



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-sixth session

22 February–19 March 2021

Agenda items 2 and 3

### Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## Report of the Secretary-General on missing persons

### Note by the secretariat

1. The present note is submitted pursuant to resolution 73/178 of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session and to the Human Rights Council at its relevant session a comprehensive report on the implementation of that resolution.
2. Pursuant to the above-mentioned request, the Secretariat refers the Human Rights Council to the report of the Secretary-General on missing persons submitted to the General Assembly (A/75/306). The report reflects information received on the international legal and institutional framework applicable to the issue of missing persons; the various measures being taken to prevent people from going missing and to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons; criminal investigation and prosecution in cases of missing persons; forensic recovery and identification of remains of missing persons; and the legal status of missing persons and support for families. In the report, the Secretary-General indicates that there is an alarmingly high number of missing persons and that the number of missing children is of serious concern. The report contains recommendations on prioritizing prevention, preparedness and early action to address the issue.

