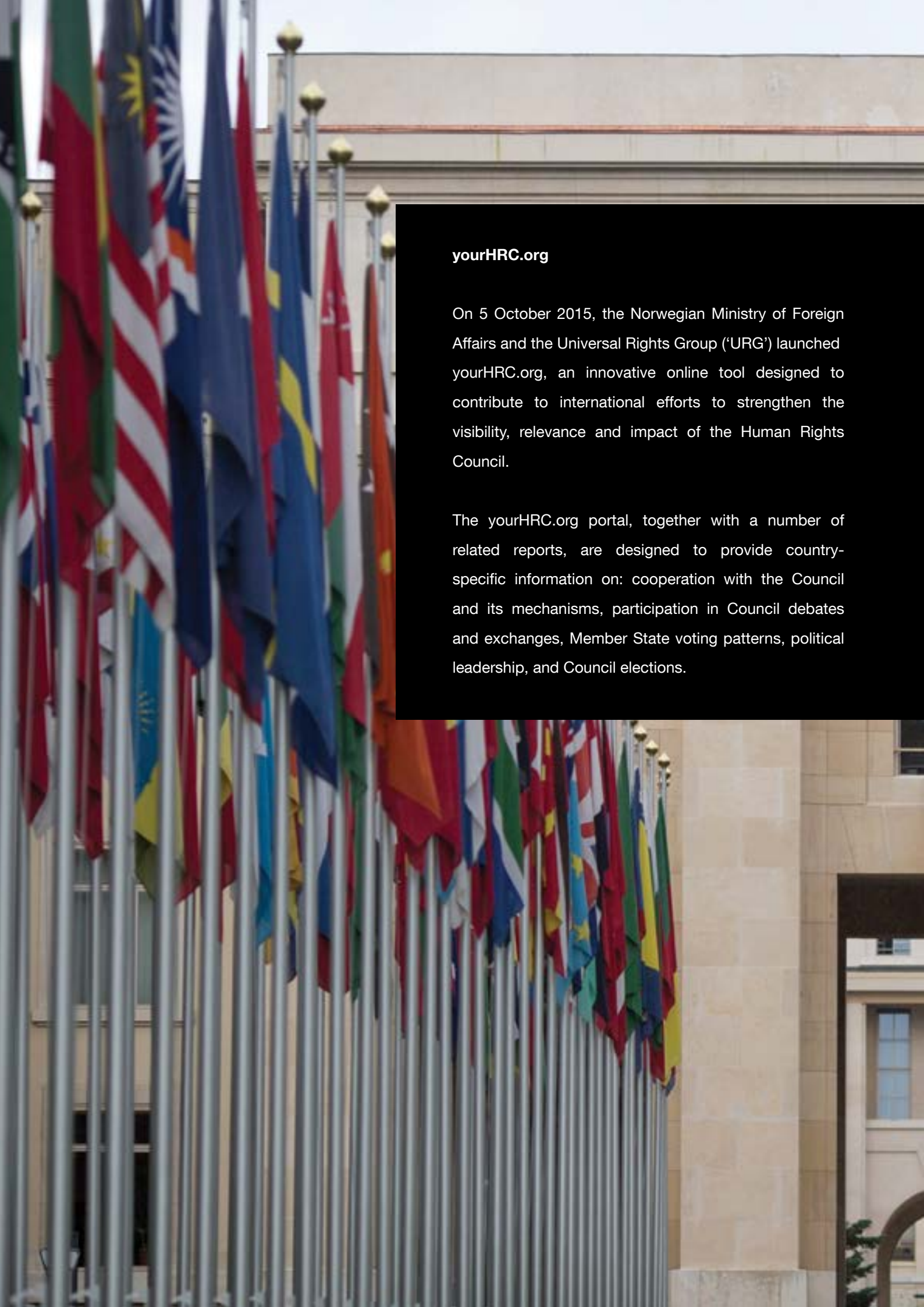

your**HRC**.org

A window onto cooperation, dialogue, leadership
and policymaking at the UN Human Rights Council

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL IN**

2016

**LEADERSHIP, RESOLVE AND COOPERATION AT
THE UN'S MAIN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY**



yourHRC.org

On 5 October 2015, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Universal Rights Group ('URG') launched yourHRC.org, an innovative online tool designed to contribute to international efforts to strengthen the visibility, relevance and impact of the Human Rights Council.

The yourHRC.org portal, together with a number of related reports, are designed to provide country-specific information on: cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, participation in Council debates and exchanges, Member State voting patterns, political leadership, and Council elections.

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Introduction

In 2016 the Human Rights Council (the ‘Council’) marked its tenth anniversary. During the first regular session of the year – HRC31 in March – the new Council President, H.E. Ambassador Choi Kyong-Lim (Republic of Korea), called on all stakeholders to seize the opportunity provided by the milestone to reflect on ‘what has been achieved and what could be improved.’ Pursuant to that call, 2016 did indeed see a range of formal and informal discussions in Geneva, New York and in State capitals, on the Council’s achievements and shortfalls, and on ways in which the body might strengthen its performance and impact in the future. Those discussions resulted in a range of new ideas (and, in some cases, concrete actions) in areas including: the prevention of human rights violations; improved cooperation and dialogue; better implementation, measurement and reporting; and on-the-ground delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support.

Aside from these important discussions on the future of the United Nations’ (UN) human rights pillar, the Council in 2016 continued to be one of the most active and dynamic bodies of the UN, widening its gaze to cover an increasingly diverse range of human rights issues, themes and situations.

The three regular sessions of 2016 (HRC31, HRC32 and HRC33) included: twenty panel discussions (HRC31 alone saw ten); the consideration (often fleeting) of 201 reports prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (‘OHCHR’); the adoption of 105 texts (mainly resolutions) – the third highest total in the Council’s history and a reversal of the slight contraction seen in 2015; a large number of votes on those texts (30% - the

second highest percentage in the Council’s history), as well as an unprecedented number (126) of amendments from the floor (often known as ‘hostile amendments’) – both statistics point to increased polarisation in the Council; newly mandated activities costing over \$20 million; and over 580 side events.

2016 also witnessed two important events that underscore the universality of human rights. First, in the context of the Council’s tenth anniversary session in June, the Secretariat used the Council’s Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States (‘SIDS’) and Least Developed Countries (‘LDCs’) to facilitate the participation of eighteen SIDS and LDCs (countries that do not have a permanent mission in Geneva), with the result that HRC32 was the first session in the Council’s history to enjoy universal participation. Second, in November, the final Universal Periodic Review (‘UPR’) Working Group meeting of the mechanism’s second cycle was concluded – meaning every Member State of the UN (193 countries) has now had its domestic human rights record reviewed on two separate occasions.

‘The Council should address situations of violations of human rights...’

A central mandate of the Council (as per operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly (‘GA’) resolution 60/251) is to ‘address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations.’ Despite repeated attempts by some States, most recently (in November) Belarus at the Third Committee of the GA,





to question this Council (and the wider UN) prerogative to address country-specific situations, in 2016 the Council continued to pursue its protection mandate, addressing the human rights situations in countries including Belarus, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ('DPRK'), Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran ('Iran'), the Occupied Palestinian Territories ('OPT'), Syrian Arab Republic ('Syria'), Yemen, Sudan, and South Sudan.

In some cases, and as has been the case throughout the Council's lifetime, disagreements between States over whether and how to fulfil this protection mandate led to deep political divisions, difficult negotiations and voted resolutions. These divisions were especially pronounced where they coincided with geopolitical tensions between the world's major powers (with the Russian Federation and its allies on one side, and the West on the other). This happened, for example, in the case of the Council's resolutions and Special Session on the situation in Syria/Aleppo.

Yet in other cases, Council Members were able to set aside their differences and work together, through dialogue and cooperation, to craft a more consensual approach. One such example in 2016 related to the situation in South Sudan. Following difficult yet constructive negotiations between the African Group and the sponsors of the resolution (the United States of America, United Kingdom, Albania, and Paraguay), the Council was able to adopt, by consensus, an item 4 resolution establishing a new type of Council mechanism: a three-person Commission on human rights in South Sudan.

Another welcomed development in 2016 was the adoption of a more flexible approach to addressing situations of concern – an approach that tried to 'balance' criticism and condemnation where merited, with the setting of benchmarks for progress, the recognition of achievements, and the provision of international support. For example, in March the Council adopted a resolution commending Myanmar for recent human rights progress (including the holding of free and fair elections), while identifying areas where further improvements are needed. Building on other similar examples, such as Sri Lanka, the Myanmar case shows the value of drawing attention to violations while remaining open to engage with the country concerned to encourage it to change course.

In a similar vein, over the course of 2016, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, regularly drew the Council's attention to situations of violations meriting the Council's consideration, including: the plight of refugees/migrants in the Mediterranean, the rule of law situations in Hungary, Poland, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (TFYR Macedonia), and the deterioration of human rights in Bahrain, Mali, and the Maldives; but also repeatedly drew attention to positive developments in places like Argentina, Guatemala, and Myanmar.

Reaction to prevention?

The Council's mandate to respond to human rights violations, including gross and systematic violations, is well known. Less well known, but equally important, is the Council's mandate to work to prevent such violations

from happening in the first place. According to (the often forgotten or ignored) paragraph 5f of GA resolution 60/251, the Council shall ‘contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies.’

Notwithstanding, the Council’s work on this issue to-date, which has included the convening of a workshop, a panel discussion, and the adoption of four resolutions on ‘the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights,’ reveals a level of conceptual and practical opacity/confusion as to what prevention means and – even more importantly – how the Council should take the concept and turn it into improved policy and practice.

The urgent need for greater clarity, and a more focused and effective approach to ‘prevention,’ has been brought into sharp relief by the crisis in Syria and its humanitarian consequences (including mass migration), and by the crisis in Burundi with its echoes of the crimes against humanity committed in Rwanda in 1994.

These and other conflicts and/or humanitarian disasters have led to renewed reflection as to whether the UN is too focused on putting out fires once they have taken hold, and insufficiently focused on preventing fires from catching in the first place. In Geneva, over the course of 2016, those reflections have particularly focused on the question of whether the Council has fulfilled its mandate under paragraph 5f and, if not, what steps it should take in order to do so.

The third Glion Human Rights Dialogue (Glion III) in May, convened by Norway and Switzerland, provided a platform for States, UN officials and experts, and civil society, to begin serious discussions on how the Council might seek to realise its mandate under paragraph 5f and put in place a comprehensive and coherent prevention

strategy, covering early warning, early consideration, early action, tailored action, and the relationship between the Human Rights Council and the Security Council.

As part of that effort, during HRC32, Ireland on behalf of a cross-regional group of seventeen States, delivered a statement offering ideas as to how the UN might strengthen its work to prevent serious human rights violations at an early stage and in a non-selective and non-politicised manner, by applying a set of objective criteria to guide Council action.



Human rights: universal and indivisible, or respecting different cultural and religious backgrounds?

2016 again saw deep polarisation at the Council around certain thematic issues. As has been the case for a number of years – at both the Council and the Third Committee of the GA – resolutions dealing with issues of freedom of association and freedom of assembly, and resolutions focused on certain societal issues (issues which some States believe form an integral part of the universal human rights normative landscape, while others believe represent efforts to impose certain social, cultural, or religious belief systems upon the world at large), became ‘lightening rods’ for amendments from the floor (i.e. ‘hostile amendments’) and difficult votes.

Perhaps the most serious (thematic) disagreements and divisions of 2016 centred on a draft resolution (tabled during HRC32) sponsored by Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, and others, on ‘protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity’ (‘SOGI’). The draft resolution *inter alia* called for the establishment of a new Special Procedures mandate on the subject. Responding to the tabled text, Council Members from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (‘OIC’) took the floor to criticise what they viewed as a ‘deeply divisive proposal that fails to recognise cultural differences.’

After a ‘no action’ motion tabled by Saudi Arabia was rejected by Council Members, Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC (except Albania) introduced a series of ten written amendments seeking to replace the creation of the new mandate with a request that the High Commissioner prepare a report on violence and discrimination on grounds recognised in the Universal Declaration, and seeking to reaffirm the need to ‘respect cultural, religious

and traditional values, and the negative effects of imposing values on others.’

In the ensuing votes, seven draft amendments tabled by OIC Members were adopted and four were rejected (often in very close votes, decided by just one or two swing States). The success of ‘hostile amendments’ is an extremely rare event at the Council, and the adoption of so many in the context of a single resolution would normally be considered a serious setback for the main sponsors. However, on this occasion the key proposed changes to the draft were contained in one overarching amendment, which sought to delete six key paragraphs, stripping away all references to sexual orientation or gender identity and eliminating the decision to establish a new Special Procedures mandate. In the end, this amendment was rejected with 17 in favour, 19 against, and 8 abstentions; and the final resolution, as amended, was adopted as Council resolution 32/2, with 23 in favour, 18 against, and 6 abstentions.

Later, in November, during the 71st session of the Third Committee of the GA in New York, OIC and some African States again tried to block the implementation of the resolution and the creation of the new mandate by deferring the Council’s June decision. This move, following a similar strategy to that used in 2013 to block Council resolution 24/24 on ‘reprisals,’ raised important institutional questions about the mandate and prerogatives of the Council, and its relationship with the GA. Notwithstanding, on this occasion (unlike in 2013), the Third Committee voted to reject attempts to ‘reopen’ the Council’s decisions.

In a sign of growing polarisation, over the course of 2016, the Council witnessed over 120 amendments from the floor – an unprecedented number. In addition to the text on SOGI, such amendments were tabled in the context of draft resolutions on: human rights defenders; peaceful

protests; protection of the family; civil society space; countering terrorism; human rights and the Internet; arbitrary detention; the right to safe drinking water and sanitation; preventable maternal mortality and morbidity; transitional justice; cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; and equal participation in political and public affairs. Before 2016, many of these initiatives had enjoyed consensus support at the Council.

The countries responsible for the most amendments from the floor in 2016 were: the Russian Federation (74); China (41); Cuba (38); Egypt (37); Pakistan (33); and Pakistan on behalf of the OIC (11).

The vast majority of amendments were rejected by the Council, some by comfortable margins, others in close votes. Notwithstanding, a number were adopted (in the context of the resolutions on SOGI and on preventable maternal mortality) – a significant new development for the Council in 2016.

A final - outward - expression of growing tension at the Council in 2016 came in the form of disagreements over the appointment of Special Procedures mandate-holders, especially at the end of HRC32. Differences of opinion as to the relative merits and suitability of candidates for certain mandates, such as on extrajudicial killings, led some States, including the Russian Federation and others, to try (in the end unsuccessfully) to delay or halt the Council's President's decision on the matter.

From declaration to implementation

One of the most important developments of 2016 was a continued push, on the part of States, OHCHR, UN mechanisms, and civil society, to finally bridge the UN's long-standing human rights 'implementation gap,' and construct a new international 'implementation agenda.'

A key pillar of this new implementation agenda is the growing interest among States - powered by the second and third Global Human Rights Dialogues, the UN's Treaty Body strengthening process, and an increased focus on implementation in the context of the second and third cycles of the UPR - in the establishment and evolution of so-called 'national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up' ('NMRF') or 'standing national implementation, coordination, and reporting structures' ('SNICRS').

As those names suggest, these structures are mandated to take recommendations from the UN human rights mechanisms (together, in some cases, with recommendations from regional human rights bodies), and coordinate the actions of different organs of the State to pursue their realisation. The same structures often then receive feedback from and monitor/measure implementation by different parts of government (including by applying impact indicators), and prepare the subsequent national report, thereby completing the international 'reporting cycle.'

As part of a growing interest in NMRFs/SNICRS, in November 2016, OHCHR published the results of a global study on their emergence and evolution, together with a Practical Guide, to help States develop such structures and strengthen their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. Also in November, the UPR Working Group convened a panel discussion on ‘promoting international cooperation to support national

human rights follow-up systems and processes' (pursuant to Council resolution 30/25).

