mandate-holders
		Intersectionality
2009	GM in UPR	Self-reflection
		Discriminatory laws
		Strengthening of legal frameworks
		Sex disaggregated data
		Intersectionality
		States' budgets for gender parity & gender discrimination
		Architecture for gender equality and empowerment of women
		Gender expertise
		Sensitization trainings and workshops
		Financial and technical assistance for states
		Gender-issues related resources
		Gender as specific item in outcome reports
2011	GM as institutional practice	Self-scrutiny of the HRC
		Role of UN Women
		Equal representation men - women
		Alignment operational functions with normative ones (e.g UN Women)
		Importance of senior sponsorship
		Revision of implementation of Res 6/30
		Gender equality policy as internal guidance
		Gender equality strategy and empowerment of women 2006
		Strengthening institutional and normative frameworks
		Human-rights based approach in GM
		Holistic gender integration approaches
		Democratic space for NGOs
		Women in senior positions
		Gender parity/balance

		Allocation of resources (people and budgets)
		Flexible work arrangements
		Universal policies through the system
		Reporting by autonomous structures
		Gender facilitators (not just focal points)
		GM ownership
		Political will
		Lobbying by civil society
		Political representation of women
		Awareness-raising
		Feminization of poverty
		Trainings in gender
		System-wide coherent practices
		(Cultural) resistance
		Informal structures, power relation systems and dynamics
		Mental models
		Challenging personal assumptions on gender equality
		Power relations
		Gender as relational concept
		Analysis of violence also in terms of men
		Education of men
		Male health
		Fatherhood/paternity as entry point to female empowerment (of their daughters)
		Alliances between different movements
		Domestic work
		Emphasis on liability of both state and none-state actors
		Gender equality as competency required for every staff member
		Ownership of accountability framework
		Consequences for not taking action
		Engagin men as part of solutions (e.g violence against women)
		Focused results
		Best practices
		Cultural, religious, linguistic diversities
		Unnecessary duplications
2012	Economic social and cultural rights of women	The empowerment of women
		Disable women
		MDGs

		2015 Agenda
2013	The contribution of civil society	Special procedures
		UPR
		Protection and promotion of women's human rights
		Gender equality
2014	Country-focused work	Challenges
		Good practices
		LGBTI movements
		Gender norms
2015	Gender parity	Gender balance
		Compulsory quota system
		Women's participation
		Beijing Platform Action
2016	Resolutions and recommendations	Access to resources
		Combating GBV
		Intersectionality
		Enacting policy frameworks
		Women's representation
		empowerment
		Leveraging IOs for advocacy and action
		Access to education
		Healthcare
		Gender-sensitive approach
2017	UPR and the 2030 Agenda	Gender-based discrimination
		Intersectionality
		Marginalised groups
		Access to services
		National priorities
		International cooperation
		Holding States accountable
		UPR and SDGs
		Women's participation
		Women's representation
		Better implementation
2018	HR investigations	Gender-sensitive methods
		Intersectionality
		SGBV

		Empowering survivors
		Empowering HR defenders
		Structural inequalities
		National policies
		Accountability for HR violations
		Holistic approach
2019	Gender Equality	Representation and participation
		Gender parity
		Intersectionality and diversity
		Policy integration and analysis
		Women empowerment
		Capacity building and education
		Healthcare and reproductive rights
		GBV
		Technology and innovation
		Cultural and social norms
2020	Intersectionality	Age
		Black women
		Climate Change
		COVID 19
		Drug users
		Healthcare
		LGBTQI+ people
		Men and boys
		Migrant women
		Poverty
		Sex workers
		Violence
		Women with disabilities
2021	Gender Digital Divide	COVID 19
		Digital divide
		Increase in gender-based violence
		Power structures
		Intersectionality
		(Women) Human Rights Defenders
		Economic issues
		Healthcare

		Climate Change
2022	Freedom of Expression	Freedom of expression and opinion
		Freedom of assembly and protest
		Criminalization and censorship
		Gender-based violence
		Power structures
		(Women) Human Rights Defenders
		Women) Journalists
		Parliaments and (women) politicians
		Sexual and reproductive rights
		Climate Change
		School and education
		Gender parity
2023	Gender Parity	Gender parity in international bodies
		Gender parity in national bodies
		Participation of women in decision-making processes
		Integration of a gender perspective
		Power structures
		Gender in/equality, barriers
		Intersectionality and diversity
		Justice
		Overrepresentation of women in bodies tackling gender or care issues
		SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)
		Implementation of resolution 6/30
		Peace and development
		Feminism and feminist lens
		Supporting women
		Civil society and the HRC's engagement with civil society
		Backlash against women's HR
		Education

