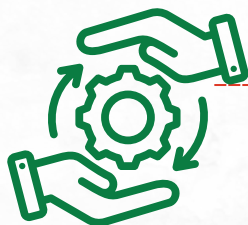




HRC59 Takeaways for Africa



DEFENDDEFENDERS
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project



STAKES

The international context

- Ongoing armed conflicts in several regions of the world, and aggravating UN liquidity crisis
- Ongoing attacks against multilateral institutions
- In many countries, mounting attacks against HRDs and the civic & democratic space

Stakes for the Human Rights Council

- **HRC59** (16 June-8 July 2025) – focus on thematic resolutions, in particular on gender issues and women & girls
- Resolutions were expected on, among others: violence against women & girls (VAWG), discrimination against women & girls (DAWG), sexual orientation & gender identity (SOGI), civil society space, freedom of peaceful assembly & association, Eritrea, etc.

Stakes for Africa

- A resolution was expected on Eritrea
- A resolution was expected to be presented by the African Group, on the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Debates on, among others, Eritrea, Burundi & the Central African Republic; and presentation of an oral update by the **FFM for Sudan**



ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Eritrea

- Civil society **push** to extend the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Eritrea (30+ signatories) with Advocacy in Geneva with **Elsa Chyrum** (our HRD of the Month for June 2024)
- **Side event** with the SR, Dr. Babiker, and civil society representatives (view **photos**)

Other advocacy engagements

- **Opinion piece** against Eritrea's attempt to discontinue the SR's mandate
- Engagement during the debate on the High Commissioner's annual report – **statement** raising concerns about Ethiopia & Tanzania
- Other **oral statements** on Eritrea & Burundi

Analysis of the session

- **Press release** on the adoption of a resolution extending the mandate of the SR on Eritrea (and rejection of a competing, Eritrea-led draft resolution)
- Read Hassan Shire's **'Reflections'** on HRC59



OUTCOMES: RESOLUTIONS & MORE



HRC59 resolutions

- Resolution on Eritrea: vital step to maintain scrutiny over one the most repressive countries in Africa & in the world
- Competing text (led by Eritrea) to terminate the SR's mandate: rejected by the HRC

Other outcomes

- Country resolutions adopted on Myanmar, Ukraine & Colombia (the latter 2 at the initiative of the countries concerned)
- Thematic resolutions adopted on VAWG, DAWG, SOGI (mandate renewal), FGM, civil society space, freedom of peaceful assembly & association, safety of journalists...

All resolutions available **Here**

The way forward

- We kept a strong focus on Eritrea & contributed to defeating Eritrea's ploy to terminate the SR's mandate (which could have created a precedent)
- We raised the profile of Ethiopia & Tanzania, forcing the latter to reply to reports of abuses & pledge to investigate
- The next session, HRC60, will take place in September 2025. Resolutions on Burundi & Sudan, among others, are expected