Linked with this growing interest in national implementation and improved reporting, during 2016 States also began to consider ways to improve the Council's ability to consider and recognise implementation 'success stories' or implementation 'good practice.' As part of that effort, during HRC33 Colombia and the United Kingdom delivered a cross-regional statement calling on the Council, while continuing to address situations of serious violations, to also create space on its agenda to recognise progress and promote a 'race to the top.' A number of other States also drew attention, during 2016, to the importance of exchanging good practice as a contribution to building national capacity and strengthening national implementation, and tabled resolutions or made important informal proposals in that regard. For example, during HRC31 Denmark tabled a resolution requesting OHCHR to convene an inter-sessional seminar to allow States to exchange national experiences and practices on the implementation of safeguards to prevent torture, while Singapore, at various points during 2016, proposed the establishment of a new type of Council forum: 'communities of practice' (perhaps to be convened at regional level).

In a similar vein, 2016 saw States, again in the context of the Glion Human Rights Dialogue, begin to give thought to how to improve the capacity of the Council and the wider UN human rights pillar to deliver support (for example, under item 10) to those countries that possess the political will to implement UN recommendations, but lack technical and/or human capacity. Under GA resolution 60/251, a core competence of the Council is to ‘promote...technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of Member States concerned.’ However, ten years after the Council’s establishment, there are serious doubts

The image shows a large abstract painting with a complex, textured surface. The dominant colors are various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy, interspersed with bright yellow and white. A dark, almost black, irregular shape is visible in the upper right quadrant. Below the painting, a digital display shows a table titled 'HRC/32/L.9 The human rights situation'. The table lists 15 countries with corresponding 'YES', 'NO', or 'ABST' responses. At the bottom of the table, a summary row shows 'YES' with a count of 27, followed by a red box.

HRC/32/L.9 The human rights situation		
YES	ALBANIA	YES
NO	ALGERIA	YES
ABST	BANGLADESH	ABST
YES	BELGIUM	ABST
NO	BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)	ABST
YES	BOTSWANA	ABST
ABST	BURUNDI	YES
NO	CHINA	YES
ABST	CONGO	YES
YES	COTE D'IVOIRE	YES
NO	CUBA	YES
ABST	ECUADOR	ABST
YES	EL SALVADOR	YES
ABST	ETHIOPIA	ABST
YES	FRANCE	YES
YES	GEORGIA	YES
YES	27	

over the degree to which it is fulfilling this mandate. State recognition of this shortfall, and initial reflections on how to improve the delivery of capacity-building support, are therefore welcome developments; as are moves by OHCHR, in the context of the High Commissioner's 'Change Initiative,' to strengthen the delivery of support on the ground (on its own or in cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator system) and to help States implement their international commitments.

In addition to helping States better promote and protect human rights, during 2016 the Council and its mechanisms, and OHCHR, repeatedly drew attention to the importance of improved implementation as a contribution to international efforts to realise the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals ('SDGs') 'leaving no-one behind.'

Cooperation and dialogue

At the start of HRC33 in September, the High Commissioner for Human Rights (the 'High Commissioner'), H.E. Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, delivered a powerful speech attacking 'the growing refusal on the part of an increasing number of Member States to grant OHCHR, or the human rights mechanisms, access.' The High Commissioner's address drew attention, once again, to the importance of meaningful State cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms.

The importance of this point is clear: in the absence of dialogue and cooperation, the UN human rights system will inevitably struggle to protect and promote the human rights of individuals. Yet where a State does possess the political will to engage in a meaningful way, the UN's human rights pillar has the potential to make a significant contribution to improved domestic compliance with universal norms, and to the strengthened enjoyment of human rights on the ground.



During the 2016 Human Rights Council retreat, Member States of the Council, together with representatives of OHCHR, UN mechanisms and civil society, considered ways to strengthen cooperation and dialogue, in particular by bringing improvements to the Council's methods of work, by introducing important practical changes to the conduct of the UPR ahead of the third cycle, and by strengthening the Council's focus on implementation, impact, and good practice (including by generating a 'race to the top.')

Unfortunately, as of December 2016, practical measures to raise the political cost, to States, of non-cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms; or (on the other hand) to recognise and highlight positive examples of State cooperation and the human rights impacts thereof; remain an aspiration rather than a reality.

In a particularly egregious example of the Council's failure to address persistent non-cooperation, during 2016 Burundi retained its seat on the UN's main human rights protection body, despite widespread evidence of gross and systematic human rights violations in that country, and despite the fact that Burundi has repeatedly and publicly refused to cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms, as well as with the UN Treaty Bodies. Repeated calls by Non-Governmental Organisations ('NGOs') for the Council to initiate the procedure foreseen in GA resolution 60/251 operative paragraph 8, under which the membership rights of a Council Member may be suspended, have been ignored – with serious implications for the Council's credibility.

Notwithstanding this failure, during 2016 there were some signs of States and UN experts becoming more aware of the problem of non-cooperation, and of taking steps to address it – especially by promoting greater

transparency at the Council. For example, during HRC31, the Chairperson of the Special Procedures Coordination Committee, Mr Michael Addo, presented an expanded annual report of the Special Procedures to Council Members, which, for the first time, included information on levels of State cooperation with the mechanism, including responsiveness to Urgent Appeals and other communications. Similarly, during HRC32, the EU delivered a statement highlighting the failure of some States, especially Council Members, to respond to communications sent to them by mandate-holders, and arguing that such 'systematic' non-cooperation 'is incompatible with [Council] membership.' The yourHRC.org project, of which this report is part, is also designed to strengthen the Council's membership, by leveraging transparency and public accountability.



A window onto the work of the UN's human rights pillar...

Members of the Council hold the main responsibility for pursuing and fulfilling the body's important mandate, and thereby of 'promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.'

When establishing the Council, the UN General Assembly decided that it would consist of 47 Member States, elected by a majority of its Members. In making their choice, Members of the GA would take into account the contribution of the candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments.

The GA furthermore decided that elected Members should uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and fully cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms. Moreover, it was agreed that the Council's methods of work would be transparent, fair and impartial, enable genuine dialogue, be results-oriented, allow for subsequent follow-up discussions to recommendations and their implementation, and allow for substantive interaction with Special Procedures and other mechanisms.

yourHRC.org has been created to promote transparency around the degree to which the Council and its Members are delivering on this crucial mandate, passed to them by the GA and, ultimately, entrusted to them by 'the Peoples of the United Nations' described in the UN Charter.



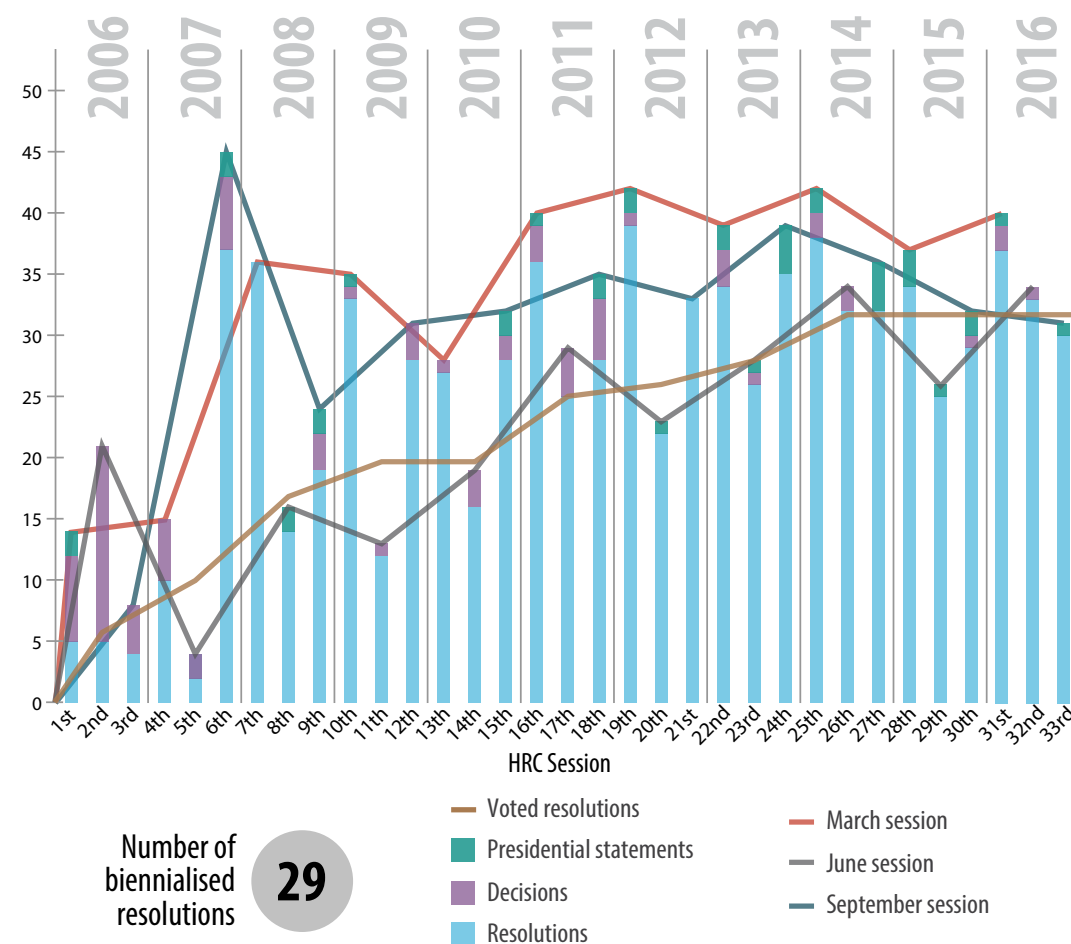
PART I

2016

**THE WORK, OUTPUT AND
PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNCIL
AND ITS MECHANISMS**

THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

Number of Council texts adopted over time

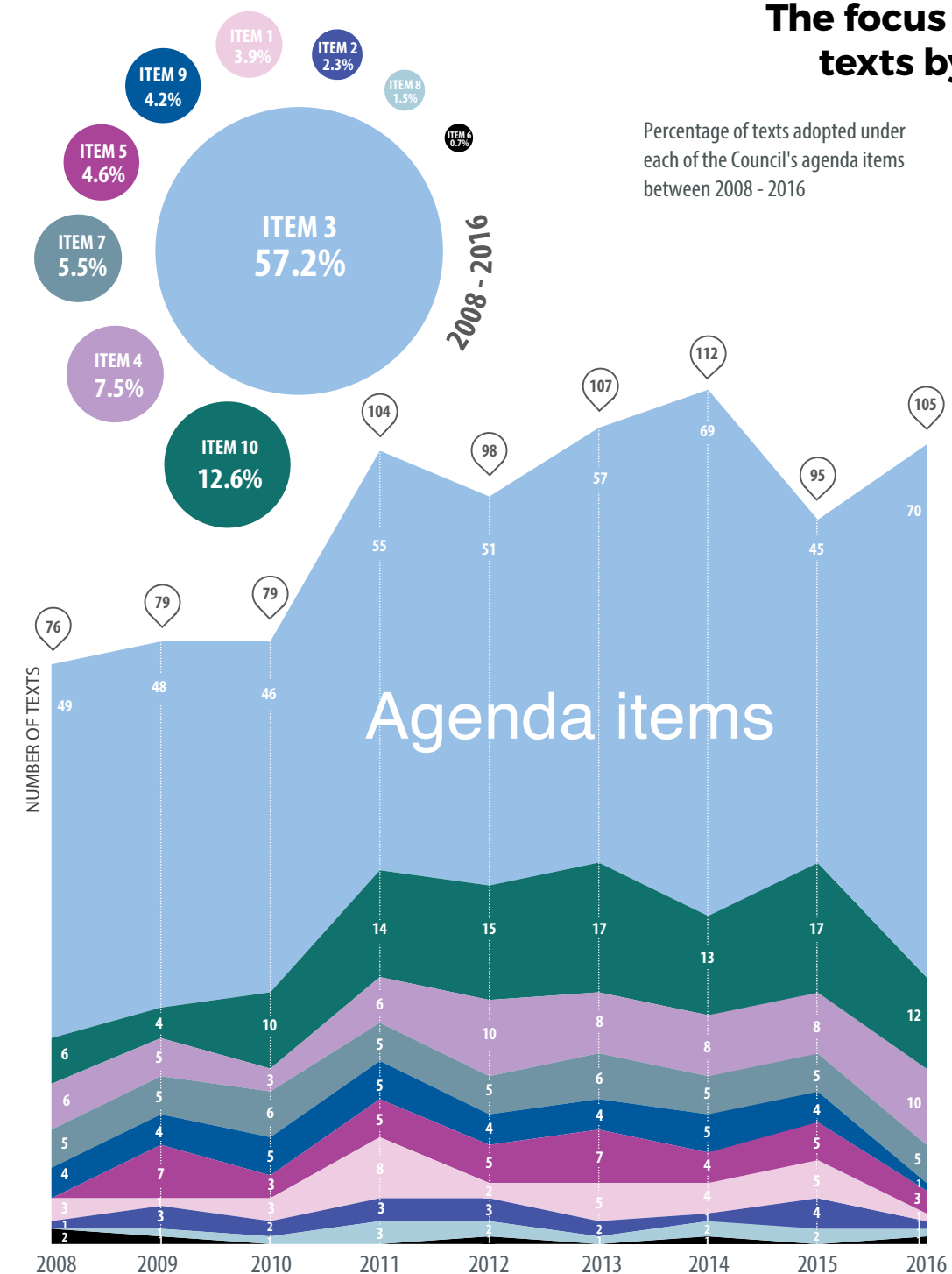


Data source: OHCHR website / URG Resolutions Portal.

- The number of texts adopted during 2016 (105) increased with respect to the total number of texts adopted during 2015 (95), marking a reverse of the slight reduction seen during 2015, that had been regarded as the start of a sustained rationalisation of the Council's work.

The focus of the Council texts by agenda item (2008-2016)

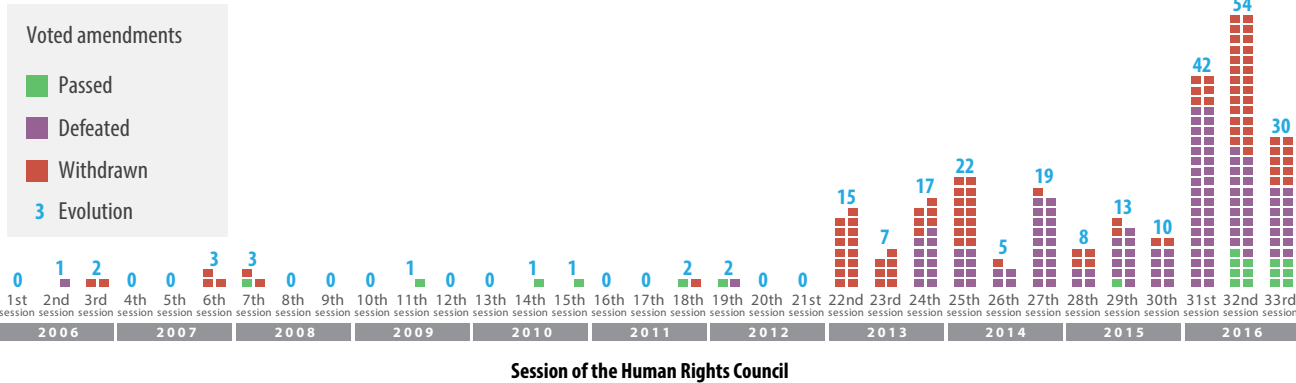
Percentage of texts adopted under each of the Council's agenda items between 2008 - 2016



Data Source: Council's texts (resolutions, decisions or presidential statements) adopted between 2008-2016, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

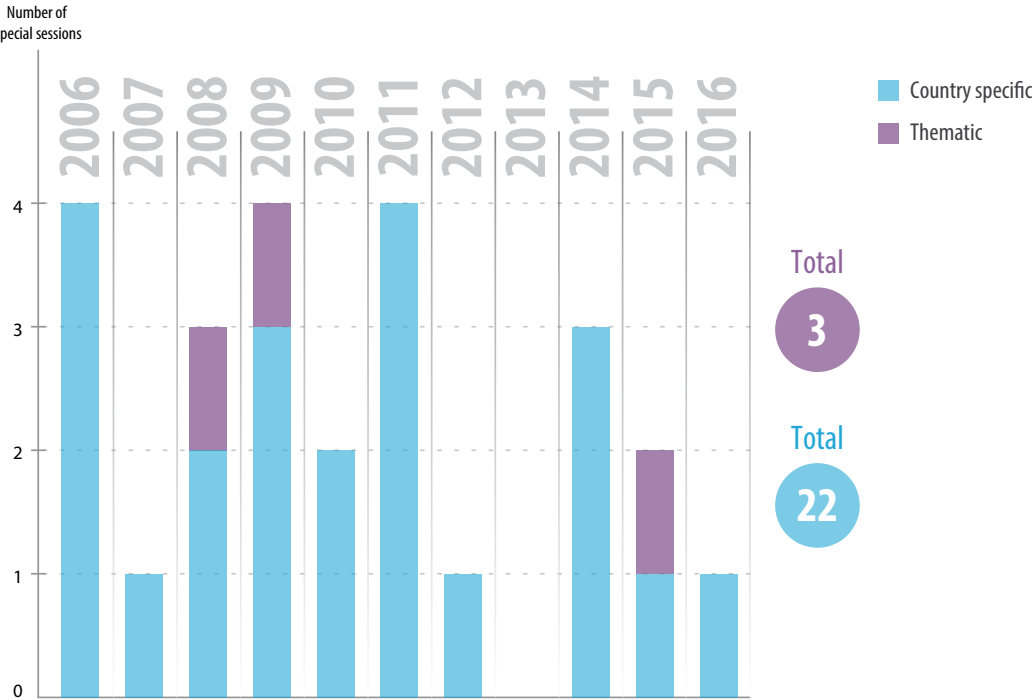
- 2016 saw again most resolutions adopted under agenda item 3 'Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development'; it was also the year with the highest number of texts (70) adopted under this agenda item.
- The number of item 5 texts slightly decreased in 2016, as compared to previous years.
- 2016 also saw a decrease in the number of texts adopted under item 1.
- The number of texts adopted under item 4 increased during 2016, with 10 resolutions – a number that had not been seen at the Council since 2012.