Annex 1 bis. Evolution of the Format

Years	Duration	Format	Analysis
2008-2010	Total: 3h	<p>1st part: Introduction (45 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction by the Chairperson 2) Opening statement and if keynote speaker 3) Presentations by the panelists: 8 min each <p>2nd part: 2 slots of interactive discussion (2h)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Comments and questions by actors: 45 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States (3 min each) • Observers (2 min each) • UN agencies (2 min each) • civil society (2 min each) 2) Answers of the panelists: 15 min <p>→ 2 x 1h</p> <p>3rd part: Conclusion (15 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Moderator's concluding remarks 	Initial system.
2011-2013	Total: 3h	<p>1st part: Introduction (?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction by the Chairperson 2) Opening statement and if keynote speaker <p>2nd part: 2 slots of questions to the panelists (1h)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Round of questions by the moderator to each panelist 4) Answers of the panelists (7 min each) <p>→ 2 x 30 min</p> <p>3rd part: interaction with the floor (45 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Comments and questions by actors (2 min each) 6) Panelists' answers to the floor's questions <p>4th part: Conclusion (?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) Moderator's concluding remarks 	<p>Panelists spoke 2x more than before and states less.</p> <p>More interactive.</p>
2014-2017	Total:3h	<p>1st part: Introduction (15 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction by the Chairperson 2) Opening statement and if keynote speaker <p>2nd part: 1 slot of questions to the panelists (1h)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Round of questions by the moderator to each panelist 2) Answers of the panelists (7 min each) <p>→ 2 x 30 min</p> <p>3rd part: 2 slots of interaction with the floor (2h)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Comments and questions by actors (45 min) 2) Answers by panelists (15 min) 	<p>Panelists spoke 2x less and states 2x more again.</p>

		<p>→ 2 x 1h</p> <p>4th part: Conclusion (?)</p> <p>1) Moderator's concluding remarks</p>	
2018-2019	Total: 2h	<p>1st part: Introduction (?)</p> <p>1) Introduction by the Chairperson</p> <p>2) Opening statement</p> <p>2nd part: 1 slot of questions to the panelists (30 min)</p> <p>1) Round of questions by the moderator to each panelist</p> <p>2) Answers of the panelists</p> <p>3rd part: 2 slots of discussion (1h)</p> <p>1) Comments and questions by actors (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interventions from the floor for States and observers (2 min each) • international organizations (2 min each) • national HR institutions (2 min each) • non-governmental organizations (2 min each) <p>4th part: Conclusion (20-30 min)</p> <p>1) Panelists concluding remarks</p> <p>2) Moderator's concluding remarks</p>	<p>Adoption of resolution PRST OS/12/1 shortening panels to 2h.</p> <p>Less interactive.</p>
2020-2023	Total: 2h	<p>1st part: Introduction (30-40min)</p> <p>1) Introduction by the Chairperson</p> <p>2) Opening statement</p> <p>3) Panelist's presentations</p> <p>2nd part: 2 slots of discussion (1h)</p> <p>1) Comments and questions by actors (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interventions from the floor for States and observers (2 min each) • international organizations (2 min each) • national HR institutions (2 min each) • non-governmental organizations (2 min each) <p>4th part: Conclusion (20-30 min)</p> <p>1) Panelists concluding remarks</p>	<p>Abandoning of the role of the moderator.</p> <p>Even less interactive.</p>

Annex 2. Podium speakers

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chairperson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moderator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Opening Orator		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Keynote Speaker or "Welcome Adress"					1				1								

Annex 2 bis. List of Podium Speakers

List of Speakers (chairpersons, moderators, opening orators, keynote speakers)

