



Co-Organizers: Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Protecting Migrants' Rights at Borders: Independent Monitoring in EU and Global Contexts

Side-Event 59th HRC, 25 June 2025 from 12:00 to 13:00
Palais des Nations, Room XXIV

Independent human rights monitoring at external borders is a cornerstone of rights-based migration and border governance, essential for upholding international human rights standards and ensuring state accountability. As border control measures intensify worldwide, the need for robust, independent monitoring mechanisms becomes ever more urgent.

In the latest resolution on human rights of migrants ([A/HRC/RES/57/14](#)), the Human Rights Council has underscored the importance of human rights monitoring in migration governance. The resolution calls on states to ensure that all border governance measures, including those employing new and emerging digital technologies, comply with international human rights obligations and have adequate safeguards to protect the dignity and safety of migrants. The resolution further urges states to adopt measures to prevent rights violations during transit, including at ports and airports and to establish human rights monitoring mechanisms. Following the adoption of the resolution, OHCHR is preparing a study on human rights monitoring in the context of migration, including at international borders to be presented to the council before the 60th session.

At the European level, the recently adopted reform of the *Common European Asylum System (CEAS)* introduces significant changes in migration management at external borders. Under this reform, EU Member States will also be required to establish independent national monitoring mechanisms for the new screening and asylum border procedures by mid-2026, as mandated by the *Screening Regulation* ([EU 2024/1356](#)) and the *Asylum Procedure Regulation* ([EU 2024/1348](#)).

The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants is presenting his report on the phenomenon of missing migrants during the 59th session of the Human Rights Council. Drawing on his findings on independent human rights monitoring and against the backdrop of the ongoing debates globally, a dedicated side-event to discuss bridging global and European efforts is both vital and timely. By placing the spotlight on independent human rights monitoring at external borders, we can help drive global momentum toward more humane, transparent, and rights-compliant border management policies, striving to uphold and safeguard the rights, dignity and safety of migrants worldwide.

Panel Discussion

- **Gehad Madi**, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants
- **H.E. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar**, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- **Aydan Iyiguengoer**, Project Manager, EU Fundamental Rights Agency and Chair of the FRONTEX Consultative Forum
- **Joseph Cripps**, UN Advocacy Coordinator, Border Violence Monitoring Network

Moderation: **Tobias Beylat**, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Brussels Office