Evolution of amendments to Council resolutions (2006-2016)



Source: Data published at the OHCHR website.

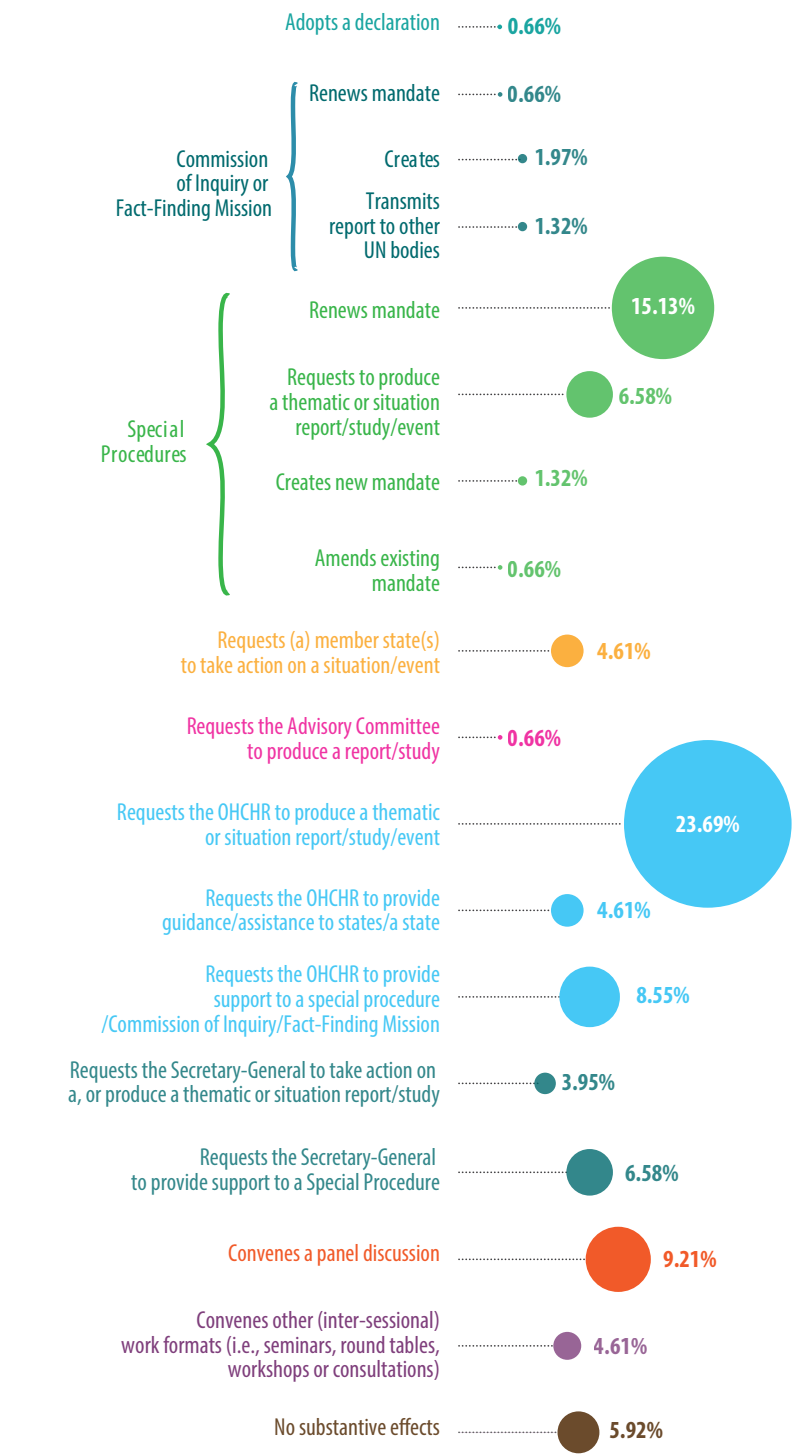
Special sessions: Evolutions of Council's Special Sessions since 2006.



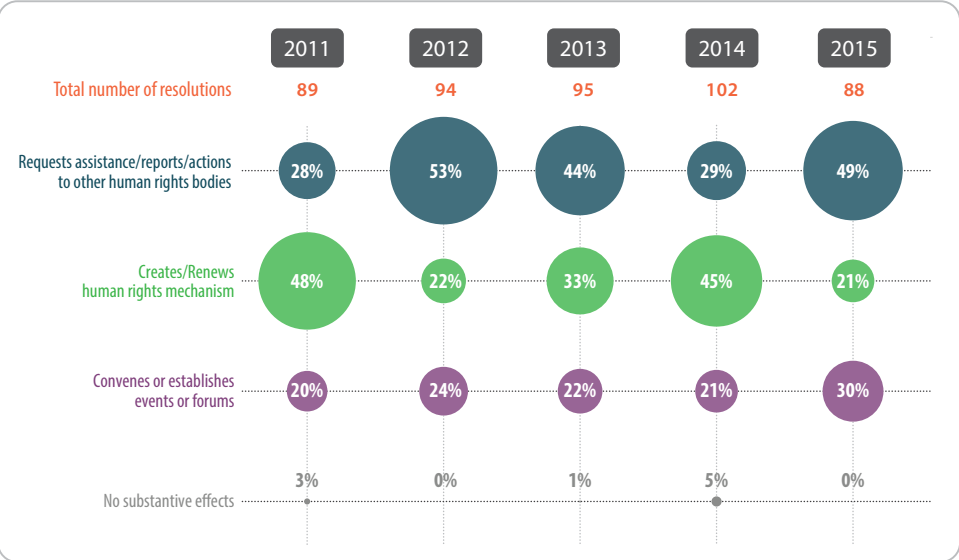
Source: Data published at the OHCHR website.

The operative effects of Council resolutions adopted during 2016

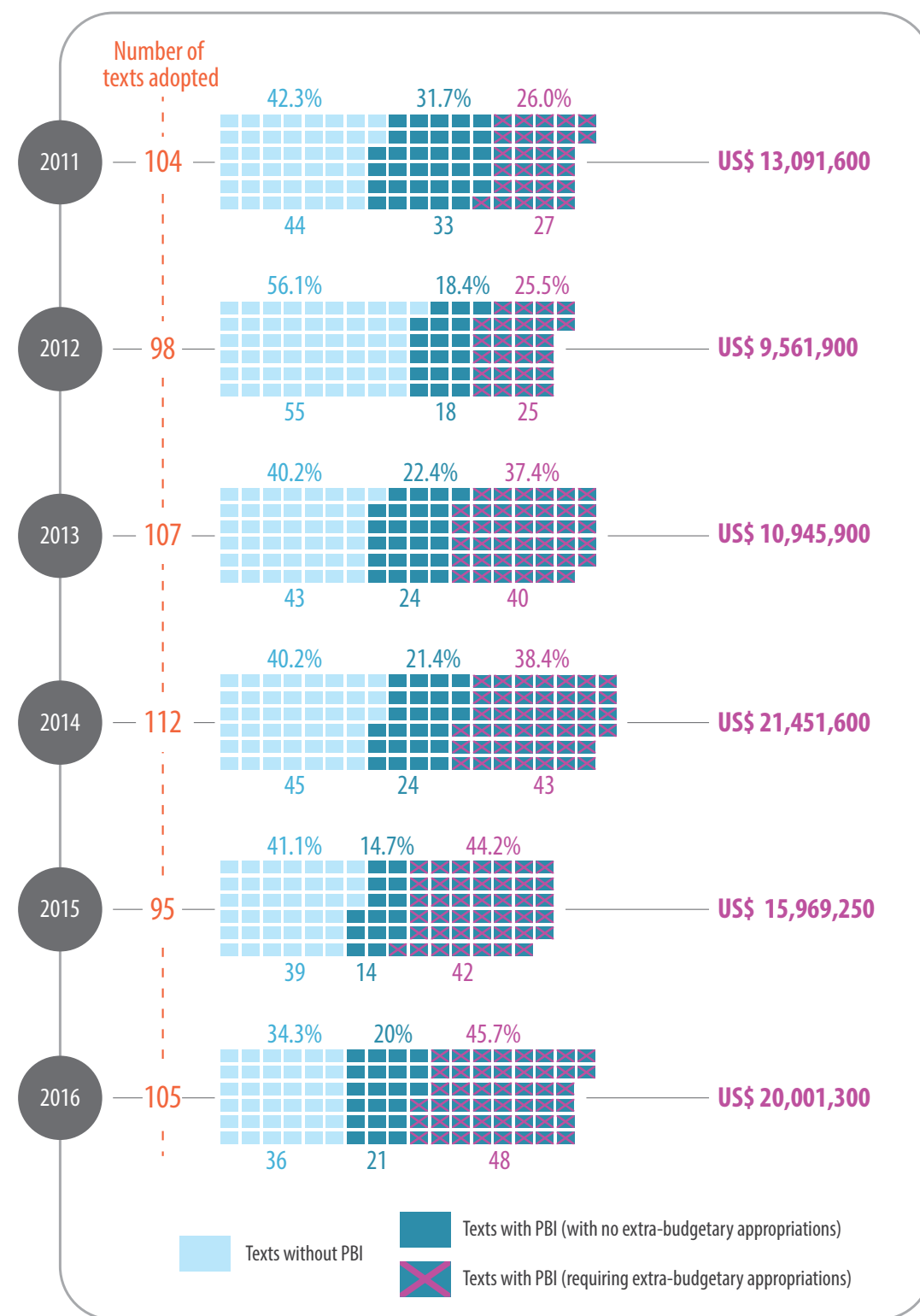
Data Source: Council resolutions 2011-2016, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.



Overview: The operative effects of Council resolutions (2011-2015)

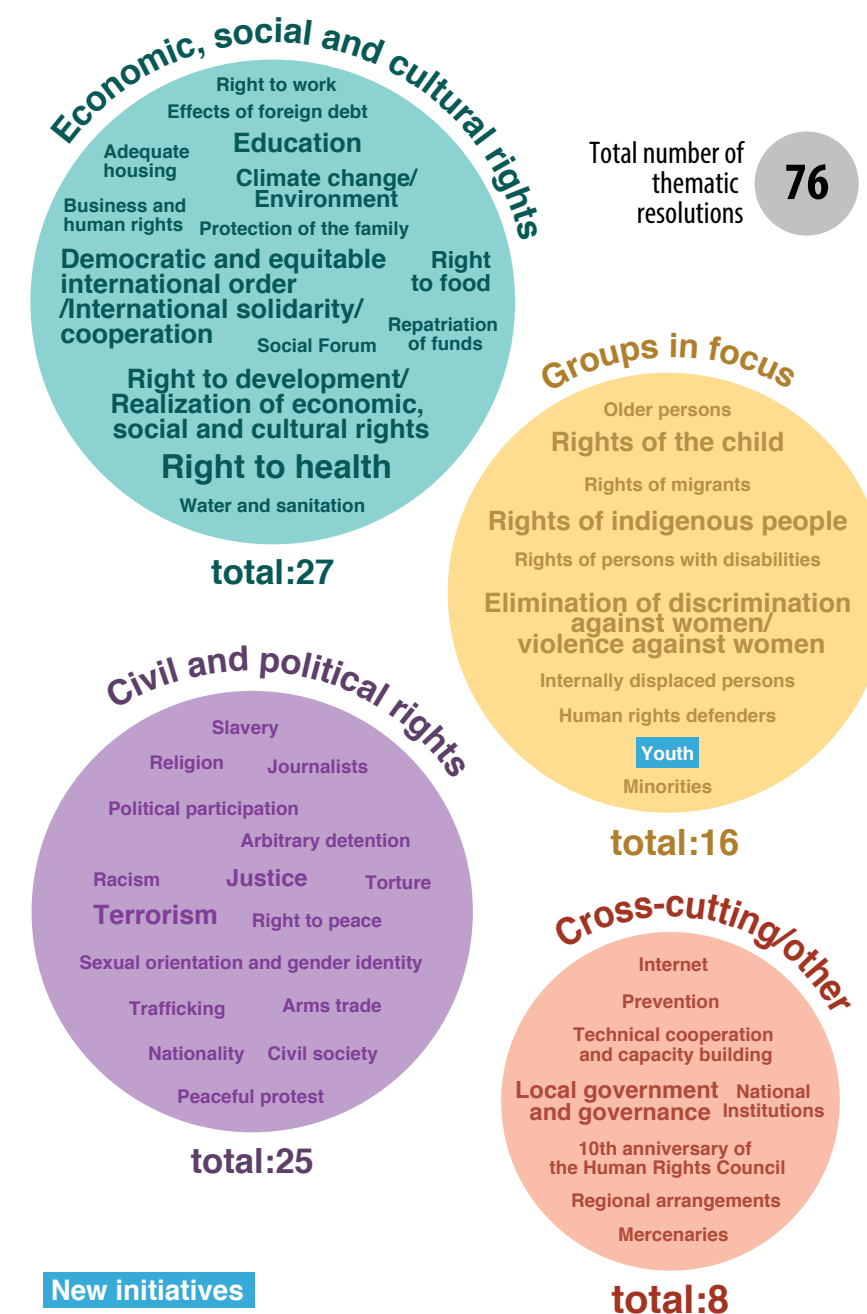


Financial implications of Council resolutions (2011-2016)



Data Source: PBIs arising from each resolution (2011-2016) available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

