



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
National University of Singapore

International Law at the United Nations: In Brief

October – December 2025

Issue 4

The Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore is pleased to launch the fourth issue in its series of newsletters highlighting updates at the United Nations. This edition explores key thematic areas such as peace and security, human rights and humanitarian law, climate change, ocean and law of the sea, environment, global health, international courts and tribunals, and other developments in the wider UN structure.

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Highlights

1. Between October and December 2025, the **peace and security** mandate of the United Nations was in the spotlight, as conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine, Sudan, and South Sudan required urgent responses. The Ukraine Commission of Inquiry found that Russia committed war crimes and crimes against humanity against Ukrainian civilians, while other monitoring bodies detailed worsening humanitarian conditions and growing civilian casualties in Sudan, Ukraine, and South Sudan. The Secretary General's annual Women, Peace and Security report highlighted the particularly adverse impacts of armed conflicts for women.
2. The Security Council endorsed the Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, and the establishment of the Board of Peace and the temporary International Stabilisation Force. It called on the parties to ensure its full implementation. The General Assembly adopted a resolution welcoming the Plan, demanding that Israel withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling on member States to not support occupation or settlement activities deemed illegal. The General Assembly adopted further resolutions reaffirming the rights of people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syrian Golan to their natural resources.
3. Additionally, the Security Council discussed the United States' airstrikes on Venezuelan boats in the Caribbean, extended a number of missions supporting peacekeeping, stabilisation and political transition (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Western Sahara, Libya, Colombia, the Central African Republic, the Abyei region, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and adopted decisions concerning sanctions and other coercive economic measures (Haiti, Yemen and Libya).
4. In the domain of **human rights and humanitarian affairs**, the UN addressed issues such as forced displacement, hunger and malnutrition, conflict-related atrocities, and climate change-induced hardships. UNICEF and the IPC reported on unprecedented levels of child-displacement and growing food insecurity in Haiti, while the UNHCR warned of growing displacement in Africa's Sahel. The High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted growing disregard for human rights during armed conflicts in Sudan and Ukraine, and Special Rapporteurs described violence and human rights abuses in Afghanistan, Syria, Russia and Iran. The Human Rights Council held a special session on growing human rights abuses in Sudan's El Fasher. The Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Israel, presented its report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, finding that Israel committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, while aid agencies call for increased humanitarian access to the region. The General Assembly also adopted a resolution affirming its full support for the mandate of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees. The High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that the United States' airstrikes on alleged drug traffickers in the Caribbean and Pacific violated international human rights law.
5. A number of bodies engaged in work relating to **climate change** and the **environment**. The International Renewable Energy Agency released a report prompting calls for a faster and more meaningful just energy transition, and the World Meteorological Organisation found that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere rose by a record amount in 2024. The Security Council discussed

the growing links between climate change and conflict. The COP 30 UN Climate Change Conference convened in Belem, Brazil.

6. There were also notable developments before **international courts and tribunals**. The International Court of Justice delivered its Advisory Opinion on the *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, other International Organisations and Third States in and in relation to the occupied Palestinian Territory*, held hearings for the Advisory Opinion on the *Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87*, and scheduled hearings on the merits of *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*. The Court also amended Article 78 of its Rules of Court on the publication of information relating to provisional measures, and elected Ms. Phoebe Okowa as a new member of the Court.
7. There were also developments in the **wider UN structure**, as the Secretary General proposed institutional changes as part of the **UN80 Initiative**, and separately stressed on the need to reform the Security Council. However, the work of its agencies continued to be hampered by its liquidity crisis, as UN Women, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the World Food Programme detailed the effects of funding cuts on their ability to conduct critical operations.

Week of 6 October 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

A UNICEF Child Alert Report finds unprecedented levels of displacement among children in Haiti, doubling in the last year to approximately 680,000 amidst “one of the most complex humanitarian emergencies in the world.” Additionally, the World Food Programme warns that women, children, and displaced families are particularly affected by the growing malnutrition and hunger crisis.

Read [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

As Israeli forces reportedly retreat from parts of Gaza, after the conclusion of a peace agreement with Hamas, aid agencies call for border crossings to be opened to ensure that the population has access to critical aid amidst dire humanitarian crises. The UN subsequently releases USD11 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund, but notes that considerable demand for humanitarian assistance goes unmet.

Read more [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

The UNHCR warns of growing displacement in Africa’s Sahel, as social and political insecurity, limited access to services and opportunities, and the effects of climate change have displaced around 4 million people in the region.

