

## **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

### I. Introduction of the Committee

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations (UN), responsible for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. It was established in 2006, replacing the former UN Commission on Human Rights. The UNHRC is composed of 47 member states and meets regularly in Geneva, Switzerland, to address various human rights issues, assess human rights violations, and recommend actions to the General Assembly.

The UNHRC serves as a vital forum for discussing pressing human rights concerns and fostering international cooperation to ensure the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights globally.

### Powers and Mandate of the Committee

The UNHRC's powers and mandate are detailed in its founding resolution, General Assembly Resolution 60/251. The primary functions and responsibilities of the UNHRC include:

1. **Promoting Human Rights:** The UNHRC aims to promote and protect human rights globally. It monitors and addresses human rights violations and abuses, working toward their resolution.
2. **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** The committee conducts the UPR, which is a comprehensive review of the human rights records of all UN member states. During the UPR process, countries are assessed and provided with recommendations to improve their human rights practices.
3. **Special Procedures:** The UNHRC appoints Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups to investigate and report on specific human rights issues in particular countries or regions.
4. **Country-Specific Resolutions:** The UNHRC can adopt resolutions targeting specific countries where human rights violations are of concern, putting pressure on those countries to address these issues.

5. Thematic Resolutions: The committee adopts resolutions addressing broader thematic human rights issues, such as torture, freedom of speech, or the rights of women, children, and minorities.

6. Emergency Sessions: In cases of severe human rights emergencies, the UNHRC can hold special sessions to address immediate concerns.

### III. The Current Members of the Committee

As of the update in January 2022, the composition of the UNHRC includes 47 member states. These members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly and serve three-year terms, with the possibility of re-election. The composition of the UNHRC can change, so it's essential to verify the current membership. However, here are the member states as of January 2022:

1. Argentina
2. Armenia
3. Austria
4. The Bahamas
5. Bahrain
6. Bangladesh
7. Brazil
8. Bulgaria
9. Burkina Faso
10. Cameroon
11. Chile
12. China
13. Czech Republic
14. Denmark
15. Eritrea
16. Fiji
17. France

18. Gabon
19. Gambia
20. Germany
21. India
22. Indonesia
23. Italy
24. Japan
25. Libya
26. Malawi
27. Marshall Islands
28. Mauritania
29. Mexico
30. Namibia
31. Nepal
32. Netherlands
33. New Zealand
34. Pakistan
35. Poland
36. Republic of Korea
37. Russia
38. Senegal
39. Slovakia
40. Somalia
41. Sudan
42. Togo
43. Ukraine
44. United Kingdom
45. Uruguay
46. Venezuela

## **IV. Topic: Human Rights Violations in Hybrid Military Regimes**

### A. Background

Human rights violations in hybrid military regimes represent a critical concern for the international community. Hybrid military regimes are characterized by the combination of military and civilian elements in government structures, often resulting in a concentration of power that can lead to widespread human rights abuses. Understanding the dynamics, challenges, and implications of such regimes is vital for the promotion and protection of human rights.

### B. Key Issues

1. **Definition and Typology:** Explore and define what constitutes a hybrid military regime and identify different typologies to understand the variations and nuances within these systems.
2. **Human Rights Violations:** Examine specific instances of human rights violations in hybrid military regimes, including but not limited to extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, restrictions on freedom of speech, and restrictions on political participation.
3. **Impacts on Civil Society:** Analyze the impact of hybrid military regimes on civil society, including the stifling of civil liberties, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly.
4. **International Response:** Evaluate the role of the international community, including the UNHRC, in addressing and preventing human rights violations in hybrid military regimes.
5. **Accountability and Justice:** Discuss mechanisms for holding those responsible for human rights violations accountable and ensuring justice for victims.

6. Conflict and Peacebuilding: Consider the potential link between hybrid military regimes, conflict, and peacebuilding efforts in affected regions.

7. Preventive Measures: Explore strategies for preventing the emergence of hybrid military regimes and mitigating the risks associated with their existence.

### C. Possible Actions

1. Resolutions: Draft resolutions aimed at addressing human rights violations in specific hybrid military regimes.

2. Cooperation: Encourage cooperation among member states to investigate and address violations.

3. Monitoring: Propose mechanisms for the monitoring and reporting of human rights abuses in hybrid military regimes.

4. Capacity Building: Suggest initiatives to build the capacity of affected states in promoting human rights.

5. Dialogue: Promote dialogue between the international community and the leadership of hybrid military regimes to seek peaceful solutions.

6. Advocacy: Advocate for the importance of upholding human rights and the role of the UNHRC in addressing violations.

This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the UNHRC, its powers and mandate, the current members, and the chosen topic of "Human Rights Violations in Hybrid Military Regimes." Delegates should conduct further research and analysis to prepare for productive discussions and actions during the Model UN committee sessions.