Top themes in 2016: focus of thematic resolutions

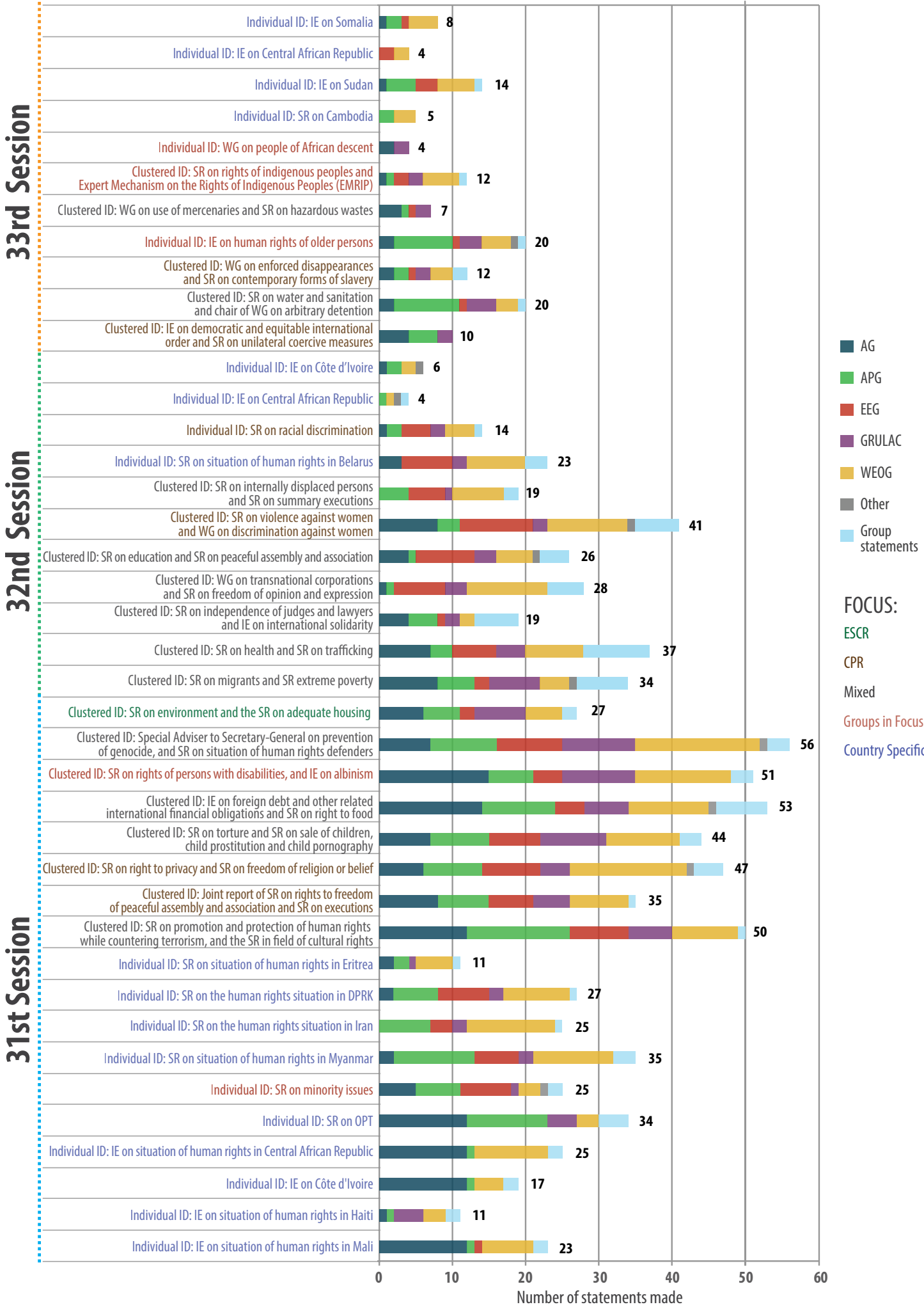


Note: National Mechanisms means NMRF or SNICRS, as these terms are defined in the introduction of this report. The size of each bubble, and word/phrase within the bubble, relates to the number of resolutions adopted with that focus/theme in 2016. Data source: Data Source: Council resolutions 2016, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

- In 2016, there were slightly more texts focused on economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCRs) issues than on civil and political rights (CPRs) issues.
- For ESCRs resolutions, the Council focused particularly on the right to health, although it also paid particular attention to the realisation of ESCRs and the right to development.
- For CPRs resolutions, States focused particularly on terrorism and justice, although overall, there was a balance in the specific topics related with CPRs.
- For groups in focus, there was, as in previous years, a strong focus on children's rights and women's rights, although during 2016 the Council also paid particular attention to the rights of indigenous peoples.

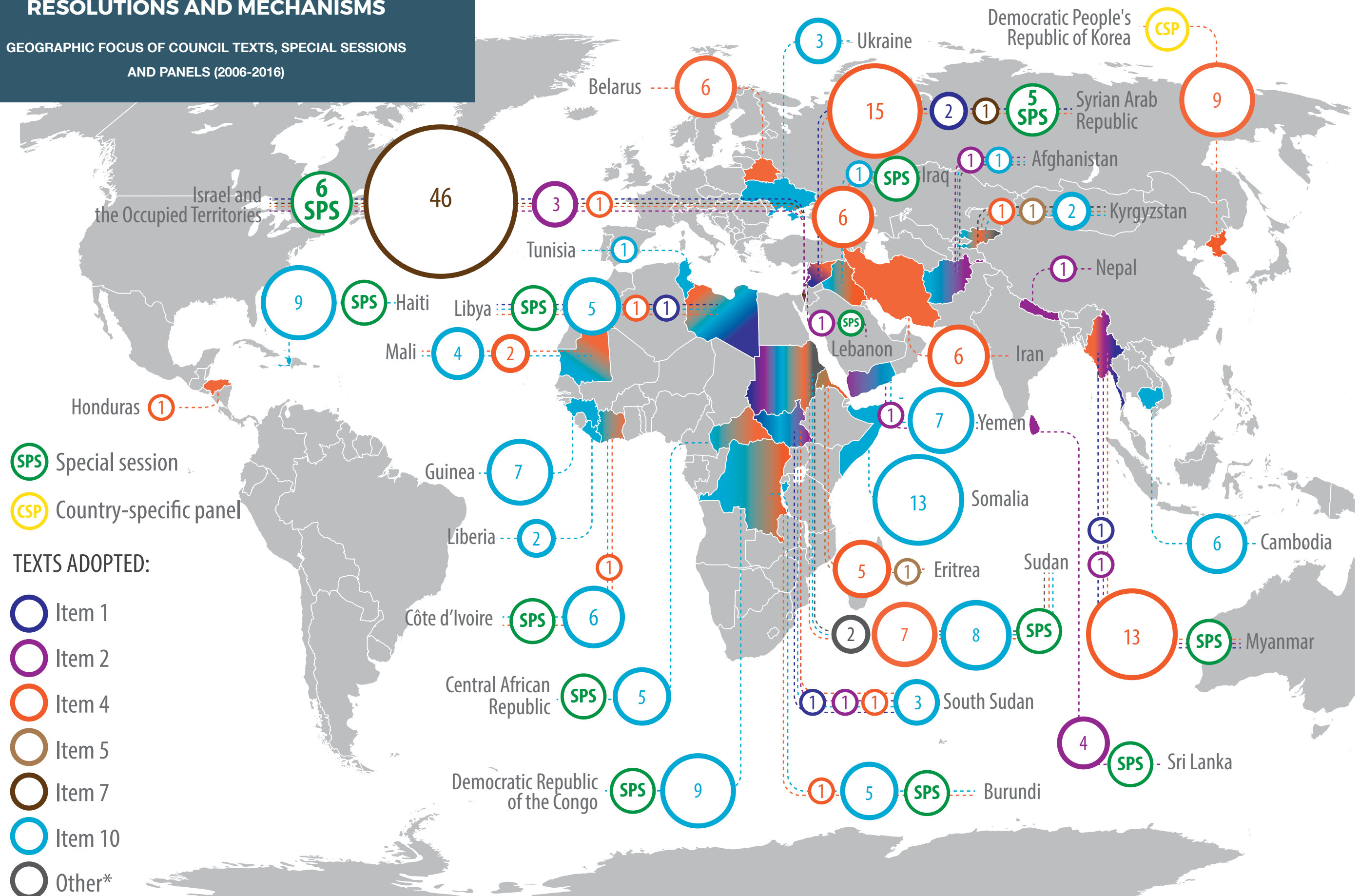
State participation in Interactive Dialogues with the Special Procedures in 2016

Data source: OHCHR extranet. Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.



THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF COUNCIL TEXTS, SPECIAL SESSIONS
AND PANELS (2006-2016)

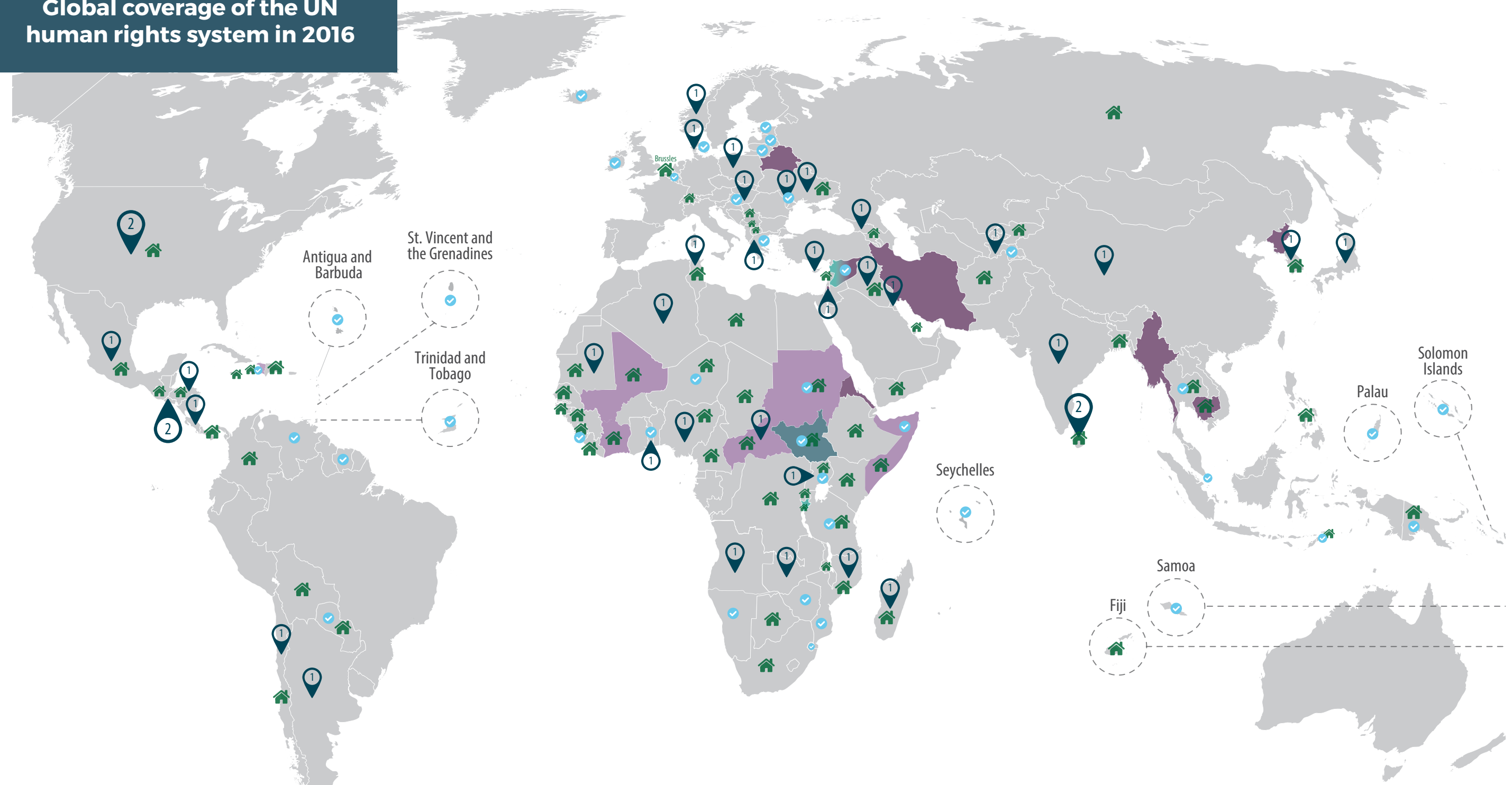









* Decisions on the Situation of human rights in Darfur

Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions, or presidential statements) 2006-2016, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2016



OHCHR FIELD PRESENCE	UPR	THEMATIC SPECIAL PROCEDURES	COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SPECIAL PROCEDURES		COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY	
						
OHCHR field presence during 2016	UPR review completed 2016	Country visits completed 2016	Country Independent Expert	Country Special Rapporteur	Commission of Inquiry (COI)	Commission on Human Rights

Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions or presidential statements) 2006-2016, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

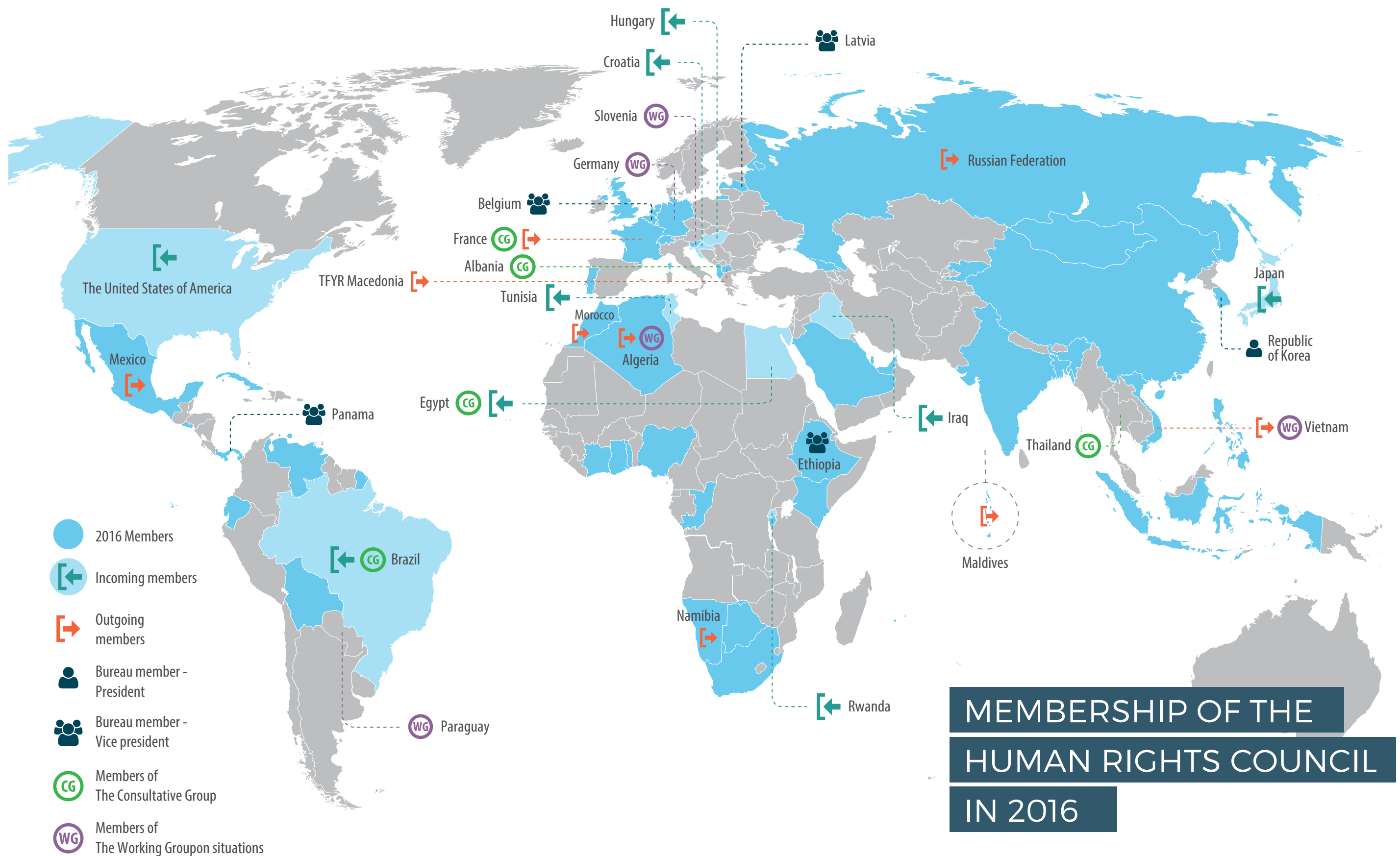
Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.



PART II

2016

**COUNCIL MEMBER STATES:
ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP,
COOPERATION**



Data source: OHCHR website. Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

COOPERATION WITH THE UN, ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND MECHANISMS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Secretary-General's report

In August 2016, the UN Secretary-General presented his annual report (pursuant to resolution 12/2) to the 33rd session of the Council on: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.'

With resolution 12/2, the Council had condemned all acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals and groups who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, committed by State and non-State actors.

In his 2016 report, the Secretary-General highlighted the initiatives and efforts made by the UN system and other stakeholders to tackle the issue of reprisals. It further commented on the crucial importance of safeguarding NGOs access to the UN, its representatives and mechanisms.