Read more [here](#).

An IPC Report finds that 5.7 million Haitians face growing food insecurity, exacerbated by armed conflict and a worsening economy.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Peace and Security

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission for Ukraine finds that around 214 civilians were killed in the country in September 2025 as a result of the armed conflict. It notes that civilian casualties between January and September 2025 were 31% higher than in the same period the year before.

Read more [here](#).

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan strongly condemn the rising number of civilian casualties in El Fasher, as around 60 civilians were killed and 53 injured between 5 and 8 October.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The Security Council convenes an emergency session, requested by Venezuela, over deadly airstrikes conducted by the United States against alleged drug trafficking boats in the Caribbean.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

The ICJ holds public hearings on the request for an Advisory Opinion on the *Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87*. 18 States and 5 international organisations present oral statements.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 13 October 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights presents his annual report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, drawing special attention to violence and persistent violations of fundamental human rights in Sudan and Ukraine. He also stresses the urgency of a permanent ceasefire and accountability for atrocities in Gaza, while highlighting the funding cuts that severely impede the work of the Commission.

Read more [here](#).

Peace and Security

The UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan raises concerns over worsening humanitarian conditions in the country as violence and political crises deepen, calling on international institutions to ensure peaceful political transition.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council unanimously adopts a resolution to renew the sanction regime on Haiti for one year, and to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts for a period of 13 months.

Read more [here](#).

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic supports the CAR government in its “disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration” process, as combatants of armed groups lay down their weapons.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Climate Change

A recent report by the International Renewable Energy Agency finds that, while the rapid growth of renewable energies is promising, it is not sufficient to meet the COP28 targets, where governments committed to producing 11.2 terawatts of energy from renewable sources by 2030. It prompted the UN Secretary General to call for a faster and more meaningful just energy transition.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The International Maritime Organisation opens a special session to discuss a landmark framework to curb greenhouse gas emissions from global shipping. The discussions were later shelved without agreement.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The World Meteorological Organisation finds that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere rose by a record amount in 2024, exacerbating global warming and extreme weather.

Read more [here](#).

Liquidity Crisis at the UN

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs states funding for critical humanitarian services in 2025 saw “a staggering decrease of over 40 per cent compared to the same time last year,” as only 21% of all life-saving activities in 2025 were financed. The World Food Programme similarly warns that funding cuts threaten its most critical operations, threatening to leave almost 14 million people facing severe hunger by the end of the year.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The Secretary General introduces a set of reform proposals for the UN as part of the UN80 Initiative to strengthen its effectiveness and improve coordination across its different mandates.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 20 October 2025

Peace and Security

The UN Secretary General publishes his annual report on Women, Peace and Security, warning that the highest number of women now live within 50 kilometers of deadly conflict – 676 million.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

The ICJ delivers its Advisory Opinion on the *Obligations of Israel in Relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organisations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory*.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Global Trade and Investment

The 16th UN Conference on Trade and Development opens under the theme “Shaping the Future: Driving Economic Transformation for Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Development.” It will focus on “ways to restore predictability in trade, ease debt pressures and direct investment to the real economy.”

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The UN Convention Against Cybercrime (Hanoi Convention) opens for signatures.

Read more [here](#).

The Secretary General stresses on the need to reform the Security Council, arguing that it must be more representative and welcoming proposals to limit the use of the veto power.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs | Sustainable Development Goals

The UN-backed Sevilla Forum on Debt is launched, aimed at tackling the debt crisis in developing countries.

Read more [here](#).

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The Deputy Envoy for Syria highlights growing humanitarian needs in Syria, urging the Security Council to increase its support to the country as aid funding depletes.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 27 October 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

UN Women publishes its “At Risk and Underfunded” report, which finds that approximately USD 78 billion in funding cuts have impeded the work of civil society organisations that provide life-saving services to women and engage in advocacy work. One in three of the 428 organisations surveyed have suspended or cancelled programmes that combat gender-based violence.

Read more [here](#).

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation presents a new report detailing “an alarming escalation” of human rights abuses since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In particular, it highlights the abuse of counter-terrorism, espionage, and treason charges against Ukrainians, including through “widespread and systematic arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, deaths in custody, incommunicado detention and prosecution of prisoners of war and civilian Ukrainians”

Read more [here](#).

The Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria updates the General Assembly’s Third Committee on its August report, warning that violence and mistrust are rampant, jeopardizing the prospects for peaceful political transition.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, presents the Commission’s latest report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, finding that Israel committed genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. The underlying acts of genocide that it sets-out are: “(a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the groups conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.”

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan reports to the General Assembly on deteriorating human rights conditions in Afghanistan, warning that normalising ties with the Taliban government risks further undermining the rights of women and girls in the country.

Read more [here](#).

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stresses that air strikes by the United States against alleged drug trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Pacific, which have killed over 60 people, violate international human rights law.

Read more [here](#).

The Chair of the Independent UN Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, in its briefing to the General Assembly, describes deteriorating human rights conditions in the country following Israeli airstrikes.

Read more [here](#).

The UN marks the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, “calling for justice for those silenced, and protection for those still speaking truth to power.”

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

A new report by the International Labour Organisation sets-out the experiences and perspectives of trade unions around the world, detailing the growing inequalities that workers face.

Read more [here](#).

Peace and Security

The Security Council renews its authorisation of a multinational stabilisation force (EUFOR ALTHEA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a further 12 months.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council extends the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 October 2026.

Read more [here](#)

The Security Council extends the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 31 October 2026.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council extends the wider mandate of the Verification Mission in Colombia until 31 October 2026, but decides to discontinue the prior mandate to monitoring ceasefires.

Read more [here](#).

The UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine releases its report detailing violations of international law by Russian forces against Ukrainian civilians. It concludes that Russia committed the crimes against humanity of murder and forcible transfers of a population, as well as the war crime of deportations and transfers of civilians from areas it occupies.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the ICJ, presents the Court's Annual Report for the 2024-2025 judicial year to the General Assembly.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Climate Change

A new synthesis report, prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat, highlights the new nationally determined contributions communicated by 64 States, pursuant to their obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Read more [here](#).

Global Trade and Investment

The UN General Assembly, for the 33rd consecutive year, adopts a resolution with overwhelming majority calling for an end to the United States' embargo against Cuba. An increasing number of States, however, have abstained or voted against the resolution.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 3 November 2025

Peace and Security

The Security Council delists Ahmed Al-Sharaa and Anas Hasan Khattab, the Transitional President and Interior Minister of Syria, from the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

Heads of States and Heads of Governments met at the Second World Summit to address gaps, assess progress and recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The General Assembly adopts the resulting Doha Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit”.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Climate and Environment

The Security Council discusses the climate-security nexus amidst growing links between climate change and armed conflicts, which further exacerbate pollution and environmental damage.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 10 November 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The United Nations Human Rights Council holds a Special Session on the human rights situation in and around Sudan’s El Fasher in the context of the ongoing conflict, and requests the fact-finding mission to conduct an urgent inquiry into the international human rights and humanitarian law violations allegedly committed therein.

Read more [here](#).

Peace and Security

The Security Council extends the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) until 15 November 2026.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council renews coercive measures such as asset freezes and travel bans on designated entities in Yemen until 14 November 2026. It also extends the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 15 December 2026.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council extends the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and its support to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) until 15 November 2026.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

The General Assembly and the Security Council elect Ms Phoebe Okowa as member of the ICJ with immediate effect, to complete the remaining term of her predecessor Judge Abdulqawi A. Yusuf.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Climate Change

COP 30 - UN Climate Change Conference convenes in Belém, Brazil.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 17 November 2025

Peace and Security

The Security Council endorses the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, welcomes the establishment of the Board of Peace, and authorises Member States working with the Board to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The General Assembly adopts a “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” resolution.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 24 November 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The United Nations Geneva hosts a special meeting on the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestine People on 28 November 2025.

Read more [here](#).

Peace and Security

The Security Council extends the authorisation for the arms embargo on Libya for a further 6 months from 25 November 2025.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council reaffirms all relevant resolutions relating to the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission, and requests the Peacebuilding Commission to establish a detailed, predictable and flexible annual programme in align with the programmes of work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly recognises enhancing the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, and decides to establish an annual "peacebuilding week" in June.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution demanding the Russian Federation the return of all Ukrainian children.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

Judge Phoebe N. Okowa makes a solemn declaration and swearing-in as a new member of the Court.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The General Assembly adopts the 2025 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to proclaim 5 September as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Women and Girls.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 1 December 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The General Assembly affirms the full support for the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The General Assembly adopts over 60 resolutions from the decisions of its First Committee, including the risks of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, anti-personnel mines, bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, prevention of an arms race in outer space, and risks of artificial intelligence.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#)

The General Assembly adopts 40 resolutions from its Fourth Committee, including the implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, other matters related to non-self-governing territories and decolonisation.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to proclaim 14 December as the International Day against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 8 December 2025

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The General Assembly stresses the importance of ensuring safety and security of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, urges States to fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly welcomes the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ on the obligations of Israel in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organisations and third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and affirms the obligation of Israel.

