

United Nations  Nations Unies  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Ms. Hui Lu  
A: Secretary of the Human Rights Council

29/3/2026

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:  
S/C DE:

FROM: Mr. Christophe Monier, Director  
DE: Programme Planning and Budget Division, OPPFB

*Monier*

SUBJECT: **Orals Statement of programme budget implications arising from**  
OBJET: **draft resolution A/HRC/61/L.16/Rev.1 of the Human Rights Council**

I would be grateful if the text of the attached oral statement could be read and distributed prior to adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/61/L.16/Rev.1, entitled "Freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

CC:

Mr. Ramanathan  
Ms. Al-Chikh  
Ms. Kruglikova  
Ms. Alirzaeva  
Ms. Taylor  
Ms. Veaudour

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT  
RESOLUTION A/HRC/61/L.16/Rev.1 ENTITLED "Freedom of opinion and  
expression: mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and  
protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

1. This statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of draft resolution **A/HRC/61/L.16/Rev.1**, the Human Rights Council would:

(a) Decide to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression for a further period of three years (OP. 2);

(b) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all human, financial and material resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur (OP. 4);

(c) Request the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its eighty-second and eighty-third sessions covering all activities relating to the mandate, with a view to maximizing the benefits of the reporting process (OP. 5).

3. In order to implement the mandate contained in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution, the following activities and resources would be required from 2026 to 2029:

4. **Under Section 24, Human Rights:**

**(a) Travel of Representatives:**

- Four trips per year by the Special Rapporteur to Geneva, to report to the Council, to hold an annual consultation with States, OHCHR and relevant stakeholders, to attend the annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Council, and to coordinate the Special rapporteur's work with relevant human rights mechanisms (OP.2);
- One trip by the Special Rapporteur to New York to report to the General Assembly at its eighty-second (2027) and eighty-third (2028) sessions (OP.2,5);

- Two country visits of 10 working days (OP.2);

**(b) Travel of staff:**

- Travel of one staff to accompany the Special Rapporteur during the two country visits per year of 10 working days (OP.2);

**(c) General Operating Expenses**

- Local transportation, security, communications and other miscellaneous expenses during field missions (OP.2).

5. Conference Services under: **Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for:**

- (a) Translation of annual reports and government replies to communications, and interpretation during field missions;
- (b) Documentation services in 2027 and 2028.

6. The activities referred to above relate to **Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management and Section 24, Human rights** of the programme budget for the years 2026-2029.

7. The adoption of the draft resolution **A/HRC/61/L.16/Rev.1** would give rise to annual requirements as follows:

*United States Dollars*

<i>Budget section / Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Estimated amount included in the Budget (Annually)</i>	<i>Reduced requirements 2026 (non-recurrent)</i>	<i>Total requirements for the mandate period</i>
<b>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</b>			
Simultaneous interpretation	52 200	-	156 600
Documentation	123 900	(29 400)	342 300
<b>Subtotal, Section 2</b>	<b>176 100</b>	<b>(29 400)</b>	<b>498 900</b>
<b>Section 24, Human rights*</b>			
Travel of representatives	52 700	(8 000)	150 100
Travel of staff	5 800	-	17 400
General Operating Expenses	12 000	-	36 000
<b>Subtotal, Section 24*</b>	<b>70 500</b>	<b>(8 000)</b>	<b>203 500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>246 600</b>	<b>(37 400)</b>	<b>702 400</b>

8. As reflected in the table above, requirements would arise as follows:

- a. Annual requirements of \$246,600, which have already been included in the programme budget for 2026 and the proposed programme budget for 2027, owing to the perennial nature of the mandate.
  - b. Reduced non-recurrent requirements of \$37,400 for 2026. These requirements, in accordance with established procedures, would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, at its 81st session, in the context of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council during 2026.
9. With regard to operative paragraph 4, the attention of the Human Rights Council is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248B of 21 December 1990, and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 80/242 of 30 December 2025, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.