In terms of steps taken by the UN system, the Secretary-General remarked on the efforts of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the Council in addressing the issue of reprisals, and calling on Member States to

empower civil society and strengthen responses to allegations of reprisals. He also highlighted that as of 'June 2016, eight out of the ten human rights treaty bodies had adopted the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals, known as the San José Guidelines.'

The report further presents information on alleged acts of intimidation and reprisals based on data gathered from 1st June 2015 to 31st May 2016, including follow-up information on cases discussed in previous reports. It includes responses provided by the concerned governments, where available. It does not, however, mention all situations known by the Secretary-General, as 'it was decided not to include those cases in which the risk to the safety and well-being of the individuals concerned, or their family Members, was deemed too high.'

The report reiterated the Secretary-General's concern that, 'while it is the primary obligation of the State to protect those who cooperate with the United Nations in the field of human rights and to ensure that they may do so safely and without hindrance, the cases described... seem to confirm that acts of intimidation and reprisal are often perpetrated by government officials of the State itself.'

In his 2016 report, the Secretary-General summarised information received relating to cases of intimidation and reprisal in the following countries:

Australia
Burundi
China
Iraq
Japan
Morocco
Somalia
Sudan
Uganda
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ('Venezuela')
Viet Nam

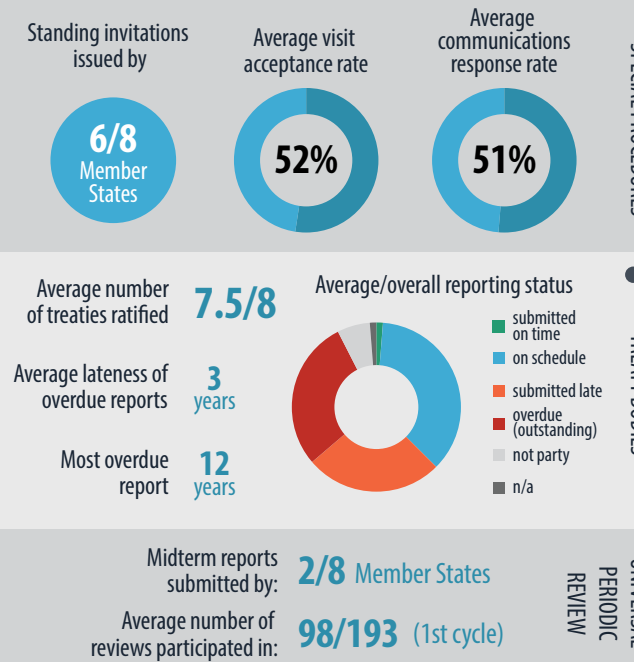
He further summarised follow-up information on cases included in previous reports, concerning the following countries:

China
Cyprus
Eritrea
Kuwait
Oman
United Arab Emirates ('UAE')
Venezuela

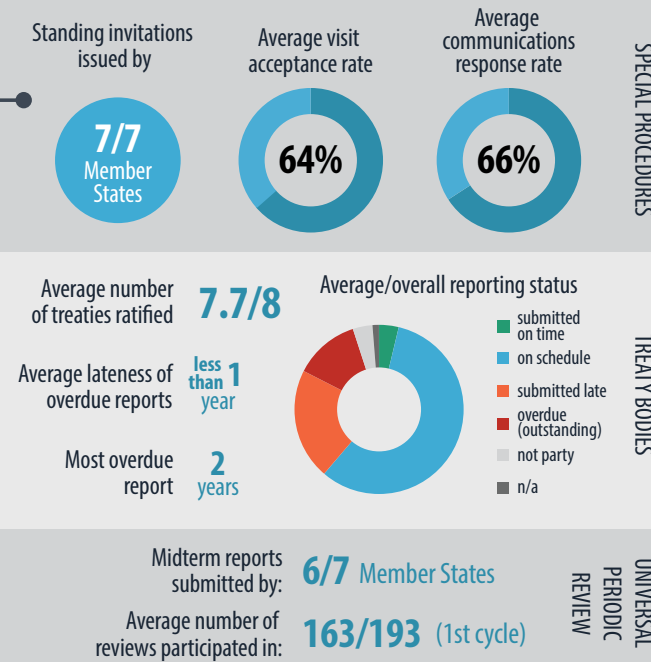
Finally, the Secretary-General called the UN mechanisms and Members to report 'more regularly' on situations of intimidation and reprisals, with a view of strengthening the collection of information these cases. He concluded by stressing how important it is for the UN 'to be able to cooperate with the widest pool of stakeholders as possible without putting anyone at risk.'

Although not mentioned in the report, a further important development in 2016 was the Secretary-General's decision, in early October, to confer a special mandate upon UN Assistant Secretary-General Mr Andrew Gilmour to receive, consider, and respond to allegations of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and other civil society actors engaging with the UN.

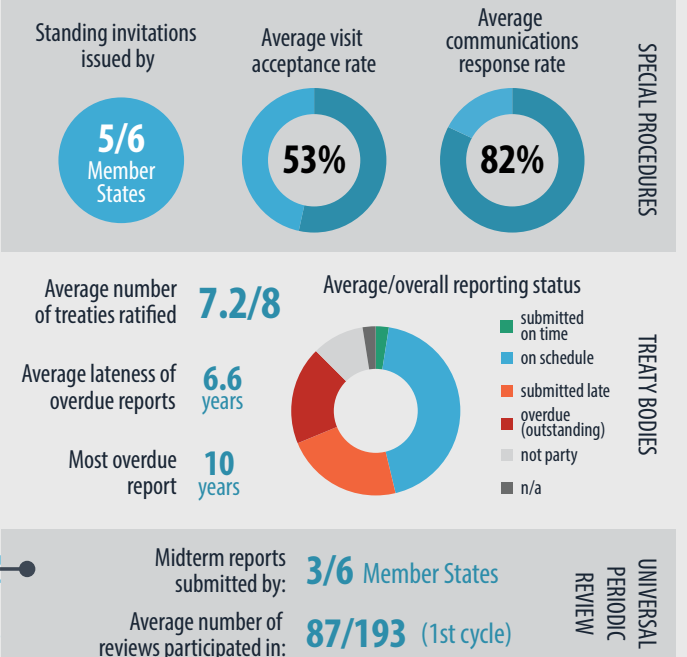
Latin America and Caribbean Group



Western Europe and Others Group

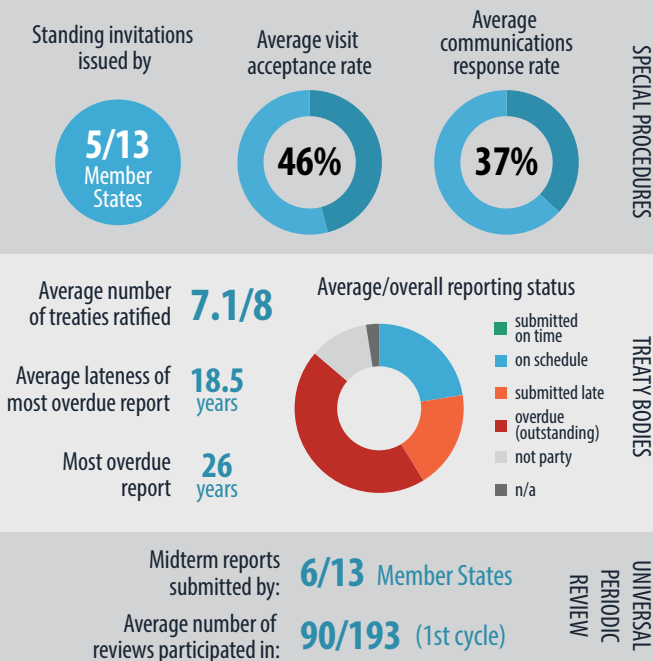


Eastern European Group

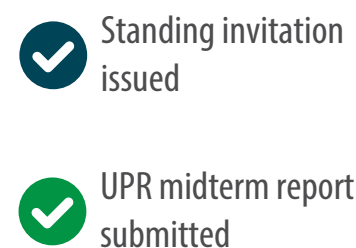
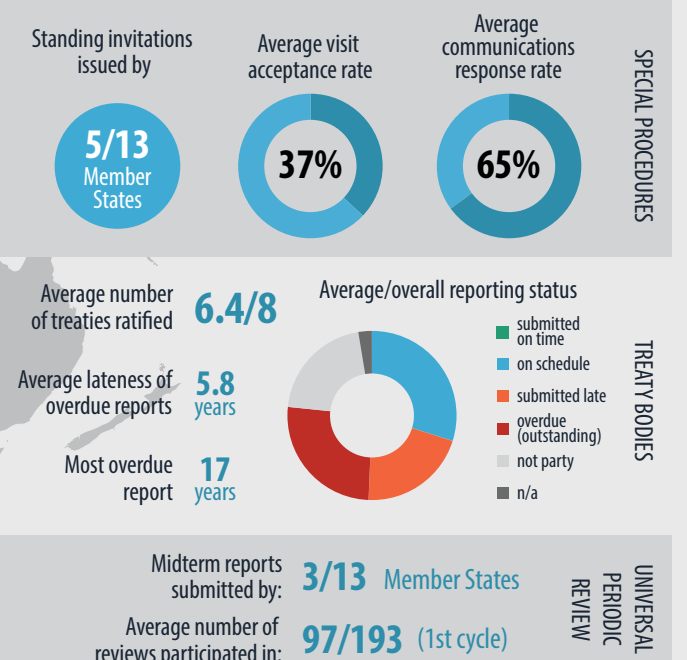


GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION

African Group



Asia Pacific Group



African Group (AG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2016)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms
Algeria				B	2
Botswana				—	2
Burundi				A	1
Congo				B	2
Côte d'Ivoire				B	2
Ethiopia				B	2
Ghana				A	3
Kenya				A	2
Morocco				A	2
Namibia				A	1
Nigeria				A	3
South Africa				A	3
Togo				A	1

Leadership

During the course of 2016, African Members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2016 African Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Algeria - The right to health through enhancing capacity-building in public health; the right to a nationality: women’s equal nationality rights in law and in practice; and effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights.

Botswana - Preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age; equal participation in political and public affairs; the right to a nationality: women’s equal nationality rights in law and in practice.

Congo - Promoting human rights through sports and the Olympic ideal.

Côte d’Ivoire - Youth and human rights; protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities.

Ethiopia - Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage.

Ghana - Business and human rights: improving accountability and access to remedy.

Morocco - Human rights and transitional justice; the safety of journalists; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; youth and human rights; protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and

promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; human rights education and training; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; and human rights and the environment.

Namibia - Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context.

Nigeria - The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet; and high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council.

South Africa - Access to medicine in the context of the right to health, promoting the right to health through enhancing capacity-building in public health; and the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights.

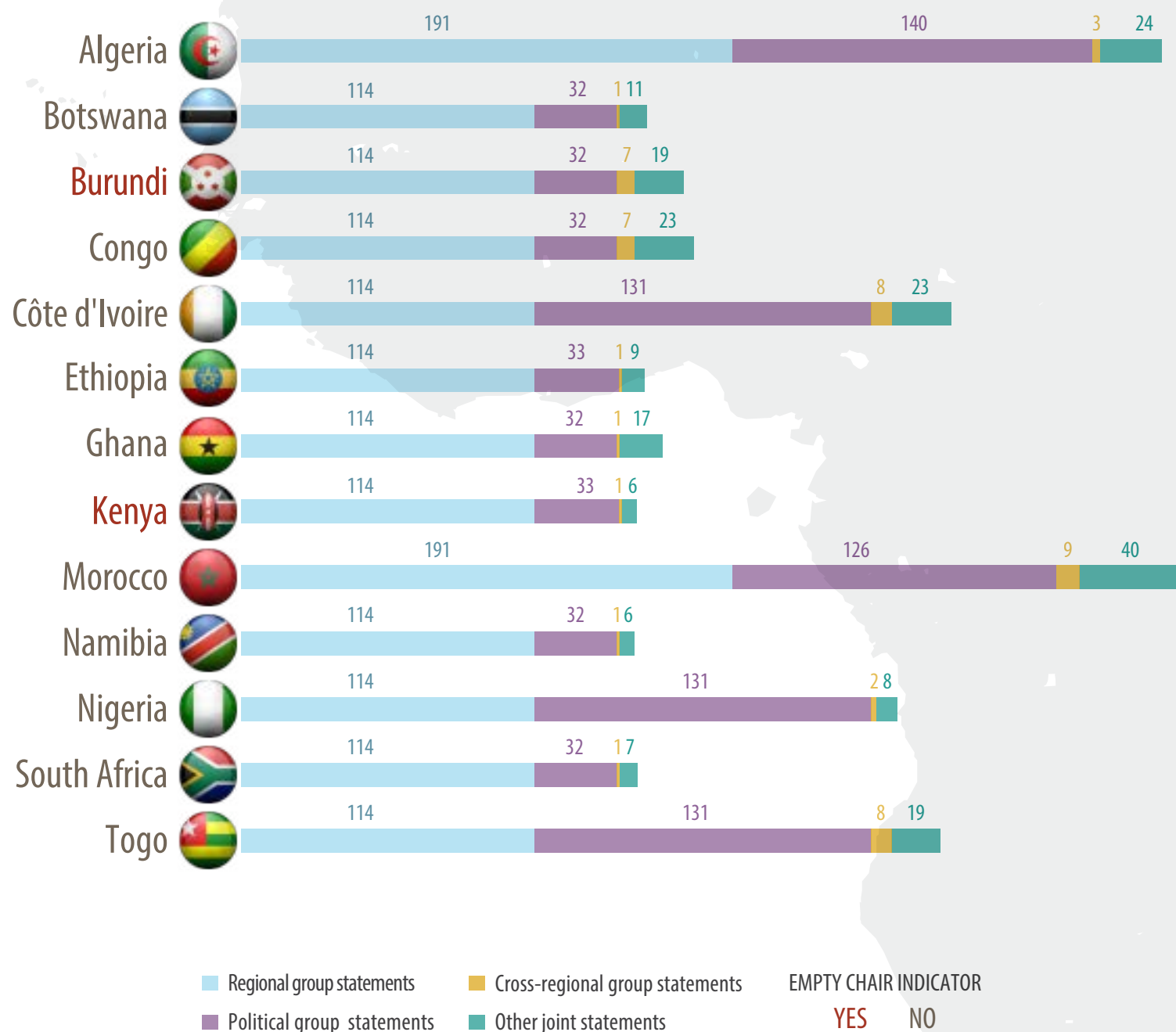
At a country-specific level, African Members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

Morocco - Human rights situation in Syria.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that African States often work through their regional group. In 2016, the African Group led on thematic initiatives focused on: elimination of female genital mutilation; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights; and the importance of improving international cooperation.

The African Group also led on Council initiatives aiming to deliver technical assistance to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights in Somalia, Sudan, Central African republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Libya, Mali, and Guinea.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2016



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council Member, participated (individual statements) in more than 5% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

With regard to texts on country-specific situations (item 4 texts - situations that require the Council's attention), African Members of the Council displayed markedly different voting records in 2016. For resolutions on the situation in Syria: Morocco, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana voted in favour, while Algeria voted against. Togo abstained on one occasion and voted in favour twice. Regarding the Council text on Burundi: Morocco voted against; Algeria, Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire abstained; and Ghana voted in favour. Regarding the resolution on Belarus: Algeria, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Morocco abstained. Regarding the resolution on Iran: Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana, abstained; while Algeria and Kenya voted against.

A number of African Members voted against or abstained on all item 4 texts (where a vote was called). For example, Burundi voted against or abstained on all item 4 texts, including a resolution on the situation in Burundi (the delegation voted against). Kenya and South Africa abstained during all votes, except on a resolution on Iran (they voted against). Togo abstained on all resolutions, except on the situation in Syria (Togo voted in favour in two occasions). Congo, Ethiopia, and Namibia abstained on all item 4 texts.

All African States joined consensus on the Council's resolution on the situation in Eritrea.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), African States generally voted in favour (though they sometimes abstained). For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), African Members joined consensus on all texts in 2016, except when a vote was called (i.e. on assistance to Ukraine – with Algeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia and South Africa abstaining; Burundi voting against; and Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo in favour.)