	2007	Function
Chairperson	Doru Costea (ROU)	President of the HRC
Moderator	Maria Nzomo	Permanent Representative of Kenya
Opening Orator		
Keynote Speaker		
	2008	Function
Chairperson		
Moderator	Clemencia Forero Ucros	Permanent Representative of Colombia
Opening Orator	Navanethem Pillay	High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2009	Function
Chairperson		
Moderator	Alex Van Meeuwen	President of the HRC
Opening Orator		
Keynote Speaker		
	2010	Function
Chairperson		
Moderator	Sihesak Phuangketkeow	President of HRC
Opening Orator	Kyung-wha Kang	Deputy High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2011	Function
Chairperson	Gulnara Iskakova	Vicepresident of the HRC
Moderator	Christine Chinkin	Professor of International Law, LES
Opening Orator	Bacre Ndiaye	Director HRC Treaties Division
Welcome Adress	Laura Dupuy Lasserre	President of the HRC
	2012	Function
Chairperson	Laura Dupuy Lasserre	President of the HRC
Moderator	Radhika Balakrishnan	Executive Director, CWGL, Rutgers University
Opening Orator	Bacre Ndiaye	Special Procedures Division, OHCHR
Keynote Speaker		
	2013	Function
Chairperson	Remigiusz Achilles Henczel	President of the Human Rights Council
Moderator	Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda	Secretary-General of the World YWCA
Opening Orator	Navanethem Pillay	High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		

	2014	Function
Chairperson	Baudelaire Ndong Ella	President of the HRC
Moderator	Christine Chinkin	Professor of IHL , LSE
Opening Orator	Jane Connors	Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR
Keynote Speaker		
	2015	Function
Chairperson	Joachim Ruecker	President of the HRC
Moderator	Patricia Schulz	Member and Rapporteur of CEDAW
Opening Orator	Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein	High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker	The Queen of the Belgians	Head of State
	2016	Function
Chairperson	Choi Kyonglim	President of the HRC
Moderator	Rama Mani	Senior Research Associate
Opening Orator	Kate Gilmore	Deputy High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2017	Function
Chairperson	Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli	President of the HRC
Moderator	Claire Somerville	Gender Center IHEID
Opening Orator	Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein	Deputy High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2018	Function
Chairperson	Cristóbal González-Aller Jurado	Vice-President HRC
Moderator	Emily Kenney	UN Women
Opening Orator	Kate Gilmore	Deputy High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2019	Function
Chairperson	Carlos Mario Foradori	Vice-President HRC
Moderator	Caitlin Kraft-Buchman	Women at the table
Opening Orator	Kate Gilmore	Deputy High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2020	Function
Chairperson	Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger	President HRC
Moderator		
Opening Orator	Michelle Bachelet	High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		
	2021	Function
Chairperson	Ebyan Mahamed Salah	Vice-President HRC
Moderator		
Opening Orator	Michelle Bachelet	High Commissioner

Keynote Speaker		
	2022	Function
Chairperson	Federico Villegas	President HRC
Moderator		
Opening Orator	Peggy Hicks	Special Procedures OHCHR
Keynote Speaker		
	2023	Function
Chairperson	M. M. Macdonal Alvarez	Vice-President HRC
Moderator		
Opening Orator	Nada Al-Nashif	Deputy High Commissioner
Keynote Speaker		

Annex3. List of Panelists per Year

2007	Function
Ms. Kyung-wha Kang	Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy	Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict
Mr. Miloon Kothari	Special Rapporteur
Ms. Charlotte Bunch	Civil society representative and Center for Women's Global Leadership
2008	Function
Mr. James Anaya	Special Rapporteur
Ms Najat M'jid Maala	Special Rapporteur
Mr. Sandeep Prasad	Gender Expert (ACPD)
Ms. Gulnara Shaninian	Special Rapporteur
2009	Function
Ms. Barbara Evelyn Bailey	CEDAW
Ms. Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah	CERD
Ms. Maria Virginia Bras Gomes	CESCR
Dr. Jeremy Sarkin	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Ms. Leilani Farha	Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation
Ms. Cecilia Rachel Quisumbing	Commission on HR of the Philippines
2010	Function
Prof. Emmanuel Decaux	HRC Advisory Committee
Mr. Roberto Garreton	HRC Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Ms. Florence Sambiri-Jaoko	Kenyan National HR Commission
Ms. Cynthia Rothschild	Independent gender expert
Ms. Jane Hodges	Gender Equality Bureau for the ILO
2011	Function

