

THE STAKES

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

- Geopolitical divisions, ongoing conflicts (Ukraine, Gaza/Israel, Sudan, & many more), elections in 60+ countries in 2024
- Tensions & polarisation over **gender issues** and women's & girls' rights, and more generally over societal issues
- Ongoing **liquidity crisis** affecting the UN & human rights mechanisms

STAKES FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

- **HRC56** (18 June-12 July 2024) – June sessions have a gender focus (discrimination against women & girls (DAWG), GBV, etc.)
- Resolutions on new topics: on the human rights of seafarers (presented by the Philippines); on human rights advisers (presented by Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Paraguay & UK)

What to expect on gender-related resolutions? Will Russia, Egypt & other states challenge previously agreed language? Will they present numerous amendments?

STAKES FOR AFRICA

- Ahead of the session, resolutions were expected on two African situations: Eritrea & Libya
- The African Group was expected to present resolutions on FGM and menstrual hygiene management

What level of attention for debates on Eritrea & Sudan? What response to the security & human rights crisis in the Sahel?

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

SUDAN & ERITREA

- Strong civil society **push** to extend the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) for Sudan (79 signatories) and advocacy in Geneva with a Sudanese HRD, Niemat Ahmadi (24-28 June 2024) – meetings with states & experts (**her story**)
- Advocacy with **Elsa Chyrum** (18-21 June 2024) for the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea (**civil society call** signed by 30+ organisations)
- High-level **side event** with Hon. Commissioner Dr. Litha Musyimi-Ogana (ACHPR) and Dr. Babiker (UN Special Rapporteur on Eritrea), among others:

"Taking the Addis Ababa Roadmap forward: Engagement on Eritrea by the UN and African human rights systems"

OTHER ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS

- **Oral statements** on Sudan, Eritrea, Burundi, and in response to the High Commissioner's annual report
- **Side event** on FoAA with the new Special Rapporteur, Gina Romero
- Launch of "**Is the Tide Turning?**" a report that comprehensively analyses how states vote on Africa-focused resolutions at the HRC – the report covers all resolutions on African countries adopted since the Council's creation, in 2006

Download the report and annexes

ANALYSIS OF THE SESSION

- **Press release** on the adoption of a resolution on Eritrea – a positive outcome (resolution slightly beefed up) that follows weeks of advocacy

Read Hassan Shire's "Reflections" on HRC56



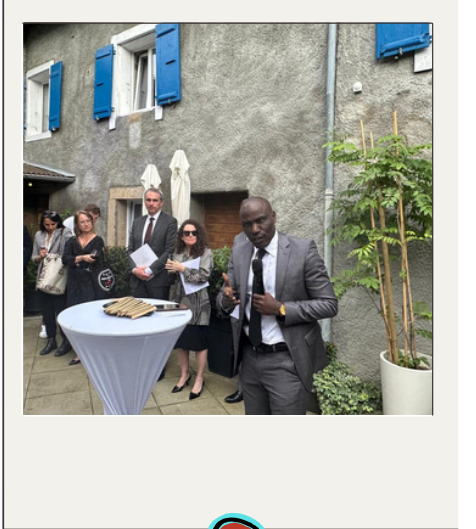
HRC56 TAKEAWAYS FOR

OUTCOMES:
resolutions and more

- Resolution on Eritrea: extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate + important message that being a member of the HRC doesn't prevent scrutiny
- Disappointing, unambitious resolution on Libya, adopted at the initiative of the government itself [Libya / **African Group initiative**]
- No resolution on Sudan at HRC56 – it is pushed to HRC57 (the main objective will be to extend the FFM's mandate)
- No resolution on FGM: lots of amendments presented (and defeated) on gender issues: resolution on menstrual hygiene management adopted [**African Group initiative**]

OTHER OUTCOMES

- Country resolutions adopted on Myanmar & Colombia
- Thematic resolutions adopted on freedom of expression, peaceful protests, racism, DAWG, etc..



To be noted: The African Group resumed delivering collective statements (on Eritrea, Burundi, etc.)

ALL RESOLUTIONS AVAILABLE HERE

WAY FORWARD

- We contributed to maintaining a high level of attention to **Sudan** and enhanced the profile of Eritrea through advocacy and an event on the **Addis Ababa Roadmap**

NEXT
SESSION

The next session, HRC57, will take place from 9 September to 9 October 2024. Resolutions on Sudan, Burundi & Somalia are expected

Efforts will continue ahead of the September session (HRC57) – DefendDefenders pledges to continue coordinating civil society calls