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, or 'groups in focus,' where a vote was called in 2016, African Members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions include voting on:

- A resolution on transitional justice – Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria abstained, while Congo voted against.
- A resolution on protecting human rights while countering terrorism –Burundi and Togo voted against.
- A resolution on the effects of terrorism on human rights – Namibia abstained, and South Africa voted against.
- A resolution on civil society space – Burundi, Ethiopia, and Kenya abstained; Congo, Nigeria, and South Africa voted against.
- A resolution on peaceful protests – Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Togo abstained; Burundi voted against.
- A resolution on human rights defenders – all African States voted in favour except for Burundi and Nigeria (against), and Kenya and Namibia (abstention).
- A resolution on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) – Algeria, Burundi, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, and Togo voted against; Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, and South Africa abstained.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, African States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts, including a voted resolution on protection of the family. The exception was a vote on a resolution on the right to water and sanitation, during which Kenya and Nigeria abstained.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

		Algeria	Botswana	Burundi	Congo	Côte d'Ivoire	Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Morocco	Namibia	Nigeria	South Africa	Togo	
SPECIAL PROCEDURES	Standing invitation														
	Visits completed (1998-20th November 2016)														
	Longest outstanding visit request	SR on torture (19 years)	SR on racism (4 years)	SR on minority issues and WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances (7 years)	SR on food (10 years)	SR on torture (3 years)	SR on freedom of opinion and expression (14 years)	SR on education (9 years)	SR on the independence of judges and lawyers (16 years)	SR on freedom of assembly and association (5 years)	SR on human rights defenders (5 years)	SR on the independence of judges and lawyers (12 years)	SR on arbitrary executions and SR on racism (8 years)	SR on the independence of judges and lawyers (4 years)	
	Visits completed in 2016	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	List of mandates	SR on health	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SR on sale of children	—	SR on torture
TREATY BODIES	Communications response rate (as referenced in 'Compilation of UN information report')														
	Core conventions ratified	7	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	8	7	8	
	Communications procedures accepted	3	1	2	2	2	0	4	0	3	3	2	5	3	
	Conventions ratified in 2016														
	Reporting status (data as at 14th November 2016)														
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW	Most overdue report	ICCPR (5 years)	CAT (15 years)	CERD (18 years)	ICESCR (26 years)	ICESCR (22 years)	CERD (3 years)	ICESCR (13 years)	ICCPR (1.5 years)	CERD (3 years)	CRPD (7 years)	ICCPR (17 years)	CAT (7 years)	CRPD (3.5 years)	
	OPCAT														
	Ratified?														
	NPM established?														
	Sub-Committee visit?														
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW	Reviewed in 2016	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—		
	Level of delegation (at latest review)	Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister	Deputy Attorney General	Attorney General	Minister	Minister	Attorney General	Deputy Minister	Minister	
	Mid-term reporting	—		—	—	—	—	—	—				—	—	
	Participation in other reviews (1 st and 2 nd cycles)	187	79	41	50	62	65	113	42	160	95	94	115	67	

* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for the eight “core human rights conventions,” which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms
Bangladesh				B	3
China				—	3
India				A	4
Indonesia				A	4
Kyrgyzstan				B	2
Maldives				B	2
Mongolia				A	1
Philippines				A	4
Qatar				A	3
Republic of Korea				A	4
Saudi Arabia				—	3
UAE				—	2
Vietnam				—	1

Leadership

During the course of 2016, Asia-Pacific Members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2016 Asia-Pacific Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Bangladesh - Protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; and human rights and climate change.

China - Access to medicines in the context of the right to health; promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through enhancing capacity-building in public health; protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; and promoting human rights through sports and the Olympic ideal.

India - Access to medicines in the context of the right to health.

Indonesia - Equal participation in political and public affairs; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical

and mental health; the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the right to work.

Maldives - The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and human rights and the environment.

Mongolia - Preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern.

Philippines - Youth and human rights; trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and people at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations; human rights and climate change; and human rights education and training.

Qatar - The safety of journalists; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; and protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities.

Republic of Korea - Local government and human rights; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights; and promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal.

Saudi Arabia - Protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; and effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights.

Vietnam - Human rights and climate change.

At a country-specific level, Asia-Pacific Members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

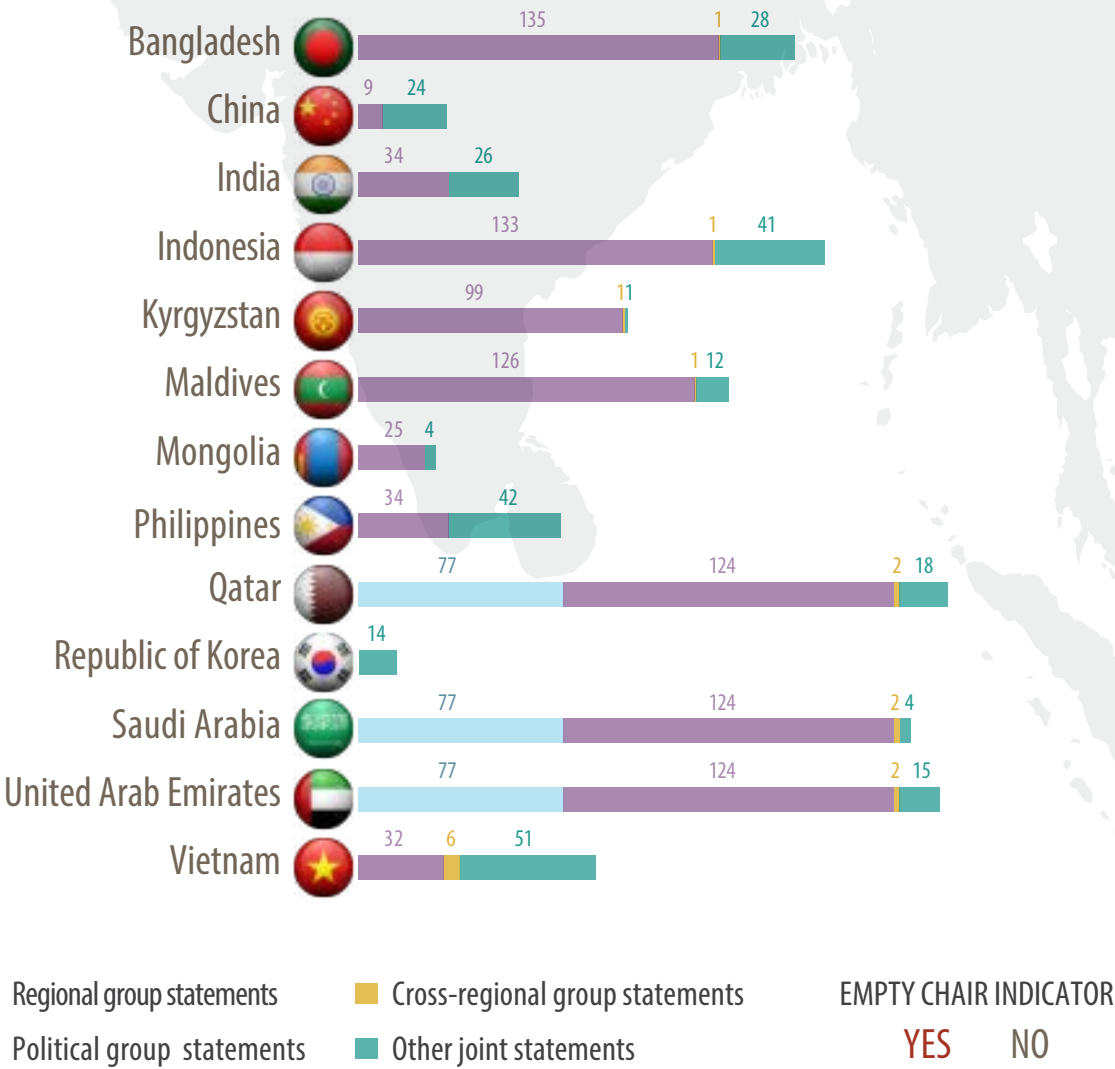
Qatar: The human rights situation in Syria.

Saudi Arabia: The human rights situation in Syria.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some Asia-Pacific States regularly

work through political groups (especially the Arab Group and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation - OIC). In 2016, the Arab Group led on resolutions dealing with technical assistance for Yemen, while the OIC (with Pakistan as coordinator) put forward resolutions on: human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatisation of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief; right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2016



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council’s general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council Member, participated (individual statements) in more than 5% of panel discussions, general debates and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

With regard to texts on country specific situations, Asia-Pacific Members of the Council displayed markedly different voting records in 2016.

On item 4 texts (situations that require the Council’s attention), in the absence of consensus, China voted against all texts, while Philippines abstained each time. Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam abstained during the vast majority of item 4 votes, the exceptions being the texts on the situations in Belarus (India and Vietnam voted against) and in Iran (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam voted against). Maldives voted in favour of item 4 texts on Syria, but abstained during votes on the situations in Burundi, Belarus, and Iran. Mongolia similarly voted in favour of the Council’s resolutions on Syria, but voted in favour of the resolution on Burundi. It abstained during votes on Belarus and Iran. Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia voted in favour of texts on Syria and Iran, abstaining during votes on Burundi and Belarus.

At the other end of the scale, where a vote was called under item 4, the Republic of Korea voted in favour on each occasion.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), in 2016 Asian States nearly always voted in favour. The exception was the Republic of Korea, which usually abstained. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), in 2016 Asian Members joined consensus on all texts, except the one resolution that was called to a vote (i.e. on assistance to Ukraine – with Asian States usually abstaining).

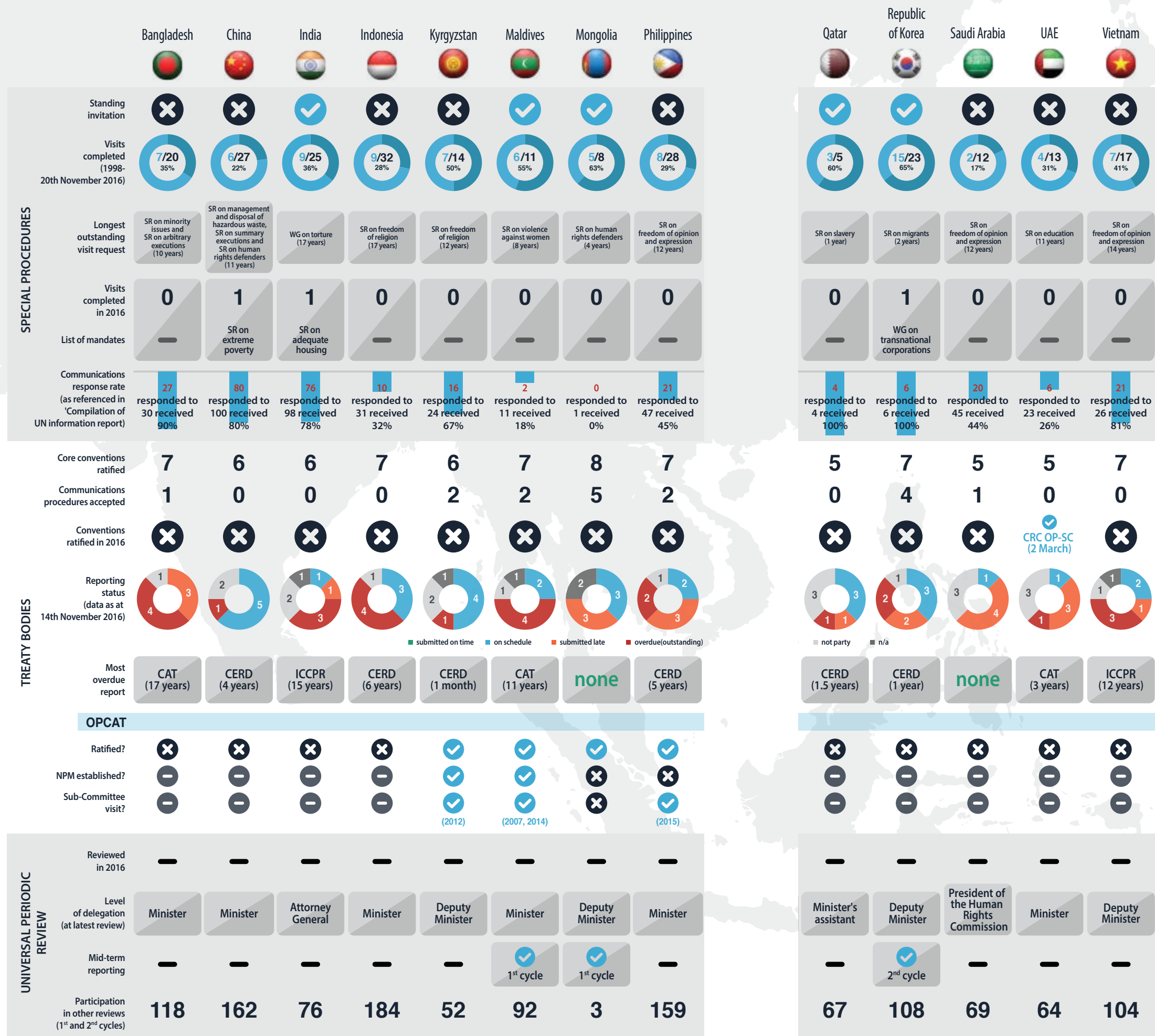
For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, or ‘groups in focus,’ where a vote was called in

2016, Asian Members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions included voting on:

- A resolution on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) – Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Maldives, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE voted against, while India and the Philippines abstained. (Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Vietnam voted in favour).
- A resolution on transitional justice – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Vietnam abstained.
- A resolution on protecting human rights while countering terrorism – China, India, and Philippines voted against.
- A resolution on the human rights effects of terrorism – Republic of Korea voted against.
- A resolution on civil society space – China voted against; Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Vietnam abstained.
- A resolution on peaceful protests – China voted against.
- A resolution on human rights defenders – China voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Asian States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The exception was the Republic of Korea, which voted against a resolution on protection of the family, and abstained during a vote on the right to development.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight "core human rights conventions" which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Eastern European Group (EEG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2016)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms
Albania					
Georgia					
Latvia					
Russian Federation					
Slovenia					
TFYR Macedonia					

Note: for comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Leadership

During the course of 2016, Eastern European Members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2016 Eastern European Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

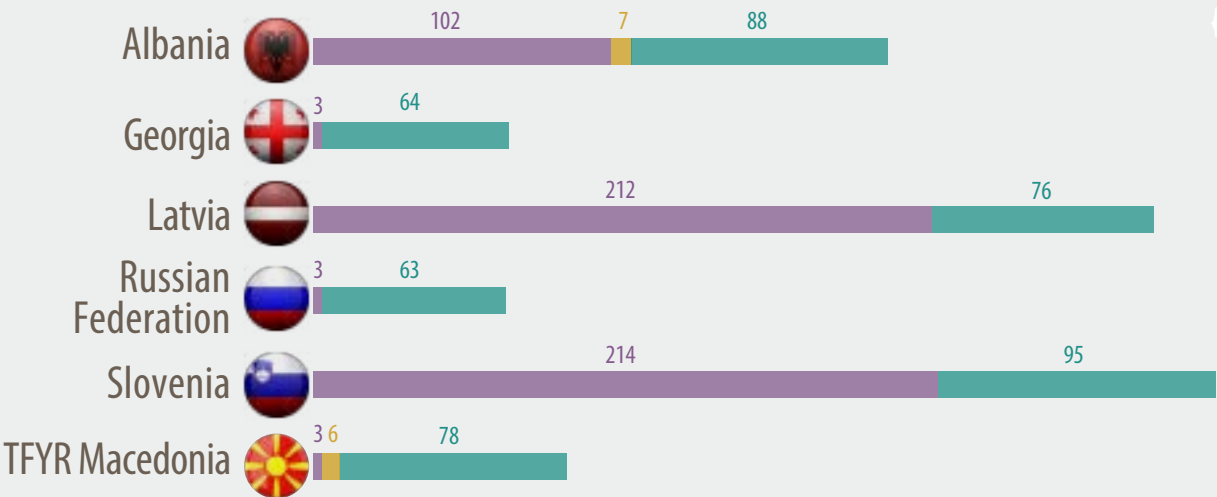
Russian Federation - Business and human rights: improving accountability and access to remedy; protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality; integrity of the judicial system; and promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal.