Ms. Reine Alapini Gansou Ms. Hala Ghosheh Ms. Savitri Goonesekere Ms. Aparna Mehrotra Mr. Marcos Nascimento	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Gender Social Fund Jordan Intl' Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific UN Women Promundo and expert on gender and masculinity
2012	Function
Mr. Moez Doraid Ms. Fátima Duarte Ms. Leilani Farha Ms. Preggs Govender Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda	UN Women Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality International Network on ESCR, and Canada without Poverty South African Human Rights Commission Special Rapporteur
2013	Function
Mr. Chaloka Beyani Ms. Mozn Hassan Ms. Neha Sood Ms. Penny Williams	Special Rapporteur Nazra for Feminist Studies Action Canada for Population and Development Global Ambassador for Women and Girls
2014	Function
Mr. Moez Doraid Ms. Gloria Maira Vargas Mr. Mr. Ahmed Shaheed Ms. Bineta Diop	UN Women National Chilean Service for Women Special Rapporteur Femmes Afrique Solidarité
2015	Function
Mr. Michael Møller Ms. Virginia Dandan Ms. Tracy Robinson Mr. Subhas Gujadhur	United Nations Office at Geneva Expert on HR and intl' solidarity and Committee of Special Procedures Special Rapporteur Universal Rights Group
2016	Function
H.E. Mr. Boudjemâa Delmi Ms. Christine Brautigam Mr. Juan Ernesto Méndez Ms. Aoife Hegarty	Ambassador and Perm Rep of Algeria UN Women Special Rapporteur UPR Info
2017	Function
Mr. Roland Chauville Ms. Salma Nims Ms. Dorothy Nyasulu Ms. Eva Grambye	UPR Info Commission for Women in Jordan UNFPA Danish Institute for Human Rights
2018	Function
Ms. Shuvai Nyoni	African Leadership Centre, former Gender Adviser

Ms. Madeleine Rees	WILPF
Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro	Independent Intl' Commission of Inquiry on Syria
2019	Function
Ms. Elizabeth S. Salmón	HRC Advisory Committee
Ms. Alejandra Vicente	Redress and GQUAL
Ms. Mariana Mutzenberg	IPU
2020	Function
Ms. Winnie Byanyima	UNAIDS
Mr. F. González Morales	Special Rapporteur
Dr. J. Crear Perry	NBEC
Ms. Pragna Patel	Southall Black Sisters
2021	Function
Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng	Special Rapporteur
Ms. Tatiana Vasconcelos	Disability consultant
Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder	ITU
Ms. Lainah Ndiweni	Veritas Zimbabwe
2022	Function
Ms. Irene Khan	Special Rapporteur
Ms. Mariana Duarte	IPU
Ms. Julie Posetti	International Center for Journalists
Ms. Jonelle Tan	Climate Activist
2023	Function
Ms. Aua Baldé	Working Group forced disappearances
Prof. Frans Viljoen	HRC Advisory Committee
Ms. Alejandra Vicente	Redress and GQUAL

Annex 3. Number of Panelists per Group

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
HRC Adv Committee	1			1									1				1	4
Working Group			1	1													1	3
Special Procedures	2	3				1	2	1	2	1				1	1	1		15
UN Agency				1	1	1		1	1	1	1			1	1			9
IO													1			2		3
NGO		1	3			1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1		1	17
Civil Society	1				2						1				1	1		6
Other				1	2							2						5

Governmental			1	1			2		1		1	1						7
Total	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	69

Annex 4. Number of panelists per Gender

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Woman	3	2	5	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	4	2	50
Man	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1		1	1		1	19
Non-Binary																		0
Other Not identified																		0