Read more [here](#).

Human Rights Day 2025 launches the campaign “Our Everyday Essentials” to reaffirm the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and its core value.

Read more [here](#).

Peace and Security

The Security Council continues to consider the YPS agenda (youth participation and leadership in peace process, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, recovery and reconstruction at all levels) in the work of the Council and supports the safe participation of youth briefers in Council engagements.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council renews the authorisation of Member States to seize, dispose and collect evidence of the delivery, import or exports of any items prohibited by arms embargo on Somalia or the charcoal ban until 30 November 2026. It also renews the Panel of Experts until 31 December 2026.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

The ICJ finds the counter-claims submitted by the Russian Federation in the case concerning the *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)* are admissible. It also authorises Ukraine to submit a Reply and the Russian Federation to submit a Rejoinder with the time-limits for 7 December 2026 and 7 December 2027, respectively.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The General Assembly decides to proclaim the year 2027 as the International Year of Legal Literacy and invites States and the UN and regions organisations to promote activities fostering the understanding of rights and obligations and access to justice for all.

Read more [here](#).

Environment

The United Nations Environmental Programme releases a report on The Global Environmental Outlook: A Future We Choose, a comprehensive scientific assessment of the global environment. The report finds that

investing in stable climates, healthy nature and land, and a pollution-free planet can boost global GDP by trillions of dollars annually, save millions of lives, and reduce hundreds of millions of hunger and poverty in the coming decades.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly stresses the need to continue the environmental and health monitoring of the Chornobyl-affected regions and communities, and decides to rename International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day as International Chornobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.

Read more [here](#).

Ocean and Law of the Sea

The General Assembly calls upon all States and regional economic integration organisations to consider becoming the Parties to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to convene the high-level 2028 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in the Republic of Korea, in June 2028.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on oceans and the law of the sea for the implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments, peaceful settlement of disputes, and the effective functioning of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and other ocean affairs.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly encourages States achieving sustainable fisheries and calls upon State Parties to effectively implement the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments.

Read more [here](#).

Global Health

The General Assembly adopts the Political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 15 December 2025

Peace and Security

The Security Council extends the mandate of the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 20 December 2026.

Read more [here](#).

Courts and Tribunals

The ICJ has amended Article 78 of the Rules of Court regarding the publication of reports and information on matters related to provisional measures indicated by the Court. The amendment will enter into force on 2 February 2026.

Read more [here](#).

The ICJ announces a schedule for public hearings on the merits of the case concerning the *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)* from 12 to 29 January 2026.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (the UN Anti-Corruption Conference) convenes in Doha, Qatar, on 15-19 December 2025.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides that the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation to hold its next session from 18 to 26 February 2026.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over natural resources, and demands Israel, the occupying power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of natural resources in the occupied territories.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly urges Member States and all relevant stakeholders to advance collective actions to address the multiple and widespread impacts of pandemics and other health emergencies, conflicts, climate change, disasters, soil degradation and biodiversity loss on agriculture development, food security and nutrition.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly strongly urges States to take all appropriate measures to ensure criminal accountability of the United Nations officials and experts on mission without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons. It also urges the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the zero-tolerance policy for criminal activities is made known to all entities in the United Nations.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts resolutions from its Second Committee related to sustainability development.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Global Trade and Investment

The General Assembly urges the international community to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures as means of political and economic coercion, particularly when used against developing countries.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to allocate one additional one-week session per year for two years from 2026 to 2027 and additional support to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law to allow UNCITRAL Working Group III to finalise its work on investor-State dispute settlement reform.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts the Accra Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents and authorises a ceremony for the opening for signature of the Convention to be held in the second half of 2026 in Accra.

Read more [here](#).