Slovenia - Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities; human rights education and training; and human rights and the environment.

At a country-specific level, in 2016 Eastern European Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Albania: The situation of human rights in South Sudan.
TFYR Macedonia: The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2016



■ Regional group statements ■ Political group statements ■ Cross-regional group statements ■ Other joint statements
 ■ EMPTY CHAIR INDICATOR
 YES NO

Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council Member, participated (individual statements) in more than 5% of panel discussions, general debates and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

Eastern European Members tended to join consensus on or vote in favour of item 4 texts (situations that require the Council’s attention) in 2016. In the absence of consensus, Albania, Latvia, Slovenia and TFYR Macedonia voted in favour of all item 4 resolutions (covering situations in Belarus, Burundi, Iran, and Syria). Georgia also tended to support item 4 texts, although it abstained during the vote on a resolution on the situation in Belarus, and did not vote when action was taken on a resolution on Iran. On the other hand, the Russian Federation voted against all item 4 resolutions (when a vote was called).

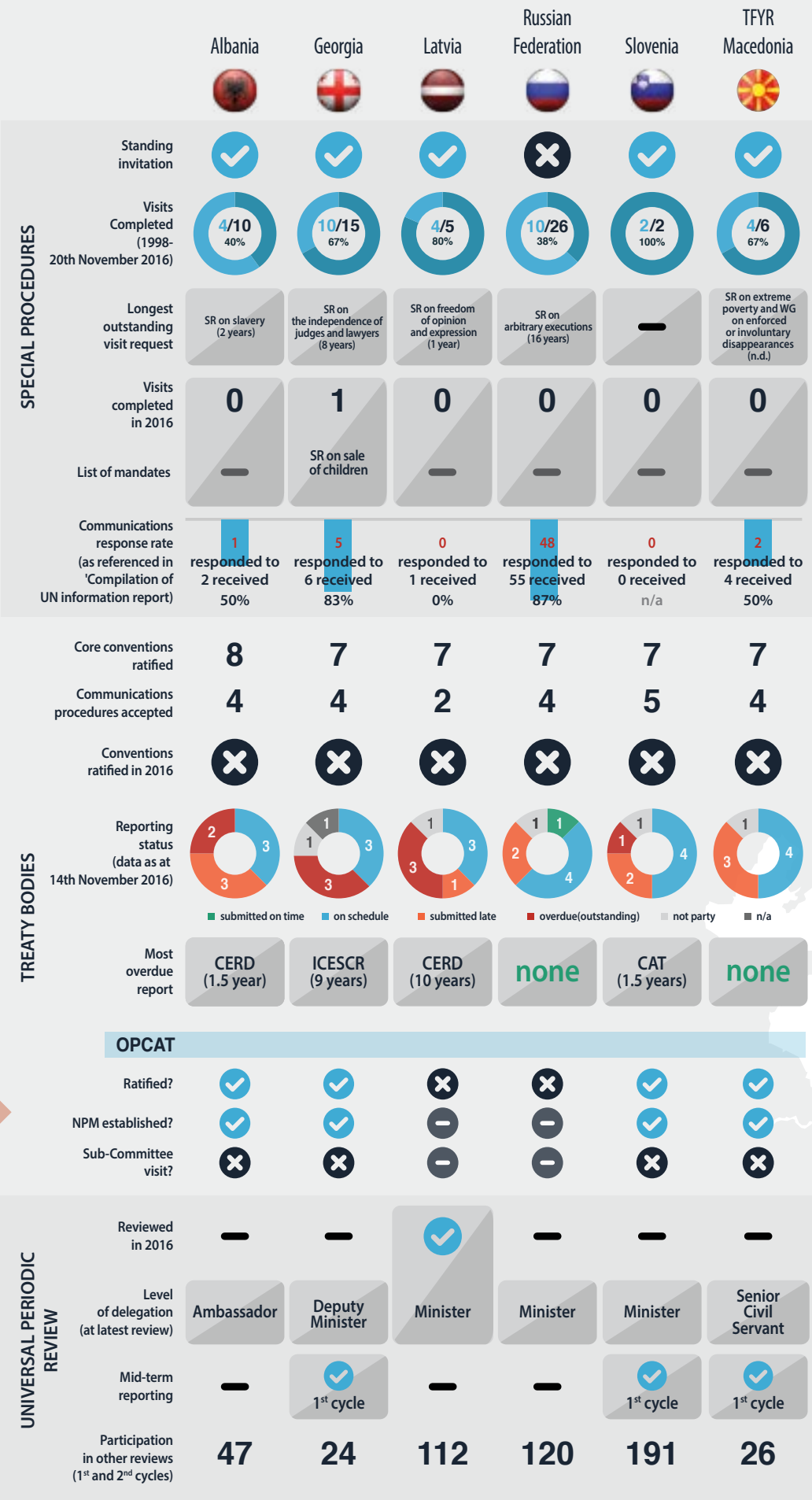
During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), EEG States tended to abstain or, somewhat less frequently, vote in favour. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), EEG Members joined consensus on all texts in 2016, except for when there was a vote called (i.e. on Ukraine – with all Eastern European States, except the Russian Federation, voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, and ‘groups in focus,’ where a vote was called in 2016, Eastern European Members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions included voting on:

- A resolution on transitional justice – the Russian Federation abstained.
 - Two resolutions on terrorism and human rights (one sponsored by Mexico and one by Egypt) – Albania, Georgia, Latvia, Slovenia, and TFYR Macedonia all voted in favour of the Mexican text, and tended to vote against the Egyptian text; the Russian Federation did the opposite.
 - A resolution on civil society space – the Russian Federation voted against.
 - A resolution on peaceful protests – the Russian Federation voted against.
 - A resolution on violence or discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI) – the Russian Federation voted against.
- For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, EEG States usually joined consensus. Where there was a vote, Albania, Georgia, Latvia, Slovenia, and TFYR Macedonia abstained during voting on a resolution on the right to development, and either abstained or voted against a resolution on protection of the family. The Russian Federation abstained during the vote on a resolution on the right to water and sanitation.

* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight “core human rights conventions” which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD. Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2016)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms
Bolivia					
Cuba					
Ecuador					
El Salvador					
Mexico					
Panama					
Paraguay					
Venezuela					

Note: for comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Leadership

During the course of 2016, GRULAC Members of the Human Rights Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2016 GRULAC Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Cuba - Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the Social Forum; declaration on the right to peace; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; human rights and international solidarity; composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the right to food; the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; and integrity of the judicial system.

Ecuador - Impact of arms transfers on human rights.

El Salvador - Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights; youth and human rights; and protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities.

Mexico - Human rights and indigenous people: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people; human rights and indigenous people; protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; regional arrangements for the promotion and

protection of human rights; protection of the human rights of migrants - Strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants including in large movements; protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; elimination of discrimination against women; the right to a nationality: Women’s Equal Nationality Rights in Law and in Practice; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; the right to work; protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; and the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

Paraguay: Addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls.

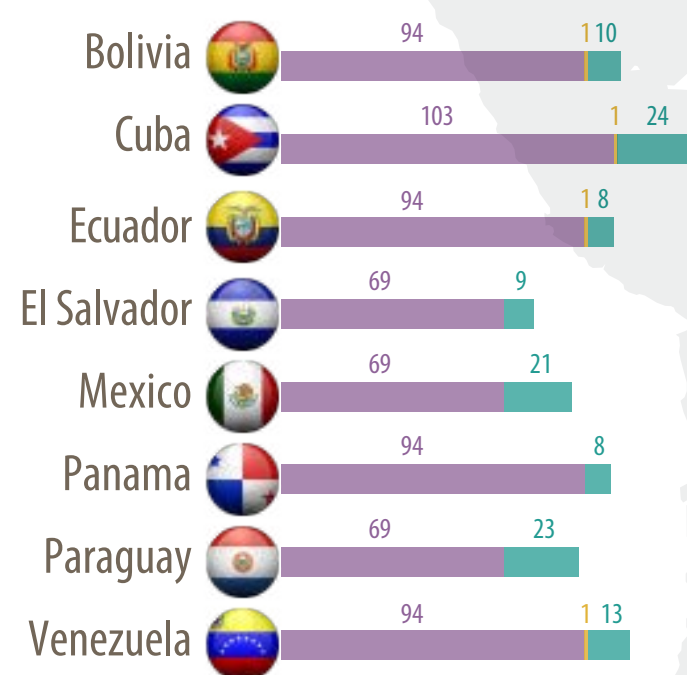
Venezuela: Integrity of the judicial system.

At a country-specific level, GRULAC Members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

Paraguay - Fact-finding mission to South Sudan; and the situation of human rights in South Sudan.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that the Latin American and Caribbean States also worked through their regional group. During the course of 2016, as a group, the GRULAC led on a resolution dealing with the rights of the child: information and communications technologies and child sexual exploitation.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2016



■ Regional group statements
 ■ Cross-regional group statements
 ■ Political group statements
 ■ Other joint statements

EMPTY CHAIR INDICATOR
 YES NO

Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council Member, participated (individual statements) in more than 5% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

In terms of their voting records on item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) texts, Latin American Members of the Council can be broadly divided into three groups. When a vote was called in 2016, the Plurinational State of Bolivia ('Bolivia'), Cuba, and Venezuela vote against all item 4 texts, irrespective of substance or focus. On the other hand, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay voted in favour of nearly all item 4 resolutions in 2016 (the only exception being El Salvador's abstention during the vote on a resolution on Belarus). Ecuador abstained during voting on all item 4 resolutions, with the exception of the text on Iran (Ecuador voted against).

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Latin American States nearly always voted in favour (the exception being Paraguay, which abstained during all votes). For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), GRULAC Members joined consensus on all texts except one. On the one occasion a vote was called on an item 10 resolution (on the situation in Ukraine), Bolivia, Cuba, and Venezuela voted against, while Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay voted in favour.

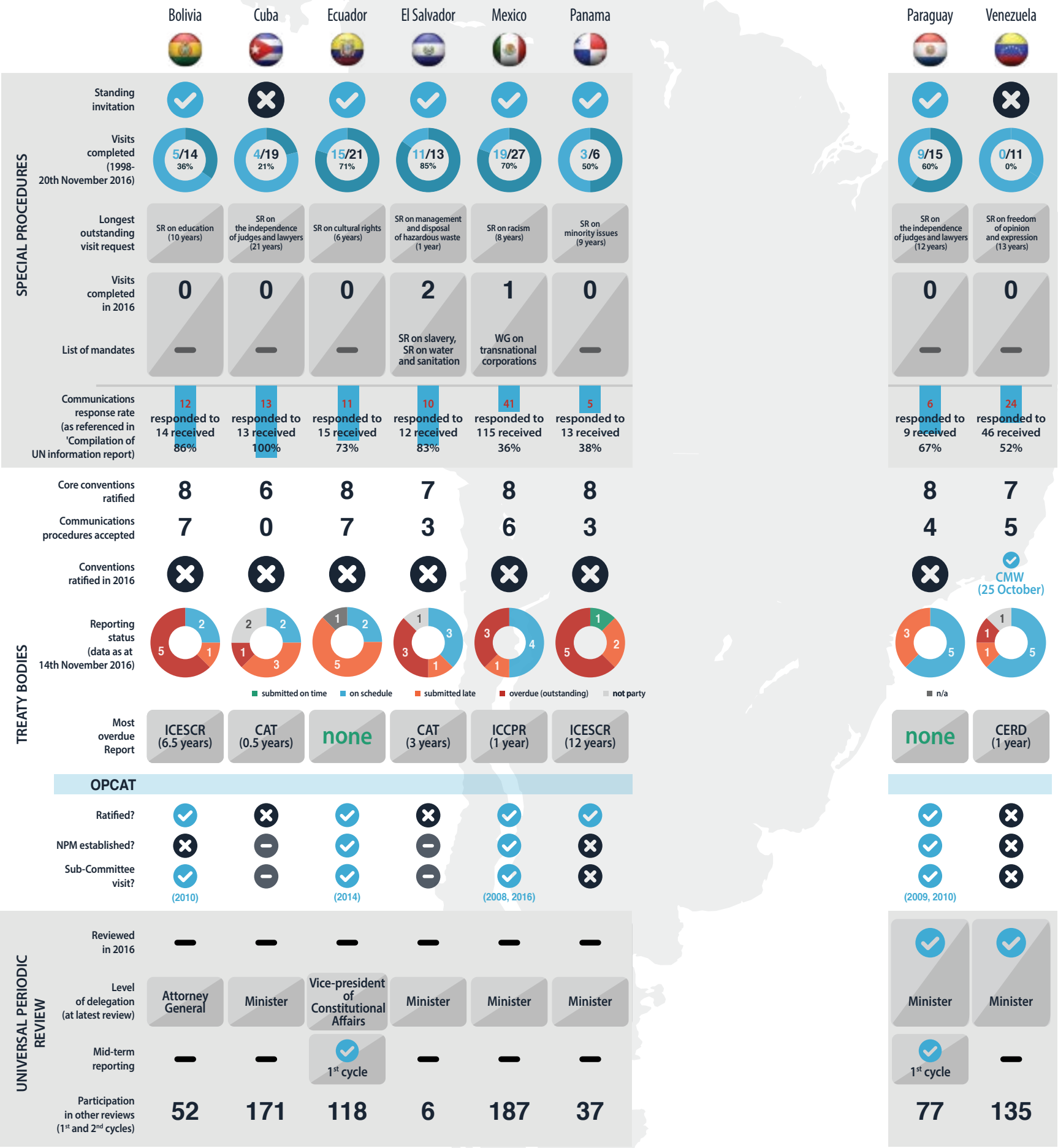
For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, or 'groups in focus,' where a vote was called in 2016, GRULAC Member States usually joined consensus or, where a vote was called, voted in favour. Ecuador joined consensus on or voted in favour of all such texts. El

Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay voted in favour of all but one. All GRULAC Members voted in favour of the 2016 resolution on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Notwithstanding, GRULAC Members voted against or abstained during voting on some texts, including:

- A resolution on transitional justice – Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela abstained.
- A resolution on protecting human rights while countering terrorism – El Salvador abstained, while Paraguay and Venezuela voted against.
- A resolution on the effects of terrorism on human rights – Mexico voted against, Panama abstained.
- A resolution on civil society space – Bolivia abstained, Cuba and Venezuela voted against.
- A resolution on peaceful protests – Bolivia abstained, Cuba and Venezuela voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, where a vote was called in 2016 (i.e. the resolutions on the right to water and sanitation, the right to development, and protection of the family), GRULAC States nearly always voted in favour. The main exception was voting on the resolution on protection of the family, which saw an abstention from Mexico and a 'no' vote from Panama.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

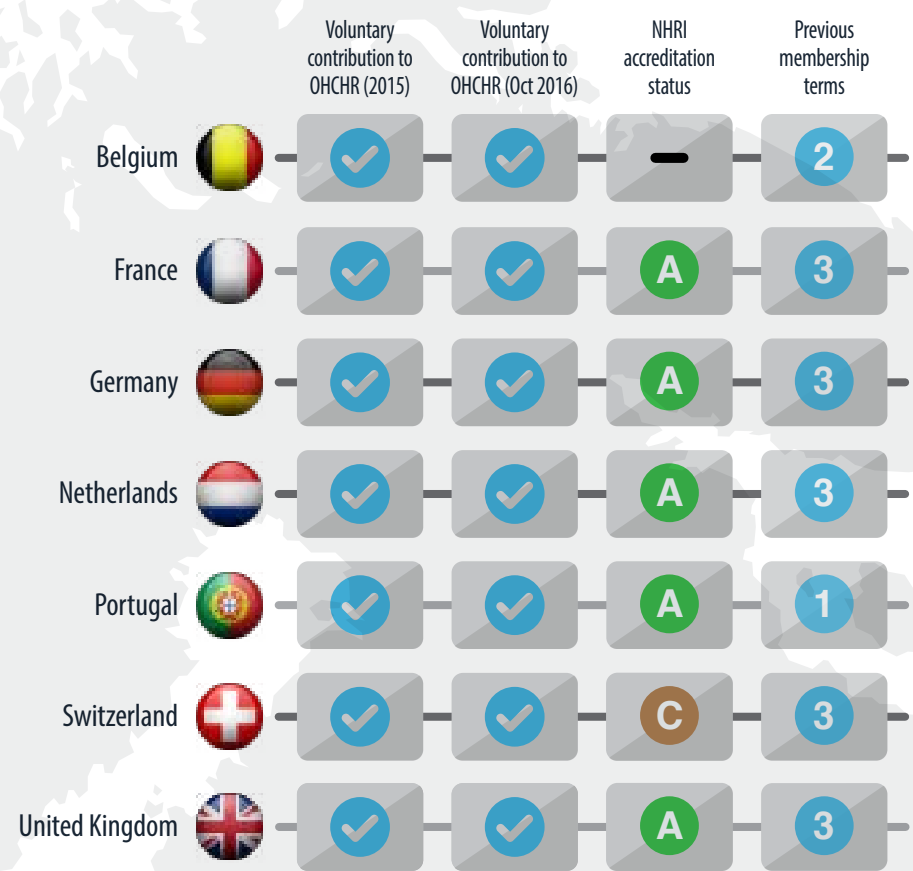


* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight “core human rights conventions” which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of Members



Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Leadership

During the course of 2016, Western Members of the Human Rights Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2016 WEOG Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Belgium - Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; and high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council.