Annex 5. List of States speaking by region in colors

List of States Speaking by Region in Colors

5 regional groups:
 African States (orange)
 Asia-Pacific States (pink)
 Latin American & Caribbean States (yellow)
 Eastern European States (green)
 Western European & other States (blue)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Egypt	Algeria	Algeria	Morocco	African Union	India	Egypt	Libya	Ethiopia	Sierra Leone	Libya	Botswana	Angola	Angola	Burkina Faso (JS)	Burkina Faso	Lesotho	Egypt
Ethiopia	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco	Indonesia	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Burkina Faso	Togo	Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	Egypt (JS)	Algeria
Morocco	Nigeria	Bangladesh	Tanzania	Tanzania	Iran	Algeria	Algeria	Sudan	Sudan	Pakistan	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Zambia	Zambia	Zambia	Egypt	Cyprus
South Africa	China	China	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Algeria	Algeria	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	China	Tunisia	Tunisia	Zambia	Zambia	Zambia	Angola	Angola
Tunisia	Iran*	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Maldives	China	Thailand	Morocco	Morocco	Republic of Korea	India	Brazil	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Korea*	Senegal
Bangladesh	Japan	Iran*	Iran*	Iran*	Argentina	Maldives	Thailand	Morocco	Morocco	Pakistan (JS)	Chile	Indonesia	Pakistan	Viet Nam	Viet Nam	India	Togo
Japan	Jordan	Pakistan (JS)	Pakistan (JS)	Iran*	Brazil	Thailand	Thailand	Maldives	Maldives	India	Pakistan	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar	Pakistan	Mauritius
Malaysia	Oman	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Japan	Chile	Syria	Syria	Iran	Iran	Qatar	Qatar	Mexico	Marshall Island	Marshall Island	Marshall Island	Chile	Indonesia
Pakistan	Pakistan (JS)	Brazil	Brazil	Maldives	Cuba	Qatar	Qatar	Cuba	Cuba	Thailand	Thailand	UAE*	Venezuela	Venezuela	Venezuela	Republic of Korea	Indonesia
Philippines	Philippines	Chile	Chile	Pakistan (JS)	Paraguay	Philippines	Philippines	Iran	Iran	UAE*	UAE*	UAE*	UAE*	UAE*	UAE*	Maldives	Republic of Korea
Republic of Korea	Thailand	Philippines	Philippines	Pakistan (JS)	Azerbaijan	Argentina	Cuba	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Chile	Vietnam	Vietnam	Albania	Albania	Albania	Georgia	China
Sri Lanka	Thailand	Mexico	Mexico	Republic of Korea	Croatia	Honduras	Mexico	Chile	Chile	Colombia	Colombia	Colombia	Chile	Bahamas	Chile	Australia	Jamaica
Venezuela	Argentina	Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Syria (JS)	Russia*	Peru	Paraguay	Venezuela	Venezuela	Colombia	Colombia	Chile	Mexico	Finland	Luxembourg	Slovenia	Brazil
Brazil	Brazil	Russia*	Russia*	Vietnam (JS)	Belgium	Chile	Brazil	Lithuania	Lithuania	Paraguay	Dominican Rep	Georgia	Greece	Finland	Luxembourg	Belgium	Peru
Brazil (JS)	Cuba	Slovenia	Slovenia	Argentina	Canada	Paraguay	Chile	Bolivia	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ecuador	Ecuador	Russia*	Russia*	Russia*	Belgium	Peru
Chile	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium	Canada	Paraguay	Chile	Poland	Poland	Poland	Dominican Rep	Dominican Rep	Dominican Rep	Russia*	Russia*	Russia*	France	Georgia
Colombia	Azerbaijan	Canada (JS)	Canada (JS)	France	Turkiye	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Russia*	Russia*	Georgia	Bulgaria	Netherlands	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Austria	Ireland	Romania
Mexico	Russia*	Finland	Finland	Costa Rica (JS)	Australia	Australia	Spain	Montenegro	Montenegro	Georgia	Bulgaria	Netherlands	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Austria	Ireland	Romania
Nicaragua	Slovenia	France	France	Mexico	Canada	Paraguay	Chile	Switzerland	Switzerland	Russia*	Canada	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Spain	Spain	Spain
Panama	Canada	Ireland	Ireland	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*	EU*
Russia*	Finland	Netherlands	Netherlands	Azerbaijan	Portugal	Portugal	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia
Slovenia	France (JS)	Norway	Norway	Lithuania	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece	Greece
Australia	New Zealand	Sweden (US)	Sweden (US)	Russia*	Finland	Finland	Finland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland
Canada	Canada	Switzerland	Switzerland	Slovenia	US	US	US	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia
Finland	Switzerland	Turkiye	Turkiye	Ukraine	Denmark	Austria	Austria	Australia	Australia	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
Netherlands	UK	Australia	Australia	Netherlands	Turkiye	Turkiye	Turkiye	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands
New Zealand	Turkiye	USA	USA	European Union	Turkiye	Turkiye	Turkiye	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
Portugal	Turkiye	USA	USA	European Union	Turkiye	Turkiye	Turkiye	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
Sweden	Turkiye	USA	USA	European Union	Turkiye	Turkiye	Turkiye	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
Switzerland	Turkiye	USA	USA	European Union	Turkiye	Turkiye	Turkiye	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
Turkiye	Turkiye	USA	USA	European Union	Turkiye	Turkiye	Turkiye	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
TOTAL	32	27	28	34	21	26	27	30	28	30	26	21	24	21	21	22	26