Climate Change

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on the Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind, reaffirms that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of today and encourages all Parties to the Paris Agreement to fully implement their commitments therein.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on Disaster risk reduction, calling for a range of measures to prevent new disasters, and reduce vulnerabilities, increase preparedness and strengthen recovery.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The General Assembly adopts a resolution marking the 25th anniversary of the GA Res 56/83, whose annex contained the text on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts. It acknowledges the continuing significance of the Articles and decides to further examine the question of a convention on responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts with a view taking a decision at four meetings within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly invites governments to submit comments on the articles on diplomatic protection and decides to continue to examine the question of a convention on diplomatic protection or any other appropriate action on the basis of the articles on diplomatic protection.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides that the Sixth Committee shall continue to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee for a thorough discussion of the scope and application of the universal jurisdiction, and the working group shall be open to all member States and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to convene the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters from 25 January to 12 February 2027 in Manila and a further two weeks in August 2027 if necessary, and a preparatory committee for the Conference from 31 August to 4 September 2026.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to recommend that the Sixth Committee establishes a working group to finalise the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and discussions concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations at its eighty-first session.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly endorses the recommendations and conclusions of the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. It strongly urges the host country to remove all of its travel restrictions imposed on representatives of certain Member States during the high-level week of the General Assembly and personnel of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and their families.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly urges member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the human rights of all persons, including persons with albinism.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution to promote equality and social justice, eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly calls all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in efforts towards an age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly urges Member States to protect, promote and fulfil the enjoyment of rights by youths.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly encourages Member States to enable the meaningful participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders and to support inclusive engagement mechanisms.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution calling for the proclamation of an International Year of Cooperatives every 10 years following the International Year of Cooperatives in 2025 to encourage effective leveraging of the cooperative enterprise model to advance social and economic development.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution urging for the improvement of the situation of women and girls in the rural area.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution regarding the protection and prevention of violence against women migrant workers and urges States to adopt and implement legislation and policies in accordance with their obligations under international law to prevent them.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly is alarmed by the sharp reductions in funding for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2025 and calls upon the international community, including non-traditional donors, to urgently scale up flexible funding to address the unprecedented funding crisis, which has had an adverse impact on the Office's ability to deliver on its core mandate.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on the assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly urges States to implement their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also requests the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children to submit their reports to the General Assembly. It also decides to invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly decides to continue to observe the International Day of Indigenous Peoples every year on 9 August.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly calls for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly reaffirms the use of mercenaries, as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, violates the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly in its resolution reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and urges all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realisation of their right to self-determination.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly reaffirms that the universal realisation of the right of all peoples under colonial, foreign and alien domination to self-determination is a fundamental condition for human rights. It also declares its firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: amplified barriers in diverse contexts.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly condemns all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and calls upon all States to implement fully the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and such treatment or punishment.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution for the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly calls upon all States to take actions and measures to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution regarding the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly urges States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly adopts a resolution on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly calls on Member States, the specialised agencies and intergovernmental organisations to continue to carry out for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection for all human rights. It urges States to take measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises on the full enjoyment of human rights.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly urges all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights.

Read more [here](#).

The General Assembly also adopts resolutions from its Third Committee relating to human rights and social development, including the promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty body; the right to development; the right to food; protection of and assistance to

internally displaced persons; promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies; human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity; the protection of migrants.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

The General Assembly also adopts resolutions from its Third Committee on human rights situations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

Read more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

International Law Commission

The General Assembly decides that without prejudice to the budgetary prerogatives of the Fifth Committee and to the authority of the Secretary-General, that no exceptional measures affecting the duration of the seventy-seventh session of the International Law Commission shall be taken by the Secretariat without consultation with the Bureau of the Sixth Committee, which shall inform the Sixth Committee.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 22 December 2025

Peace and Security

The Security Council holds a briefing on Venezuela under threat to international peace and security on 23 December 2025. With the tensions between the United States and Venezuela, many in the Security Council meeting urge restraint over escalation and the governments of both countries to adhere to international law.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council decides that the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) shall cease all operations on 31 October 2026. It authorises the African Union member States to deploy uniformed personnel and police personnel to the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) until 31 December 2026.

Read more [here](#).

Week of 29 December 2025

Peace and Security

The Security Council decides that the Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate will continue to operate as a special political mission until 5 January 2029.

Read more [here](#).

The Security Council renews the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force until 30 June 2026.

Read more [here](#).

Wider UN Affairs

The General Assembly adopts the United Nations programme budget for 2026 and other resolutions related to budgeting and financing.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).