

Minutes of the Human Rights Council Bureau
1 April 2025

On 1 April 2025, the Bureau held a meeting with the following agenda:

- (1) Discuss correspondence concerning the Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967; and
- (2) any other business.

1. Correspondence concerning the Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

The President informed the Bureau that he had received a letter dated 24 March 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Israel, which alleged persistent non-compliance of the Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (OPT), Ms Francesca Albanese, with the provisions of the Code of Conduct of the Special Procedures, as outlined in Council resolution 5/2. The letter further referred to Council PRST/8/2 on the terms of office of special procedure mandate holders and requested that the President convey to the Council the information provided in the letter. The President had also received a Note Verbale dated 28 March 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina, which supported the concerns raised by the Permanent Mission of Israel. Similar letters from other stakeholders were also received.

Moreover, on 28 March 2025, the President had received a letter from the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Chairs of the Coordination Committee (Mr. Isha Dyfan and Mr. Surya Deva, respectively), through which they had transmitted the Committee's conclusions regarding the allegations of violations of the Code of Conduct of the Special Rapporteur on the OPT that had been raised by the Permanent Mission of Israel and UN Watch through their letters dated 31 July 2024 and 3 June 2024, respectively. With regard to the allegations raised in those letters, the Coordination Committee did not identify violations of the Code of Conduct by the Special Rapporteur.

The President informed the Bureau that on 31 March 2025, in follow-up to the letter received from the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Chairs of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, he had spoken by phone to the current Chair, Mr. Surya Deva. The President had acknowledged the concerns expressed by the Coordination Committee regarding the personal attacks faced by the Special Rapporteur and the negative consequences on her family and those working with her. He had further emphasized the role of each mandate holder in ensuring the integrity and independence of the system of special procedures, which is a key mechanism of the Council and therefore an integral part of the United Nations organization. He also had recalled the Coordination Committee's role regarding the implementation of the code of conduct for special procedure mandate-holders. Finally, the President had encouraged the Coordination Committee to conclude their ongoing work on internal guidance for social media use by mandate holders.

Mr. Deva had agreed that, in the interest of transparency, the President would inform the Bureau of the content of their telephone conversation and that the letter of the Coordination

Committee dated 28 March 2025 should be shared with the members and observers of the Human Rights Council as an appendix to the minutes of this meeting of the Bureau.

Also on 31 March 2025, the President had spoken by phone to the Special Rapporteur on the OPT. The President had expressed his concern regarding the personal attacks she faced and the negative consequences on her family and those working with her. He had stressed that mandate holders shall bear in mind the need to ensure that their personal political opinions are without prejudice to the execution of their mission, base their conclusions and recommendations on objective assessments of human rights situations, and that they shall in implementing their mandate, therefore, show restraint, moderation and discretion so as not to undermine the recognition of the independent nature of their mandate or the environment necessary to properly discharge the said mandate. The Special Rapporteur acknowledged the President's considerations and agreed that, in the interest of transparency, the President would inform the Bureau of the content of their telephone conversation.

In light of the foregoing, the Bureau agreed that the letter of the Coordination Committee dated 28 March 2025, concerning the allegations of violations of the Code of Conduct raised in 2024, shall be shared with the members and observers of the Human Rights Council as an appendix to the minutes of this meeting of the Bureau. Moreover, the letter from the Permanent Representative of Israel dated 24 March 2025, alleging persistent non-compliance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct, as well as additional similar correspondence addressed to the President of the Council, will be promptly forwarded to the Coordination Committee for its timely consideration.

2. Any other business

Updated information note on Programme budget implications (PBIs)

The Bureau welcomed that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had updated its information note on “*Resource requirements for Human Rights Council mandates*”, which provides useful information on the financial implications of new and extended mandates requested by the Council, including detailed examples of past financial implications and the process for issuing statements of programme budget implications (PBIs). The note was disseminated to all delegations from the Council secretariat on 27 March 2025, and is attached to these Bureau meeting minutes for ease of reference. It can also be found on the HRC Extranet for each regular Council session, under the link to the draft resolutions, decision and President's statements.