Annex 6. Number of States that speak per region

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Africa	5	3	2	3	0	4	4	7	2	1	3	2	3	5	4	1	7	56
Asia-Pacific	8	9	6	12	5	6	5	6	5	10	8	2	7	5	3	6	3	106
Latin America*	8	5	5	6	5	6	7	1	9	6	2	5	5	2	2	4	5	83

East. Europ e	2	3	3	5	4	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	39
West Europ e	9	7	12	8	6	9	10	14	10	11	10	10	8	8	11	9	8	160
TOTAL	32	27	28	34	20	27	27	30	28	30	26	21	24	21	21	2	2	26

Annex 7. List of Civil Society Groups who spoke and their concerns

	Civil Society Groups	Concerns/ topics
2007	International Federation of University Women (JS)	Women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education, and training up to the highest levels
	International Women's Rights Action Watch (JS)	Committed to the full realisation of women's human rights through the pursuit of equality - Asia Pacific
	Action Canada for Population and Development (JS)	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
	Femmes Afrique Solidarité FAS (JS)	Dedicated to empowering African women to assume a leadership role in building peace
	International Institute for Non-aligned Studies	Established to advocate for minority, women, and children's rights, sustainable development, democracy, human rights, and principled counterterrorism efforts
	Baha'I International Community	Dedicated to advancing civilization, believing in ongoing human development and global interconnectedness at a new stage
	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace	Established during World War II to promote the formation of a successor to the League of Nations, namely the United Nations
	International Service for Human Rights	Promotes and protects human rights by supporting defenders, strengthening standards and systems, and leading coalitions for change
	World Organization Against Torture	The world's largest coalition of NGOs fighting against arbitrary detention, torture, executions, forced disappearances, and violence
	Association tunisienne des mères	Believes mothers play a vital role in imparting knowledge to future generations, focusing on literacy, education, and supporting marginalized mothers
	UNFPA	Ensures safe pregnancies, promotes reproductive health, and supports gender equality worldwide
OIF	Promotes French language and cultural diversity while advocating for democracy, human rights, and sustainable development among its member states	
2008	Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International (JS)	Work to expose and address human rights abuses globally through research, advocacy, and campaigns
	International Federation of University Women (JS)	Women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education, and training up to the highest levels
	Development Alternatives with Women for a new Era	A transnational feminist network from the global South, advocating for gender, ecology, and economic justice, and highlighting their interconnectedness
	Federation of Cuban Woman	Aimed to promote women's rights, gender equality, and reproductive health, focusing on workforce inclusion and participation in social and economic change
	UNFPA	Ensures safe pregnancies, promotes reproductive health, and supports gender equality worldwide
2009	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (JS)	Feminist peacebuilding, global feminist peace movement
	Human Rights Watch	Investigates and reports on global human rights abuses, advocating for justice and protecting individuals' rights through lobbying and public awareness campaigns
	Women Federation for World Peace International (JS)	Empowers women as peacebuilders through education, advocacy, and partnerships for a peaceful future across all cultures and religions
	International Federation of Human Rights Leagues	Advocates for human rights globally, defending victims, monitoring violations, and promoting accountability through advocacy and legal action
	International Federation of University Women	Women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education, and training up to the highest levels
2010	Worldwide Organization of Women (JS)	Advocates for gender equality and women's rights globally, empowering women and promoting policies that support their well-being
	Control Regional de Derechos* (JS)	Works to protect human rights through monitoring, advocacy, and collaboration with local and international partners
2011	Worldwide Organization for Women	Advocates for gender equality and women's rights globally, empowering women and promoting policies that support their well-being

	Verein Sudwin Entwicklungspolitik	Tackles North-South issues, promoting sustainable development and equality while critiquing neoliberal globalization and supporting marginalized communities
	UNFPA	Ensures safe pregnancies, promotes reproductive health, and supports gender equality worldwide
2012	Stüdwind Entwicklungspolitik	Promotes sustainable development, advocates for equality, supports marginalized communities, and engages in policy advocacy for inclusivity
	World Blind Union	Promotes global rights and inclusion for the blind and partially sighted, offering resources and advocating for accessibility and equal opportunities
	COC Netherlands	Promotes LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance, offering support, education, and resources, while advocating for equality and inclusivity through policy engagement
	Sexual Rights Initiative	Advocates for sexual and reproductive rights at international human rights forums, promoting policies and practices that advance these rights globally
2013	International Service for Human Rights	Supports human rights defenders, provides training and advocacy, and works to strengthen international human rights mechanisms
	Centre for Environmental and Management Studies	Conducts research, provides education, and offers consultancy services focused on environmental management and sustainable development
	SERVAS International	Promotes peace and cultural understanding by facilitating homestays and fostering connections between travelers and hosts worldwide
	Indian Law Resource Center	Provides legal assistance to Indigenous peoples to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environment, and cultural heritage
	World Organization Against Torture	The world's largest coalition of NGOs fighting against arbitrary detention, torture, executions, forced disappearances, and violence
	European Union of Public relations	Promotes professional standards, offers training and networking opportunities, and advances the field of public relations across Europe
2014	International Services for Human Rights	Supports human rights defenders, provides training, and advocates for stronger international human rights protections
	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace	Researches and advocates for policies and structures that promote global peace and international cooperation
	European Union of Public relations	Promotes professional standards, offers training and networking opportunities, and advances the field of public relations across Europe
	Action Canada for Population and Development	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
	Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik	Promotes sustainable development, advocates for equality, supports marginalized communities, and engages in policy advocacy for inclusivity
2015	Action Canada for Population and Development	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
	Pan African Union for Science and Technology	Promotes scientific and technological development in Africa, supports research and innovation, and fosters collaboration among African countries
	Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfi	Fosters peace and tolerance through education, culture, and humanitarian efforts, promoting understanding among diverse communities and empowering youth
	India Law Resource Centre	Provides legal assistance to Indigenous peoples to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environment, and cultural heritage
	Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace	Works to promote peace and empowerment among youth and students in Cameroon through various initiatives and programs
	Agence pour les droits de l'homme	Dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights through advocacy, education, and legal assistance
2016	Global Initiative for Economic Social and Cultural Rights	works to advance and protect economic, social, and cultural rights worldwide through research, advocacy, and legal action
	Plan International Reability of victims of torture	Aids the rehabilitation of torture victims, providing support, resources, and advocacy for their physical and psychological recovery
	Action Canada for population and development (JS)	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
	Young Women Christian Association	Empowers women and girls through education, health, leadership, and advocacy for gender equality
	UN Watch	Monitors the performance of the United Nations according to the principles of its Charter.
2017	Global alliance of national HR Institutions	Promotes NHRIs' establishment and accreditation, encourages collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and advocates for human rights nationally and internationally
	Swedish fed. for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender rights	Advocates for legislative changes, supports LGBTQ+ individuals, offers educational programs, and organizes community events to increase awareness and visibility
	Terre des hommes – fédération internationale	A global organization dedicated to protecting children's rights and promoting their well-being through various humanitarian and development projects
	International Development Law Organization	Works to empower people and communities, particularly in developing countries, by strengthening legal frameworks and institutions.
	CIVICAS on behalf of 20 NGOs	Aims to empower civil society by promoting freedom and effectiveness through research, advocacy, support, and influencing public discourse
	International service for Human Rights	Supports human rights defenders, provides training, and advocates for stronger international human rights protections
	Action Canada on behalf of the SRI	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
2018	Office of the protection of citizens of Haiti	Focuses on safeguarding the rights and well-being of Haitian citizens
	International service for Human Rights	Supports and advocates for human rights defenders, facilitates their engagement with international mechanisms, and strengthens global human rights systems
	Action Canada for population and development (JS)	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally

	COC Nederland in a Joint Statement	Promotes LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance, offering support, education, and resources, while advocating for equality and inclusivity through policy engagement
	Marriage foundation	Dedicated to promoting stable and healthy marriages. It provides research, support, and resources aimed at strengthening marriages and reducing family breakdowns
2019	Plan Intl' on behalf of defense for children and TdH	Promotes children's rights and gender equality through education, health, protection, economic empowerment, and humanitarian aid during emergencies
	International Commission of Jurists	Protects human rights and the rule of law globally through legal expertise and advocacy
	The world Jewish Congress	Advocates for Jewish communities worldwide, combating anti-Semitism, promoting Holocaust remembrance, and supporting Israel's security and rights
	Federation for women and family planning (JS)	Advocates for women's rights and reproductive health, promoting access to family planning services and comprehensive sexual education
	Health and Environment programme	Works to address environmental health issues, promoting awareness, research, and policy advocacy to mitigate the impacts of environmental factors on public health
	Institute for NGO Research	Conducts research and analysis on non-governmental organizations (NGOs), focusing on transparency, accountability, and their impact on public policy and society
	2020	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
Plan International with Defence for Children and TdH		Promotes children's rights and gender equality through education, health, protection, economic empowerment, and humanitarian aid during emergencies
Rutgers (JS)		Empowers individuals to make informed choices about sexual and reproductive health, advocating for policies that promote SRHR globally
Action Canada for Population and Development		Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
Intl' Institute for Rights and Development Geneva		Conducts research, provides training, and advocates for human rights and development, with a focus on marginalized communities and vulnerable populations
Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health		Conducts research, provides expertise, and advocates for sustainable water management, environmental conservation, and public health initiatives worldwide
UN Women		Advocates for global gender equality, supporting women's organizations and implementing programs on violence and economic empowerment
UNFPA		Ensures safe pregnancies, promotes reproductive health, and supports gender equality worldwide
2021	EU Region of the Intl' Lesbian and Gay Federation (JS)	Advocates for LGBTQ+ rights within the European Union through lobbying, awareness campaigns, and community support
	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women	Advocates for gender equality and women's rights in the Asia-Pacific region through research, capacity-building, and policy advocacy
	Stichting CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality	Advocates for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people globally through education, empowerment, and policy advocacy initiatives
	Plan International, Inc. In a Joint Statement	Promotes children's rights and gender equality through education, health, protection, economic empowerment, and humanitarian aid during emergencies
	Action Canada for Population and Development	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
	FAO	Works globally to tackle hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture through research, policy development, and technical assistance
	UNFPA	Ensures safe pregnancies, promotes reproductive health, and supports gender equality worldwide
	UN Women	Advocates for global gender equality, supporting women's organizations and implementing programs on violence and economic empowerment
2022	Federation for Women and Family Planning	Advocates for women's rights and reproductive health, promoting access to family planning services and comprehensive sexual education
	Stichting CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality (JS)	Advocates for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people globally through education, empowerment, and policy advocacy initiatives
	Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales Asociación Civil	Dedicated to promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law through research, legal assistance, advocacy, and awareness-raising efforts
	Plan International, Inc.	Promotes children's rights and gender equality through education, health, protection, economic empowerment, and humanitarian aid during emergencies
	Stichting Global Human Rights Defence	Dedicated to defending human rights worldwide through legal advocacy, awareness campaigns, and support for human rights defenders
	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women	Advocates for gender equality and women's rights in the Asia-Pacific region through research, capacity-building, and policy advocacy
	UN children's Fund	Ensures children's rights and well-being globally through healthcare, education, protection, and emergency relief
	UN Women	Advocates for global gender equality, supporting women's organizations and implementing programs on violence and economic empowerment
	IDLO	Supports rule of law and development through legal expertise and capacity-building globally
2023	Action Canada for Population and Development	Dedicated to promoting and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights both domestically in Canada and internationally
	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women	Advocates for gender equality and women's rights in the Asia-Pacific region through research, capacity-building, and policy advocacy
	International Lesbian and Gay Association (JS)	Advocates globally for LGBTQ+ rights, striving to end discrimination and promote equality through advocacy, research, and coalition-building
	Plan International, Inc.	Promotes children's rights and gender equality through education, health, protection, economic empowerment, and humanitarian aid during emergencies
	Sikh Human Rights Group	Advocates for Sikh and others' human rights through awareness, advocacy, and legal assistance

Akshar Foundation (JS)	Promotes education and literacy, especially in underserved communities, through various initiatives like providing resources, teacher training, and school support
UN Women	Advocates for global gender equality, supporting women's organizations and implementing programs on violence and economic empowerment
UNFPA	Ensures safe pregnancies, promotes reproductive health, and supports gender equality worldwide

Annex 8. Number of Non-State Actors who spoke

	Civil Society Groups	UN Agencies	IOs	National HR Institutions	Total
2007	10	1	1		12
2008	4	1			5
2009	5				5
2010	2			1	3
2011	2	1			3
2012	4			2	6
2013	6				6
2014	6				6
2015	6				6
2016	4	1			5
2017	7				7
2018	5				5
2019	6				6
2020	6	2			8
2021	5	3		1	9
2022	6	2	1		9
2023	6	2			8
Total	90	13	2	4	109