France - The safety of journalists; arbitrary detention; and youth and human rights.

Germany – The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and people at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in

conflict and post-conflict situations; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; and adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context.

Netherlands - Equal participation in political and public affairs.

Portugal - Youth and human rights; mental health and human rights; the right to education; and the question of the realisation in all countries of economic, social, and cultural rights.

Switzerland - Human rights and transitional justice; cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; human rights education and training; the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests; and human rights and the environment.

United Kingdom Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences.

At a country-specific level, in 2016 WEOG Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

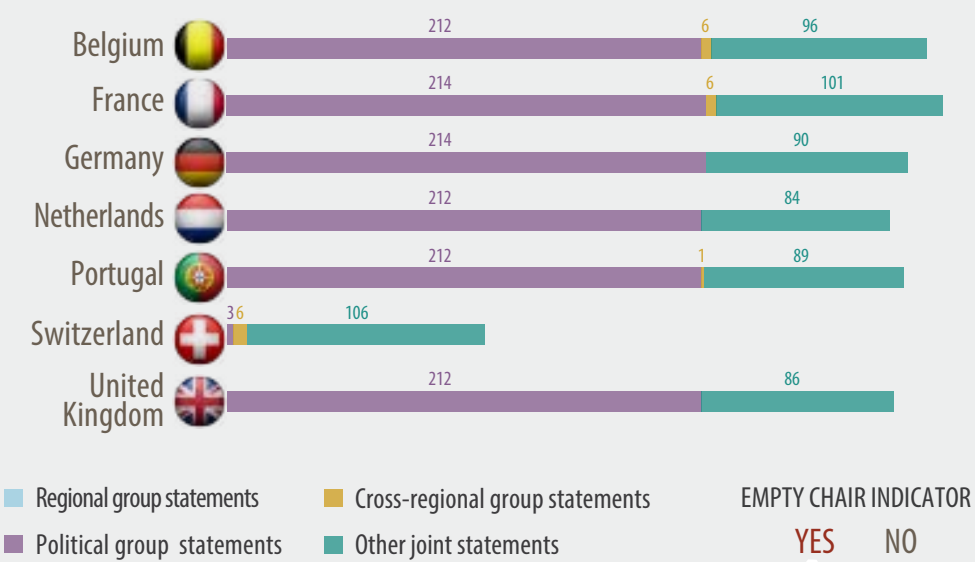
France: The human rights situation in Syria.

Germany - The Human rights situation in Syria.

United Kingdom: Human rights situation in Syria, situation of human rights in South Sudan; the deteriorating situation of human rights in Syria, and the recent situation in Aleppo; and assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some WEOG Council Members regularly work through the European Union ('EU'). In 2016, for example, at the thematic level, the EU led on resolutions dealing with, *inter alia*, rights of the child: information and communications technologies and child sexual exploitation; and freedom of religion or belief. At the country-specific level, the EU led resolutions on the human rights situations in Burundi, Belarus, DPRK, and Myanmar.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2016



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council Member, participated (individual statements) in more than 5% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

2016 saw Western Members of the Council either join consensus on or vote in favour of all texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council’s attention). This included resolutions on the situations in Belarus, Eritrea, Iran, DPRK, Myanmar, South Sudan, and Syria.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Western States either voted in favour or abstained. On the one occasion a vote was called on an item 10 (capacity-building) resolution in 2016 (a resolution on assistance to Ukraine), WEOG Members all voted in favour.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights or ‘groups in focus,’ where a vote was called in 2016 (e.g. on resolutions dealing with transitional justice, arbitrary detention, protecting human rights

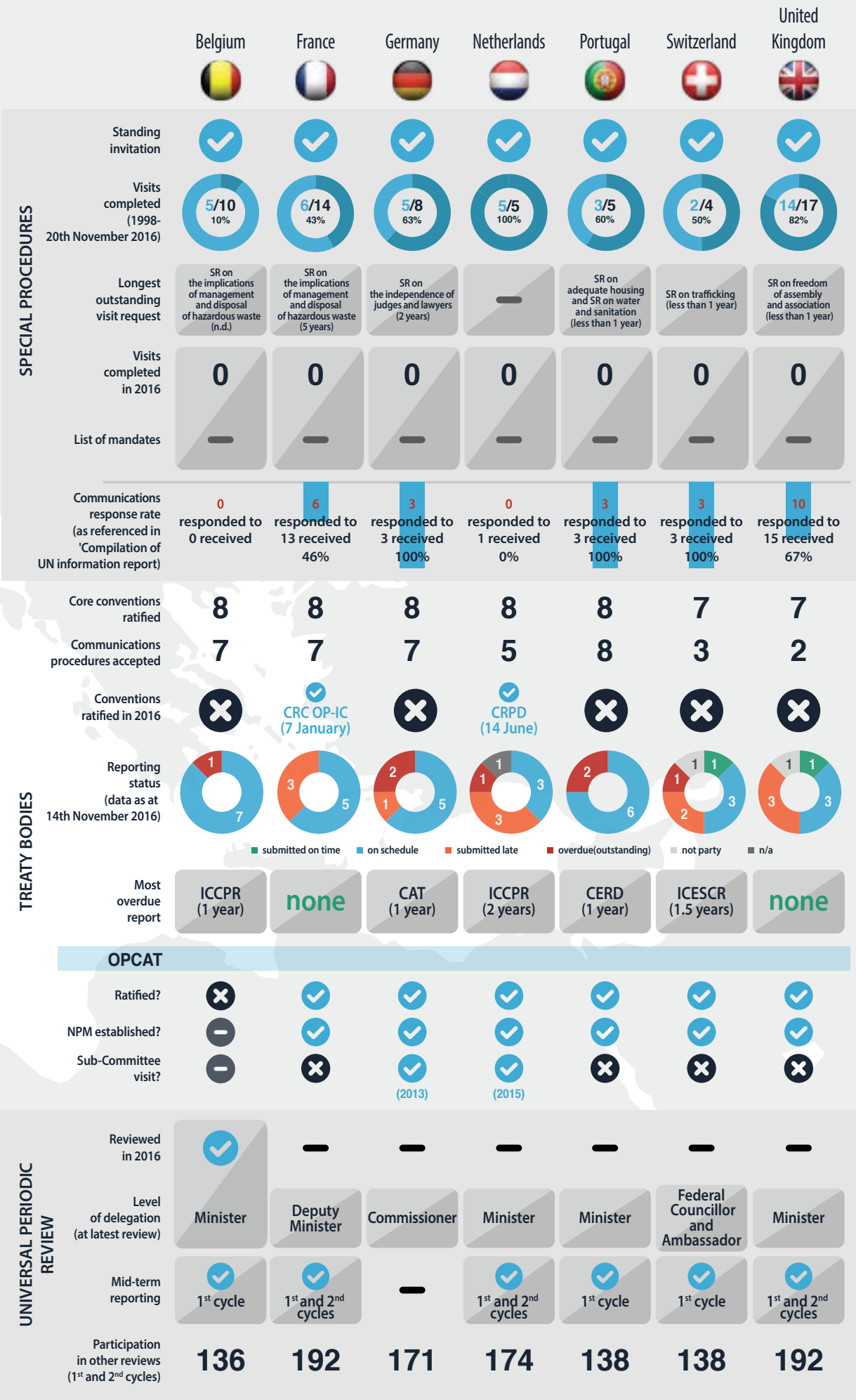
while countering terrorism, civil society space, peaceful protests, and discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) WEOG Members nearly always voted in favour. The main exception was a resolution on the effects of terrorism on human rights – with all Western States voting against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, WEOG States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, most adopted texts. The main exceptions were voting on the resolutions on protection of the family and the right to development. All Western States voted against the former text. Regarding the text on the right to development, France and the United Kingdom voted against, while the other Western Members of the Council abstained.

* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight “core human rights conventions” which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



Methodology Notes

YourHRC.org uses independent and objective data as the basis of its summaries and analyses. The origin of that data is primarily official UN documents and information produced by other international organisations. To ensure transparency, information on the sources of all data used, together with the methodology applied and the timeframe, is presented below.

Section I

The Council's focus and output: Resolution and mechanisms

Source: OHCHR website. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2006-2016.

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Special Sessions

Source: OHCHR website.

Timeframe: 2006-2016.

Data as of: 14 November 2016

The focus of Council texts by agenda item (2008-2016)

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2008-2016

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Resolutions actions: Substantive effects

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2011-2016

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Financial Implications of Council resolutions (2011-2016)

Source: Individual PBIs. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2011-2016

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Top themes in 2016: focus of thematic resolutions

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2016

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Geographic focus of the Council texts, special sessions and panels (2006-2016)

Source: Council texts: Individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet; Special Sessions: OHCHR website; Panels: OHCHR website.

Timeframe: 2006 - 2016

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2016

Source: OHCHR website. UN Human Rights Appeal 2016.

Timeframe: 2016

Data as of: 14 November 2016

State participation on Interactive Dialogues of Special Procedures in 2016

Source: HRC Extranet

Data as of: 14 November 2016

Note: The level of participation in Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures was calculated based on the individual statements listed on the OHCHR Extranet during the 2016 sessions (i.e. during the Council's sessions 31-33). Joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed were not counted. Nevertheless, of course, States do also participate in this broader manner.

Section II

Overview of Membership, Members of the Bureau, of the Consultative Group and the Working Group on Situations

Source: OHCHR website – Human Rights Council.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015 and 2016)

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

NHRI Accreditation Status

Source: Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>

Data as of: 14 November 2016

NHRI Accreditation Status

Source: Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Previous Membership terms

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: The participation of the candidates in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from March 2014 until June 2016 (i.e. during HRC sessions 25-32). Figures

include statements not delivered due to lack of time.

The Empty Chair indicator was calculated based on the individual statements and joint statements other than political, regional or otherwise 'fixed' groups. A 'YES' shows that, during its current and last most recent membership terms (where applicable), the corresponding State participated in less than 5% of the total number of debates, interactive dialogues and panel discussions.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing Invitation

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Visits Completed & longest outstanding visit

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: The number of total country visits since 1998 includes all visits undertaken, visits agreed by the State concerned but which have not yet taken place, visits cancelled or postponed, and requests that have received no reply, as listed on the OHCHR website. The number of visits undertaken includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on the OHCHR website (i.e. visits reported as completed or with report forthcoming). The dates for the most overdue visit are calculated according to the initial request date of the corresponding visit (regardless of subsequent reminders) or with the earliest request date published, when the initial request date is not available. When the dates of the initial visit request or the reminders thereof are not available, the date taken was the 'agreed dates' published in the OHCHR website. When no dates are available for a certain visit, such visit was considered in the number of total country visits, but not for the calculation of the most outstanding visit; except in the case of countries where no dates were available for any outstanding visit, case in which all visits were including with the annotation "n.d.".

Communications response rate

Source: 'Compilation of UN Information' report during the State's latest UPR.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: The response rate to Special Procedures communications (i.e. to letters of allegations and urgent appeals) is based on the information provided in the 'Compilation of UN Information' report submitted to the most recent UPR review of the State concerned.

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight ‘core human rights conventions,’ which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Treaty Body reporting dates relate to the State’s current reporting cycle, as listed on the OHCHR website.

Explanation of Options:

- **SUBMITTED ON TIME:** The State Party Report submitted the report before or on the due date;
- **ON SCHEDULE:** the current cycle due date is in the future;
- **SUBMITTED LATE:** The State Party Report has been submitted for the current cycle, but was submitted late, i.e. after the due date;
- **OUTSTANDING (OVERDUE):** The current cycle report has not yet been submitted, and it is overdue;
- **NOT PARTY:** The State has not ratified the respective Treaty;
- **N/A:** No deadline has been set or data is not available.

The ‘most overdue’ report time is for the outstanding report with the earliest due date.

Reporting and ratification scores were calculated on the 14 November 2016.

Communications procedures accepted

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: This figure relates to the acceptance of individual complaints procedures under each of the abovementioned core conventions.

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: An ‘NPM’ is a ‘National Preventative Mechanism,’

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

Source: The Head of a State’s delegation (for its last UPR) was determined using the ‘Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.’ Where the rank of the representative was not clear, the URG followed up with the relevant missions as far as possible.

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR website.<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: The ‘mid-term reporting’ score relates to whether the State has submitted a mid-term report for the first and/or the second cycles of UPR.

Participation in other reviews

Source: UPR Info ‘Statistics of UPR Recommendations.’

Data as of: 14 November 2016.

Note: Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other states’ reviews (out of 193) during which the corresponding State made (1 or more) recommendations.

Note: For updated information on all current and former Council Members, visit yourHRC.org.

Image Credits

Human Rights Council - 31st Session. A general view of participants at the 31st regular session of the Human Rights Council. 10 March 2016. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. Licensed under: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. Human Right Council - 32nd Session. During voting L.9 Rev 1 situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic at the 32nd session of the Human Right Council. 1 July 2016. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. Licensed under: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. Human Right Council - 32nd Session. Choi Kyong-lim (seventh from the left) President of the Human Rights Council pose with the eight former présidents of the Human Rights Council during opening day of the 32nd session of the Human Right Council. 13 June 2016. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. Licensed under: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. Human Rights Council - 23rd Session Two cameramans of UNTV at a Urgent debate on “ the deteriorating situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic and the recent killings in Al Qusay during the 23th Session of the Human Rights Council. 29 May 2013. Photo by Jean-Marc Ferré. Licensed under: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. United Nations. Bill Erickson. Licensed under: CC BY-NC 2.0. All licenses: www.creativecommons.org

About yourHRC.org

The yourHRC.org project has four component parts:

1

A universally accessible and free-to-use web portal - yourHRC.org – providing information on the performance of all 100 States that have stood for and won election to the Council. An interactive world map provides information on the Council’s membership in any given year, and on the number of membership terms held by each country. Country-specific pages then provide up-to-date information on: the voting record of the State; its leadership on important Council initiatives; its level of participation in Council debates, interactive dialogues and panels; its engagement and cooperation with the Council’s mechanisms (UPR and Special Procedures) and with the Treaty Bodies; and the degree to which it fulfilled the voluntary pledges and commitments made before its previous membership term.

2

An annual ‘yourHRC.org Election Guide,’ providing at-a-glance information (including comparative information) on candidatures for upcoming Council elections.

3

An annual ‘yourHRC.org end-of-year report’ (to be published each December), providing information (including comparative information) on levels of Member State engagement and cooperation over the course of that year.

4

A periodic ‘yourHRC.org candidate alert’ that will be sent to stakeholders informing them of candidature announcements for future Council elections, and providing information on that State’s performance during previous membership terms (where applicable).

The present document is the second annual ‘yourHRC.org end-of-year report,’ offering an assessment of the Council’s work, output, achievements and shortfalls in 2016, and analysing the contributions of Member States to the work of the Council and to the enjoyment of human rights around the world.

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yourHRC.org

A window onto cooperation, dialogue, leadership
and policymaking at the UN Human Rights Council



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations