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



THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL IN
2019

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

A row of many national flags on tall poles in front of a stone building. The flags are of various colors and designs, including the Malaysian flag, the flag of the United Kingdom, and the flag of the United States. The building is made of light-colored stone blocks.

yourHRC.org

In 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 dialogues, member State voting patterns, political leadership, and Council elections.

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Introduction

In 2019 the Human Rights Council continued the upward trajectory evident in 2018, though with darkening clouds on the horizon warning that recent gains could be easily undone.

Like the last two sessions of 2018, HRC40, HRC41 and HRC42 were generally viewed as amongst the most successful sessions in the Council's history. The principal measure of that success is, of course, provided by the strength of resolutions adopted, the scope of joint statements delivered, and the quality of debates and dialogues held. However, these tangible outputs and outcomes are built upon something rather more abstract: the building of trust between delegations, especially delegations from different regional and political groups, and the expansion of space for meaningful dialogue and cooperation (between States and also with civil society). Unfortunately, during 2019 there were also some worrying signs that a degree of complacency may be setting in (i.e. that the current positive trends cannot be taken for granted), which risks undermining trust and, ultimately, may presage a reversal in the Council's fortunes.

The chicken or the egg?

One area where States have made progress, over recent years, in understanding each other's positions and priorities is the important relationship between human rights and development. Previously (for two decades or more) they had tended to be ideologically and politically divided, usually along developed country/developing country lines, and with the concept of the 'right to development' at the very centre of the fracture.

In 2018 there were a number of positive signs that States from both sides are maintaining a determination to set aside those old differences, and instead focus on identifying common ground and taking practical steps to promote human rights and sustainable development in a joined-up way. Key to that movement were twin resolutions on 'Human rights and the 2030 Agenda' – one by Chile, Denmark and others, and one by South Africa.

In 2019, there were clear signs this trend is continuing. For example, in January the Council convened a first inter-sessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda. Two months later, at HRC40, the Council adopted the outcome report of the meeting and decided to transmit it to New York for inclusion in the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs (held in July). These steps, in addition to important speeches by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed at HRC40, during which she underlined that human rights lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, and by the Chair of the HLPF at HRC42, have helped to further strengthen the links between the UN's human rights and development pillars, and to show that rather than existing in tension, human rights and development are mutually-reinforcing.

Another example of the shift towards a new common ground came at HRC40, when Norway presented a resolution 'Recognising the contribution of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development.' These individuals, often working at great personal risk, seek to assert their human rights in order

to defend the natural environment. By doing so, they also stand at the front-line of global efforts to secure sustainable development/the achievement of the SDGs 'leaving no one behind,' and to halt climate change. The fact that Norway's strong draft resolution – on a subject matter that has often been subjected to amendment and voting in the recent past – was eventually adopted by consensus is a clear vindication of Norway's approach, and of wider efforts to show that human rights and sustainable development (including environmental sustainability) are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Notwithstanding, 'old habits die hard' and in addition to these positive shifts 2019 also showed that historic mistrust between the West and large developing countries over the (right to development-related) question of what comes first - human rights or development? - continues to simmer below the surface. Perhaps the clearest sign of this came at HRC41, when China tabled a resolution on 'The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights.' This was the second time China had tabled a resolution on the subject – the previous occasion was in June 2017.

Although – as was the case two years ago – China did take on board some proposals from the West during the open informal consultations (negotiations), in the end the text still appeared to suggest to many States and NGOs that development is an essential precondition for the enjoyment of human rights (i.e. development first, human rights second). In the end (as happened in 2017), the text was therefore called to a vote, and adopted with

33 in favour, 13 against (basically Western States) and no abstentions.

Another thematic area where States have been unable to bridge long-held differences (in fact, those differences appear to be widening) is what might be termed 'societal issues,' such as gender and the role of women in society, sexual and reproductive rights, and LGBTI rights. Over the past five years, these issues have become a 'lightening rod' for inter-State disagreement and division at the Council. This broad trend continued at HRC41, with four important resolutions focused on different 'societal issues' tabled during the session. These looked at violence against women and girls; child, early and forced marriage (CEFM); discrimination against women and girls; and sexual orientation and gender identify (SOGI). Between them, the four texts attracted 20 'amendments from the floor' (i.e. 'hostile amendments') – a large number reflecting the divergent positions of States.

However, in a positive sign of States' willingness to work together cross-regionally even when they disagree, once the 'hostile amendments' had all been rejected by the Council (most by wide margins), three of the four resolutions (all except the SOGI text – see below) were adopted by consensus.

Regarding SOGI, in a further sign of progress (at least, in comparison to previous years), the final (unamended) resolution was adopted by the Council with 27 in favour, 12 against and 7 abstentions. Those numbers compare favourably to voting at the time of the adoption of

resolution 32/3 establishing the mandate: 23 in favour, 18 against and 6 abstentions. Moreover, countries from all regions voted in favour of the mandate renewal, including Bahamas, Fiji, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa and Tunisia. Looking at the African Group, which in 2016 had lined up heavily against the resolution, this time only four African members of the Council voted against, while three voted in favour, five abstained, and one did not vote. Surprisingly, Hungary, an EU member State, also abstained.

Finally bridging the human rights implementation gap?

While a number of important new initiatives (or, in some cases, rebranded initiatives) were launched during 2019 (see below), perhaps the most important – especially in the long-term – went largely unnoticed. This was a resolution tabled by Paraguay and Brazil at HRC42 on the subject of ‘national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up.’ The resolution, adopted by consensus, represents a first concerted effort by the international community to help States, through region-by-region ‘good practice’ exchange and the development of guiding principles, to better implement their international human rights obligations and commitments (via the implementation of recommendations received from the UN human rights mechanisms). The resolution also links improved human rights implementation with the realisation of the SDGs ‘leaving no one behind,’ and the UN’s priority issue of prevention (especially primary prevention).

Other new initiatives during 2019 included a new South African initiative on the ‘elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport,’ a one-off Icelandic resolution on ‘equal pay,’ a text on ‘new and emerging digital technologies and human rights’ by the Republic of Korea and others, a resolution on ‘the right to social security’ (by Finland, Iceland, Namibia and South Africa), and a cross-regional text (by China, Denmark, France, Kenya and Mexico) on ‘The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.’

The resolution on the ‘elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport’ covered a number of topical – yet also sensitive – issues, including in relation to sexual and reproductive rights. Yet notwithstanding often difficult negotiations on the text, pitting South Africa against the OIC, the Arab Group, and Russia, the resolution was eventually adopted by consensus. It is the first text adopted by the Council that includes language on bodily autonomy.

Impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity

Under paragraph 3 of GA resolution 60/251 – which sets out the Council’s overall mandate and powers – member States ‘should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon.’ The next paragraph then states that, in fulfilling this task (as well as others assigned to it), the Council’s work shall be guided by certain key principles including: universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. Taken together, these paragraphs mean States should judge situations of

violations objectively, and where they decide that the seriousness of alleged violations warrants the international community's attention, the situation(s) should be brought onto the Council's agenda.

Unfortunately, in the past the Council has often failed to live up to these principles. The geographic reach of its attention (as per its mandate under paragraph 3, GA resolution 60/251) is been remarkably narrow – covering only 15 or so situations (under item 4), mainly in Africa and the Middle East. Moreover, partly because only a small number of Western States have been inclined to bring situations to the Council's attention, the body's relatively narrow gaze has been criticised as selective and politicised.

Starting in 2018 and continuing into 2019, that has begun to change. Key to understanding the change is that with the US' departure from the Council other States – both those that have traditionally brought situations to the Council's attention (e.g. UK, Netherlands), and those that have not previously done so (e.g. certain Latin American States, Iceland) – have stepped forward.

The UK, for example, has continued to lead on situations such as Sri Lanka (until now, in cooperation with Sri Lanka), but has also expanded its engagement to cover the situation in Iran (alongside Sweden). At HRC40, the UK also delivered a joint statement (on behalf of more than 30 States) on the situation of LGBTI persons in Chechnya.

At the same time, continuing the leadership they demonstrated last year by bringing the situation in Venezuela to the Council's attention, in 2019 the 'Lima

Group' of Latin American States plus Canada tabled a further draft resolution on Venezuela (HRC42), as well as one on the situation in Nicaragua (HRC40). Both were adopted by a vote. The fact that Latin American countries are now bringing worrying human rights situations from their own region to the Council's attention is highly significant.

In another important break from the earlier Council status quo on addressing situations of violations, at HRC42, in a positive move for the Council's credibility, authority and impact in the country concerned, the EU and the OIC recommitted themselves to cooperate on the human rights situation in Myanmar, especially as it relates to the treatment of the Rohingya. The resolution, adopted by a vote with 37 in favour, just 2 against, and 7 abstentions, requested the High Commissioner to follow-up on recommendations by the Fact-Finding Mission.

Last but not least, Iceland, which last year took over the seat left vacant by the US, continued its strong and principled drive to ensure the Council honours its mandate to judge situations based on merit (i.e. impartially, objectively and non-selectively) rather than according to global power politics. In this spirit, at HRC40 Iceland delivered (on behalf of 36 States) a joint statement on the situation in Saudi Arabia, calling *inter alia* for the release of detained women human rights defenders, and for the Saudi authorities to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions in her investigation into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Then, at HRC41, Iceland tabled a new resolution on 'the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines.' The resolution, which was eventually adopted by a (relatively close) vote, with

18 in favour, 14 against and 15 abstentions, urged the Philippines to take all necessary measures to prevent further extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in the context of the on-going ‘war and drugs,’ and to carry out impartial investigations and hold perpetrators accountable for previous violations.

Two final points of interest relating to the Council’s mandate to address situations of violations impartially, objectively and non-selectively, relate to the world’s superpowers: the US and China. Regarding the latter, at HRC41, in a surprise move during the last week of the session, 22 Western States sent a joint letter to the President of the Council regarding alleged serious human rights violations, especially targeting Uighurs and other minorities in China’s Xinjiang region. The letter sought to remind China of its obligations under international human rights law and as a member of the Council, and called on the country to allow visits by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Regarding the US, there were signs in 2019 that despite walking away from the Council a year earlier, the Trump administration is keeping ‘one foot in the door’ – at least as it pertains to the Council’s mandate to address situations of violations. For example, during HRC40, the US organised two unofficial side events, one on ‘Protecting fundamental freedoms in Xinjiang,’ and one on the situation in Venezuela.

Towards prevention?

Alongside steps to finally bridge the universal human rights ‘implementation gap,’ such as the adoption of resolution 42/30 on ‘national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up,’ another important strategic undercurrent in 2019 was a steady

build up in interest in the UN’s prevention agenda, and the Council’s role therein. Throughout the year, the group of three eminent experts appointed under resolution 38/18 consulted States, the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and NGOs about how to ‘operationalise’ the Council’s prevention mandate under paragraph 5f of GA resolution 60/251. They are due to present their findings and proposals to the Council in March 2020.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, addressed the interconnected issues of human rights implementation, SDG progress and prevention in her November speech to the Third Committee of the GA. Referring to the UN human rights system’s untapped role in primary prevention, she argued that the recommendations of the Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and UPR, taken together, ‘form a cross-section of critical human rights gaps at the country level, which, if addressed, will build more resilient societies, and sustain development and peace.’ ‘There is great potential,’ she continued, ‘for a better and more focused use of human rights recommendations in system-wide action across the UN - such concerted action is supportive of the Secretary-General’s emphasis on prevention, as well as the 2030 Agenda.’

The High Commissioner likewise used her speech to underscore the central importance of the ‘UN human rights system [...] in identifying early warning signs that could lead to prevention,’ as well as in early engagement with concerned States and regions.

Sudan

The human rights situation Sudan has been on the UN’s agenda for decades. Already in 1993, Commission on

Human Rights resolution 1993/60 established a Special Procedures mandate on the country. Ten years later, in 2003, Sudan's Darfur region became the centre of international attention when the Government responded to attacks by rebel groups by carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the region's non-Arabs. The situation in the country has been on the Council's attention almost continuously since its establishment in 2006.

Fast-forward to 24 September this year, and a very different Sudan was presenting itself to the international community at HRC42. On that day, H.E. Nasruddin Abdel Bari, Minister of Justice of Sudan, delivered a remarkable speech to the Council. It was remarkable for a number of reasons: first, it echoed and relayed the seismic changes currently taking place in Sudan; second, it sought to place Sudan on a new footing with the UN human rights system – a footing premised on cooperation rather than the confrontation of the past; and thirdly, Mr Abdel Bari had also attended a previous session of the Council – but on that occasion as a human rights defender calling on the Council to pay attention to the situation in Sudan, rather than as a government minister.

'As all of you know,' he began, 'men and women of my country led a peaceful revolution that started on December 19th of last year, in response to an unprecedented political and economic situation. Despite the excessive violence that the previous regime used [...], after five months of struggle and great sacrifice, together with the support of the security armed forces, the former president of Sudan [Omar al-Bashir] was removed from power and a new dawn in Sudan's history began.'

Mr Abdel Bari announced that the new Government is fully committed to guarantee freedom of expression and of

assembly, and to hold those responsible for recent serious human rights violations to account. 'The Government will also soon establish a Legal Reform Commission [...] that will amend or abolish pieces of legislation in Sudan that restrict freedoms or are inconsistent with international law.' The Minister also announced Sudan's intention to join the international human rights conventions to which it is not yet a Party, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention against Torture (CAT).

The very next day, in New York, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, and Sudan's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Asma Mohamed Abdalla (one of four women in the new Sudanese Cabinet), signed a historic cooperation agreement that will see OHCHR establish a new office in the country, to support the country's democratic transition, and help the Government promote and protect the human rights of all the people of Sudan.

Finally, on 27 September, the Council adopted a resolution to scale-up its capacity-building and technical support to Sudan. In the resolution, member States welcomed 'the non-violent inspiring popular uprising of the Sudanese people, in particular the wide participation of women and youth' and 'the signing of the Constitutional Document on 17 August 2019.' The Council also noted 'that the situation of human rights in Sudan has the potential to significantly improve,' but that the country has an urgent 'need for technical assistance and capacity building' support to realise that potential.





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

Members of the Human Rights Council (Council) hold the main responsibility for pursuing and fulfilling the body's important mandate and thereby 'promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all' (GA resolution 60/251).

When establishing the Council, the UN General Assembly (GA) 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.





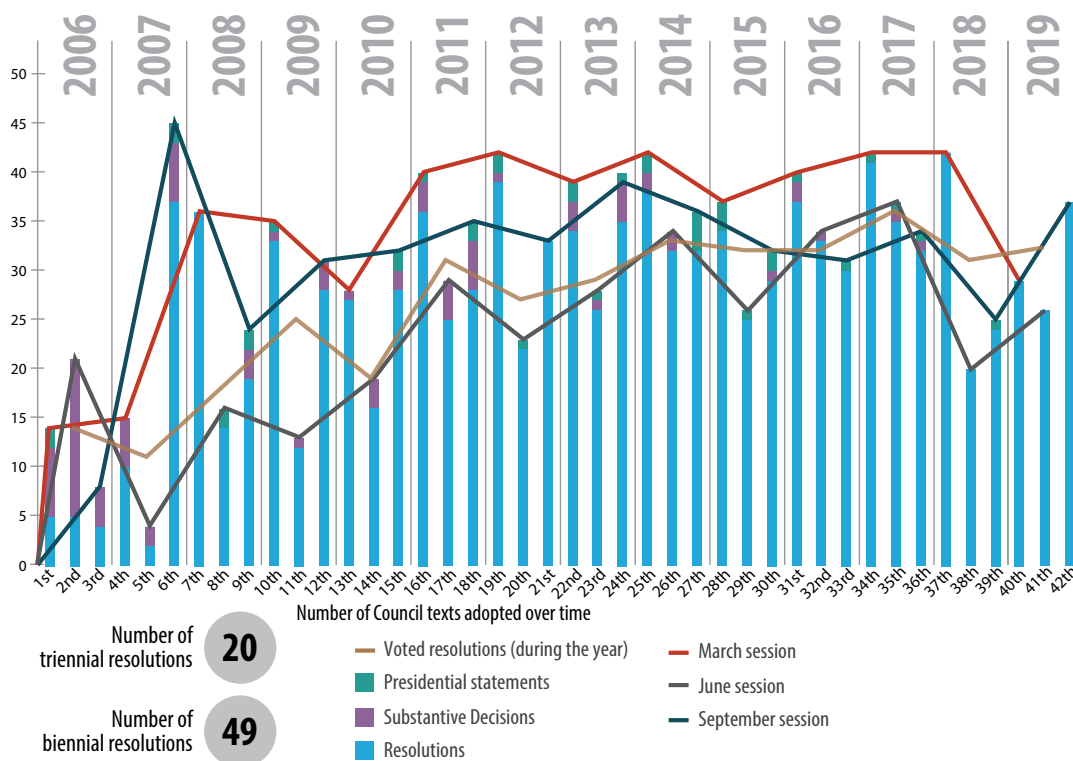
PART I

2019

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

THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

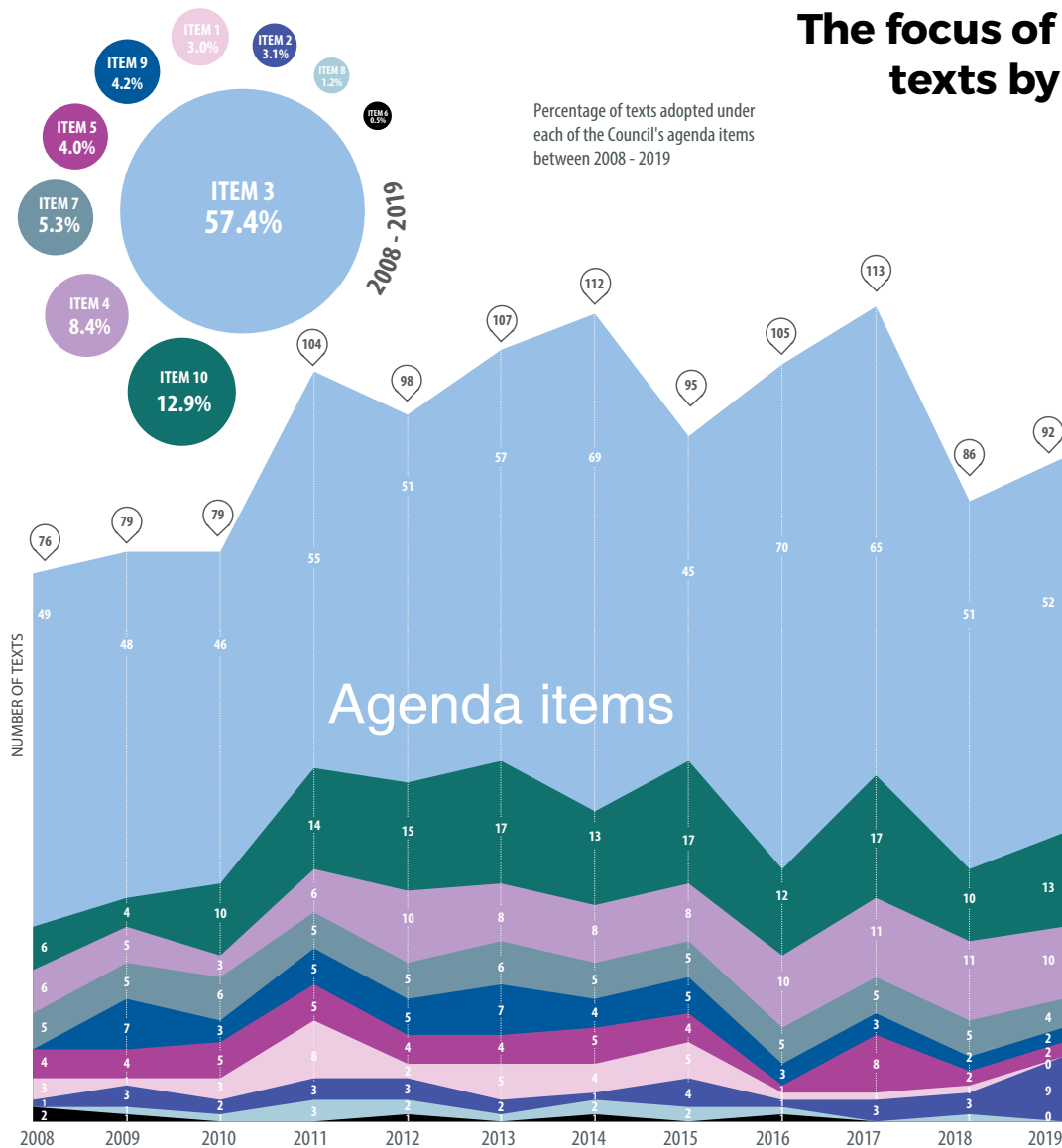
Number of Council texts adopted over time



Data source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ('OHCHR') website / URG Resolutions Portal.

- The Council's efficiency drive, launched five years ago, continues to have a clear and positive impact on the body's workload. The number of texts adopted in 2019 (92) was the second lowest of the past eight years; although it represented a slight increase on 2018 (87 texts adopted).
- 2019 saw the second-highest proportion of voted resolutions (35%). This represented a slight drop on 2018 (36%). Notwithstanding, the absolute number of voted texts has dropped slightly since 2017.
- For the first time since its creation, all the texts adopted in the 2019 calendar year were resolutions. The Council did not adopt any decisions or presidential statements (PRSTs).

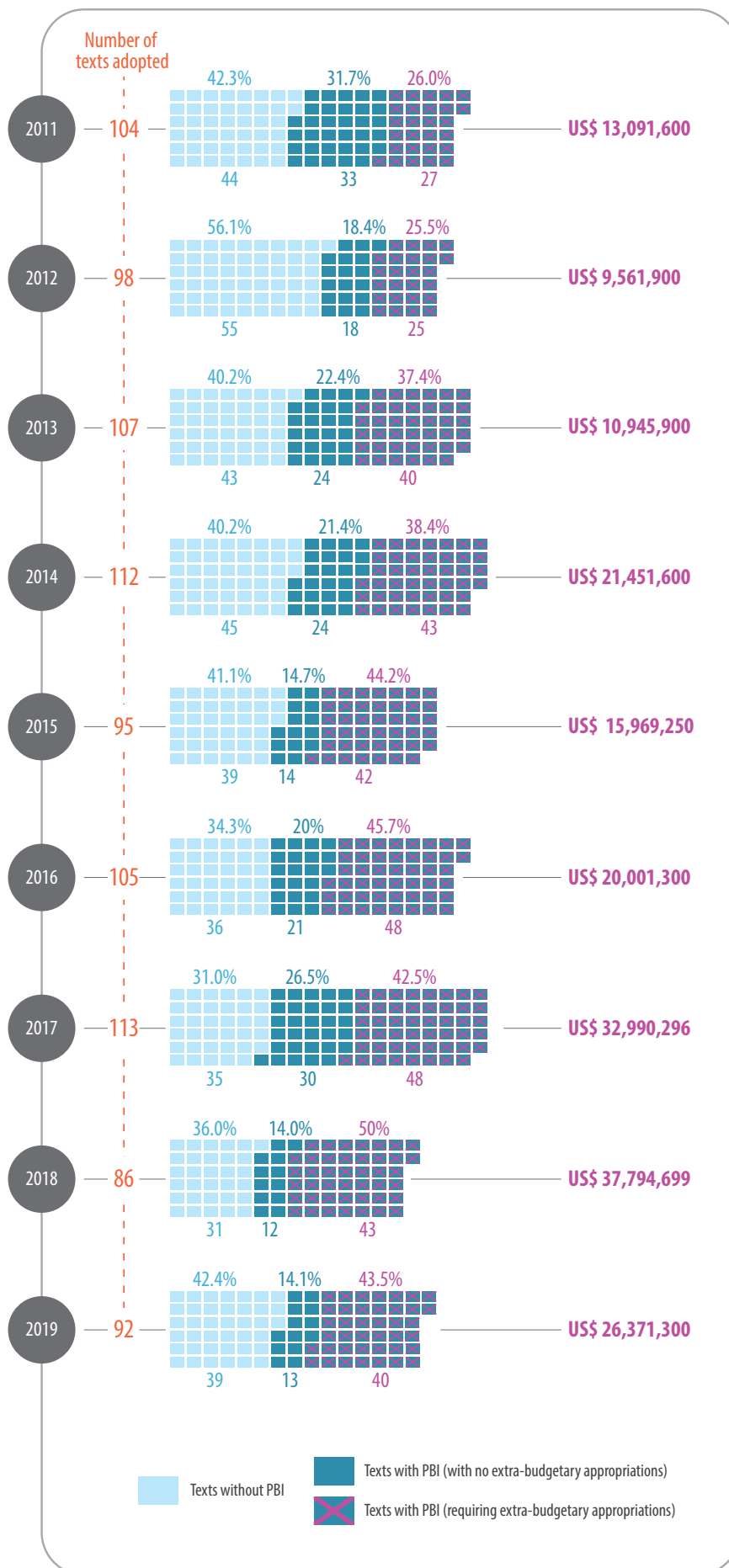
The focus of the Council's texts by agenda item (2008-2019)



Data Source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions and presidential statements) adopted between 2008-2019, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

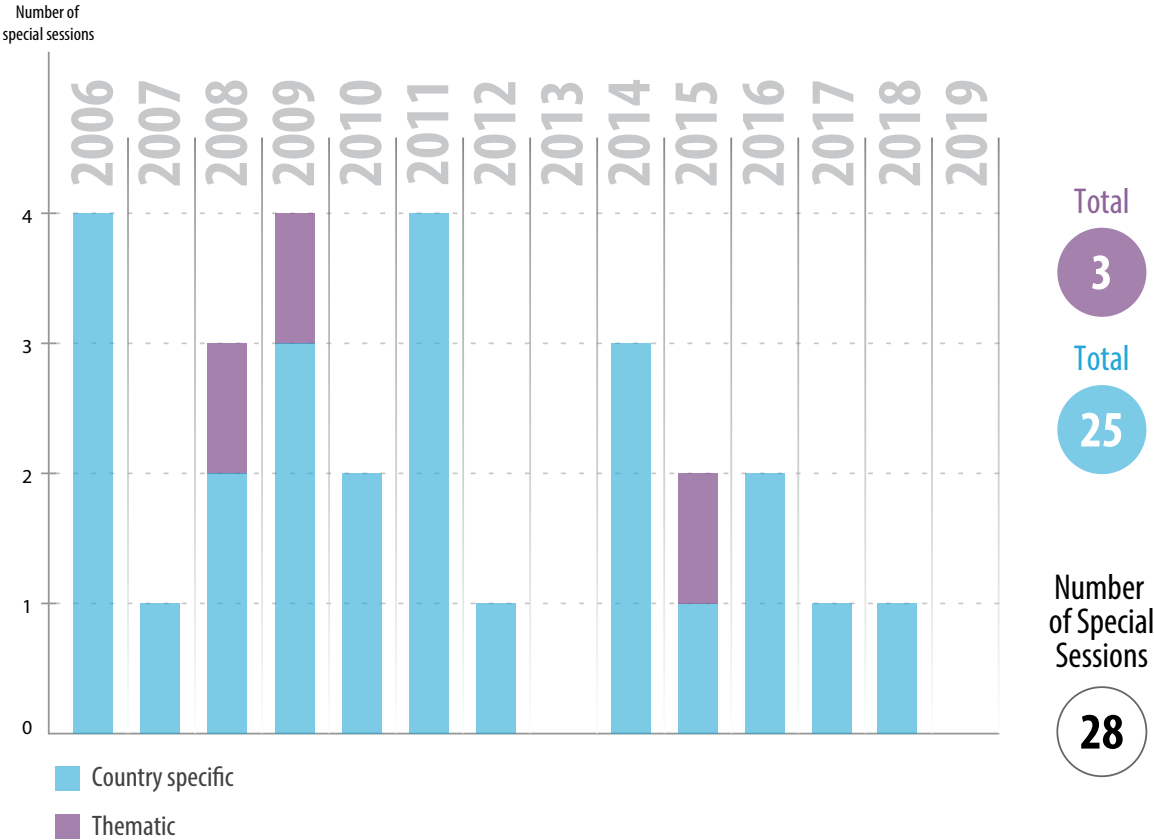
- As in every other year since the Council's creation, the vast majority of resolutions (52 out of 92) generated by the Council in 2019 were thematic texts adopted under agenda item 3 (the 'Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development').
- There was a slight increase in the number of resolutions aiming to deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support to specific States in 2019 (i.e. under item 10). However, this total was still lower than the number of item 10 texts adopted in 2017.
- The number of resolutions adopted under agenda item 2 ('Annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General'), was the highest in the history of the Council. Most of these (eight out of nine) were country-specific resolutions, suggesting that States are increasingly inclined to adopt such resolutions under item 2 than item 4 ('Human rights situations that require the Council's attention').
- The number of resolutions adopted under agenda item 7 ('Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories') – four – was the lowest in the Council's history. Notwithstanding, in 2019, for the first time, one resolution on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) was presented and adopted under item 2.

Financial implications of Council resolutions (2011-2019)

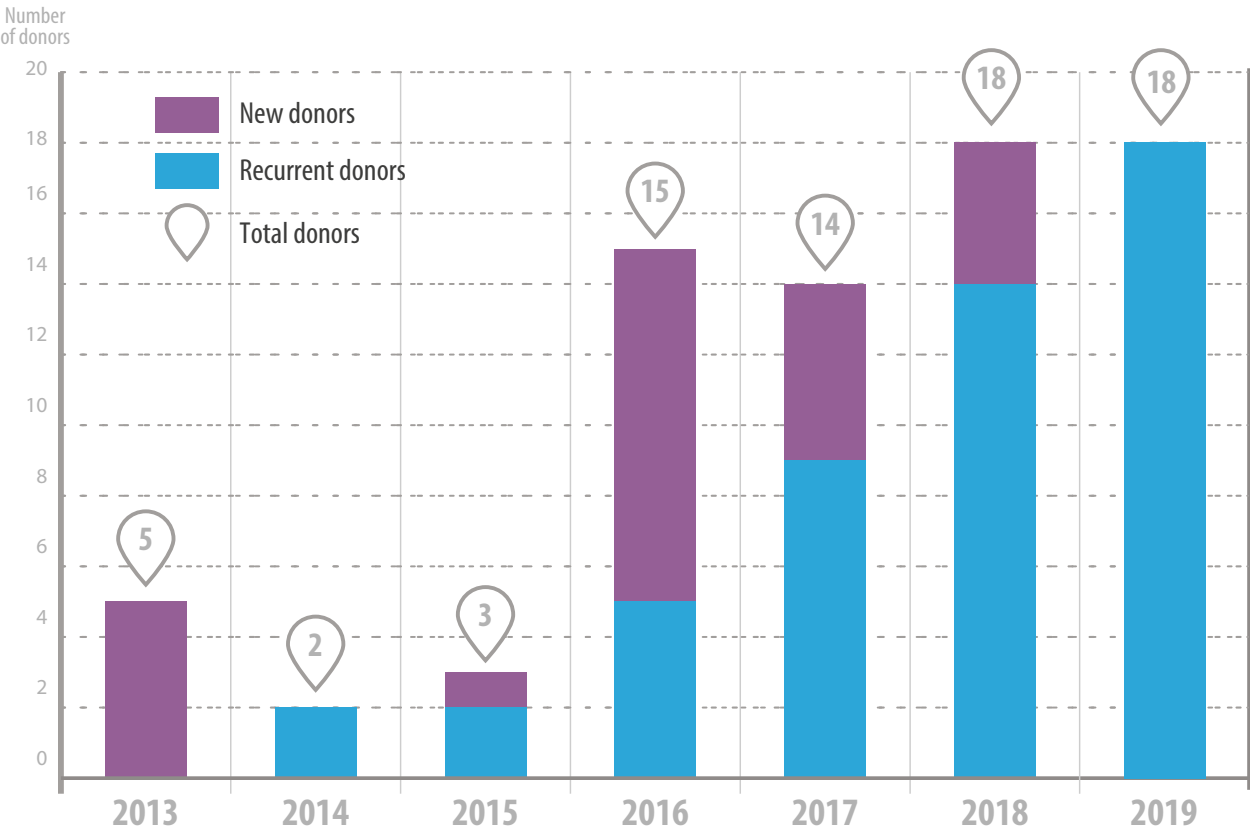


Data Source: Programme Budget Implications (PBIs) arising from each resolution (2012-2019) available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

Evolution of Council Special Sessions since 2006



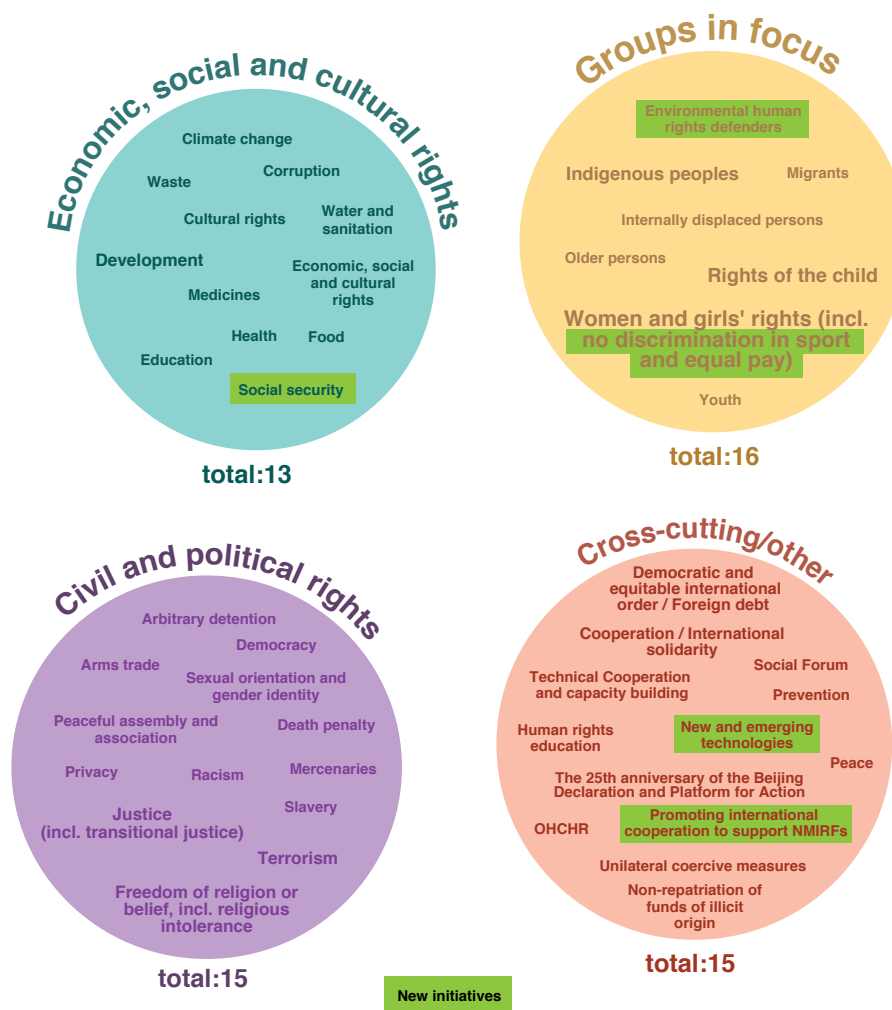
Donors of the Voluntary Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Council



DONORS (As of 30 october 2019)



Top themes in 2019: focus of thematic resolutions

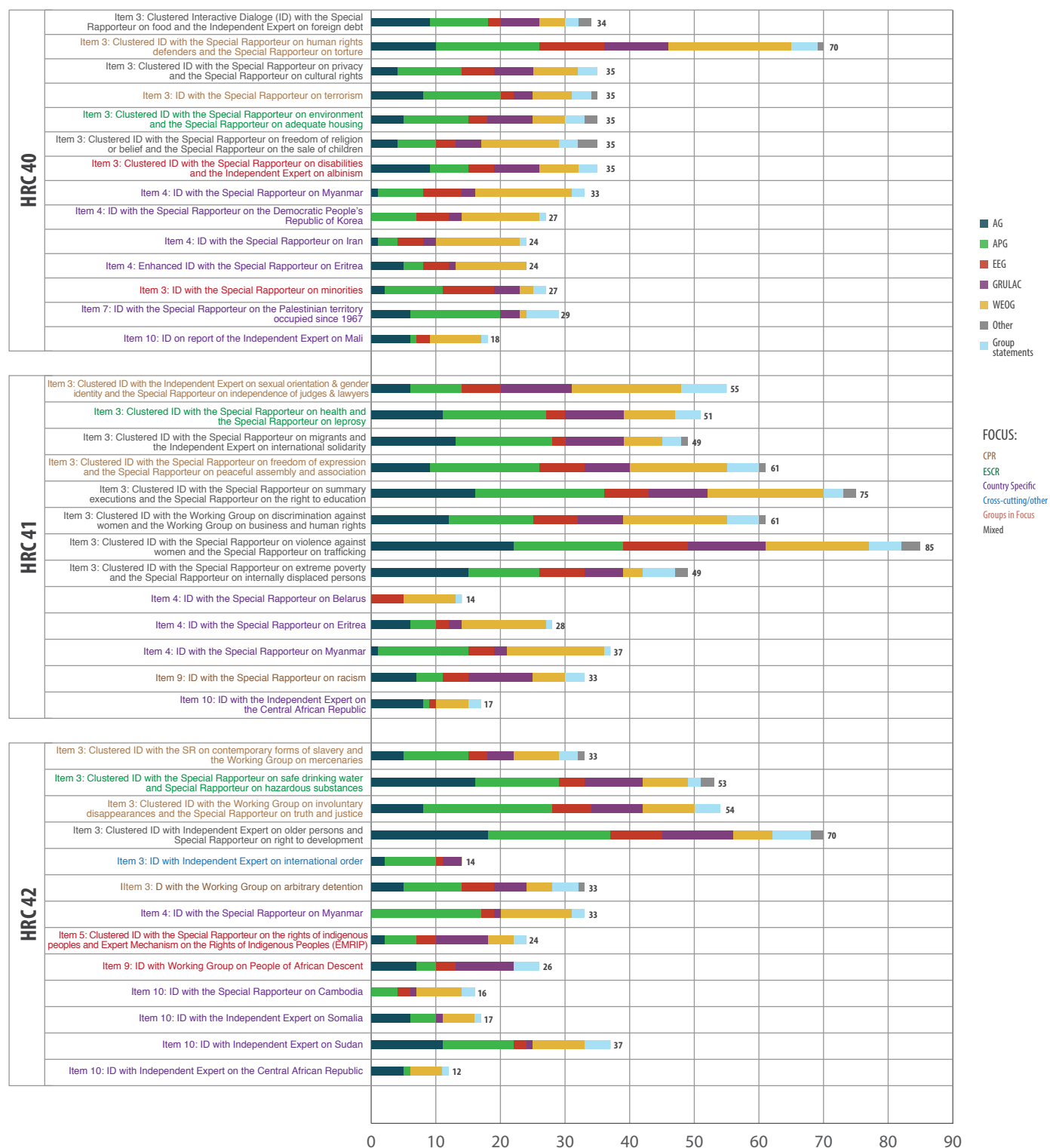


The size of each bubble and word/phrase within the bubble relates to the number of resolutions adopted with that focus/theme in 2019.

Data source: Council resolutions available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

- During 2019, slightly more texts focused on groups in focus, compared to texts on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), civil and political rights (CPRs), and cross-cutting issues. The most popular 'groups in focus' were women's rights, followed by children's rights and indigenous rights.
- For CPRs resolutions, the most popular themes were 'access to justice' and 'freedom of religion or belief'/'religious intolerance.'
- For ESCRs resolutions, the Council focused mainly on the right to development.
- Most 'cross-cutting' texts focused on international cooperation and solidarity.
- There were a number of new initiatives in 2019, namely, 'Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development;' 'International support for national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up' (NMIRFs); 'New and emerging technologies;' 'Equal pay;' 'the right to social security;' 'Elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport;' and 'The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.'

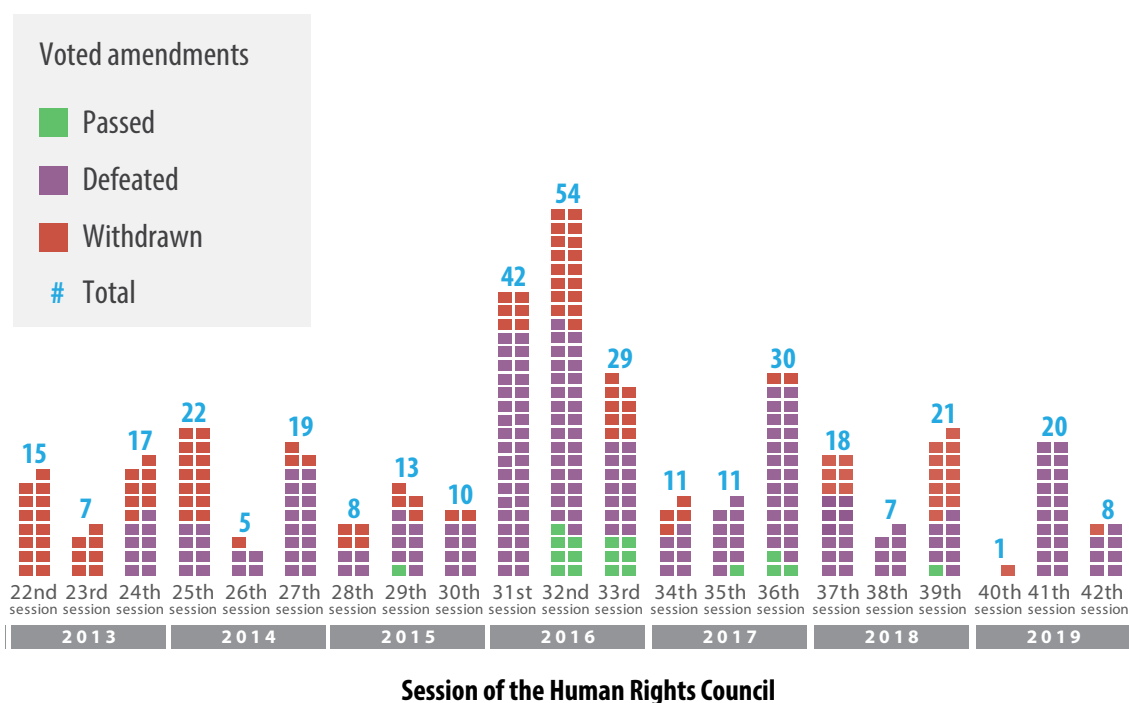
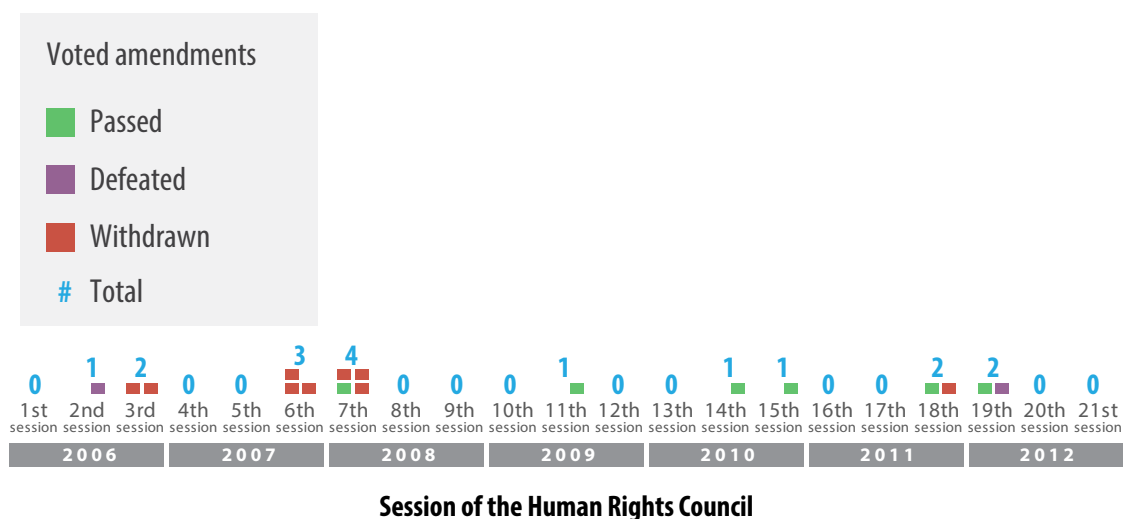
State participation in Interactive Dialogues of the Special Procedures in 2019



Data source: OHCHR extranet.

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

Evolution of amendments to Council resolutions

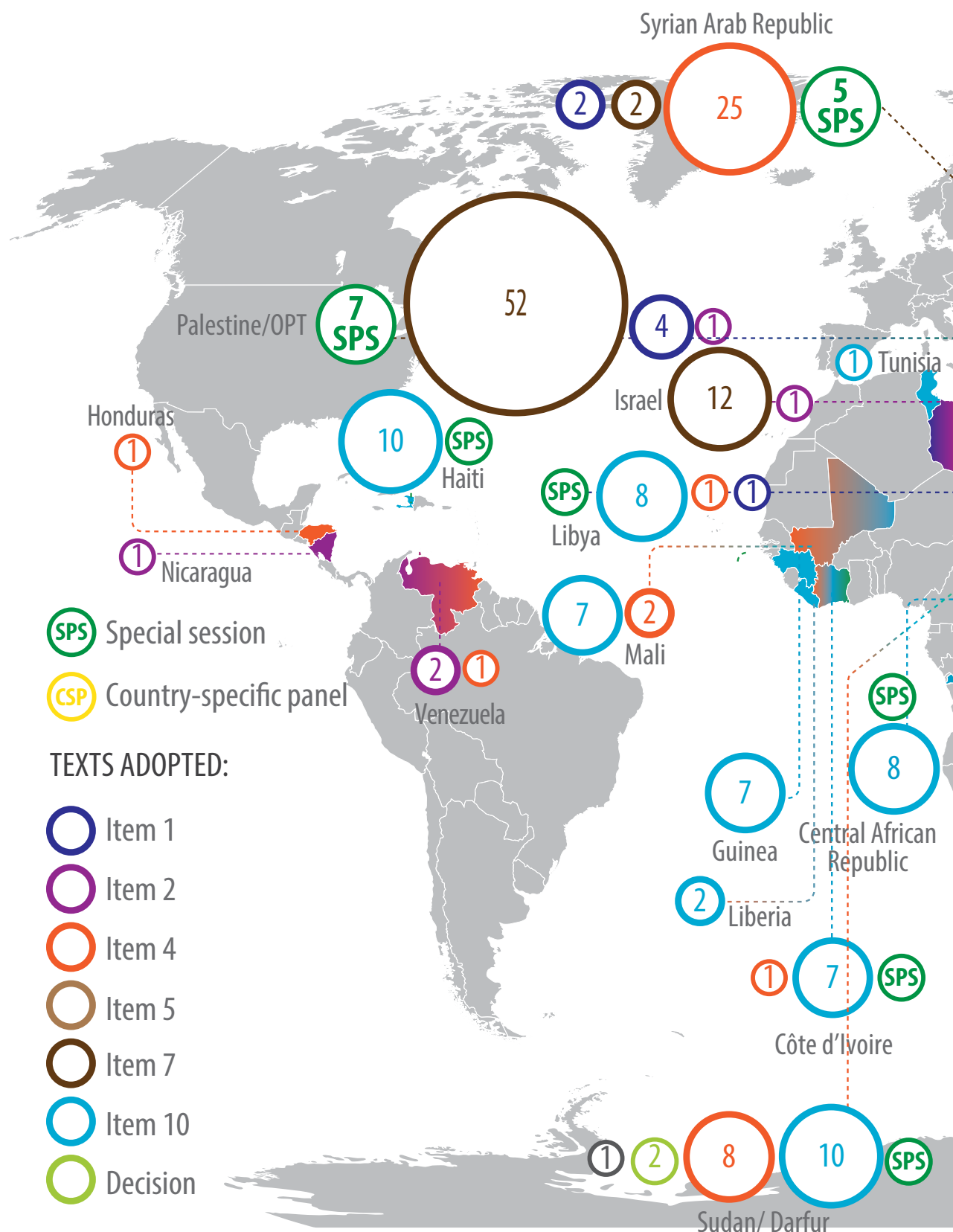


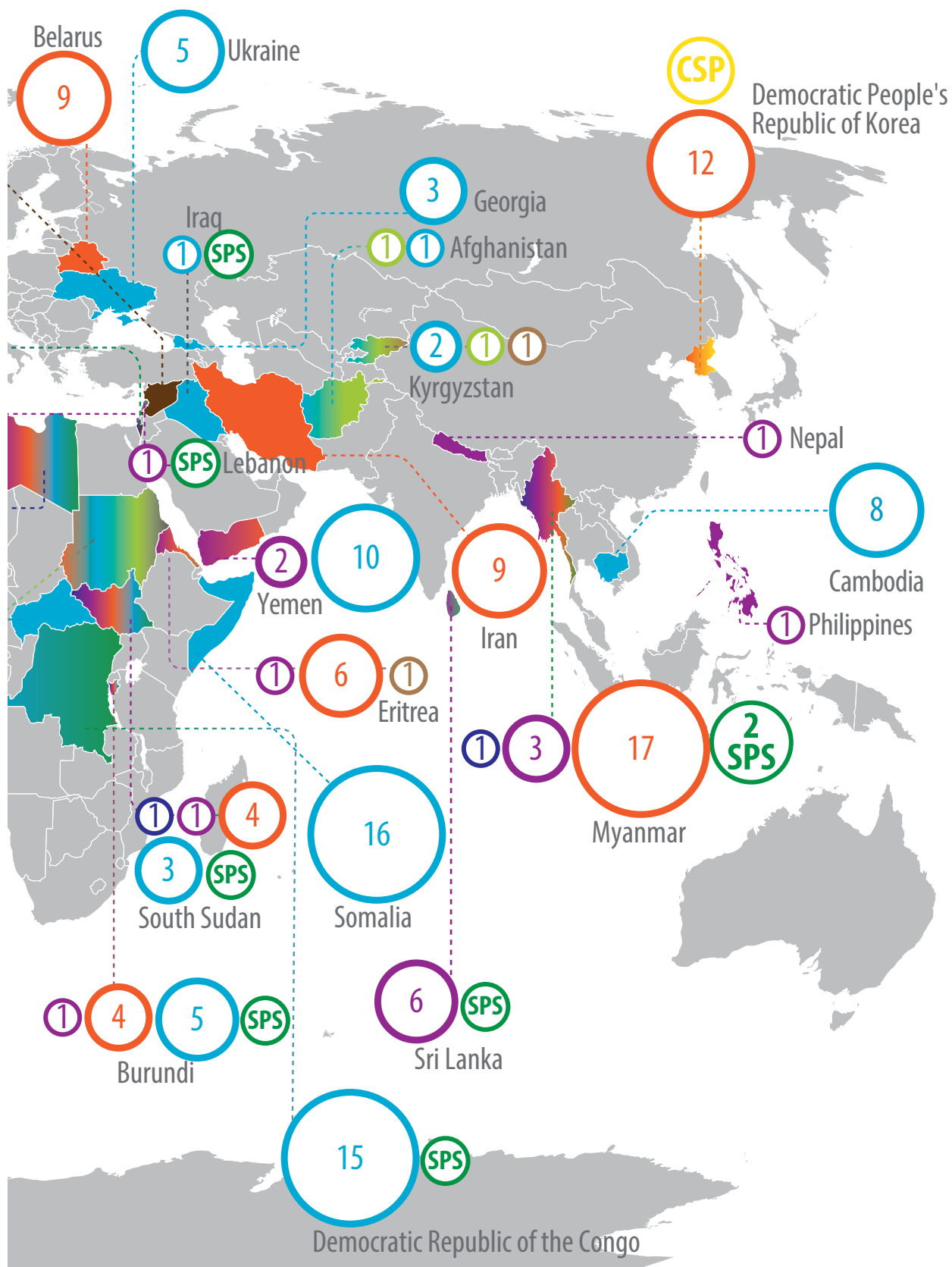
Data source: OHCHR extranet.

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

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF THE COUNCIL

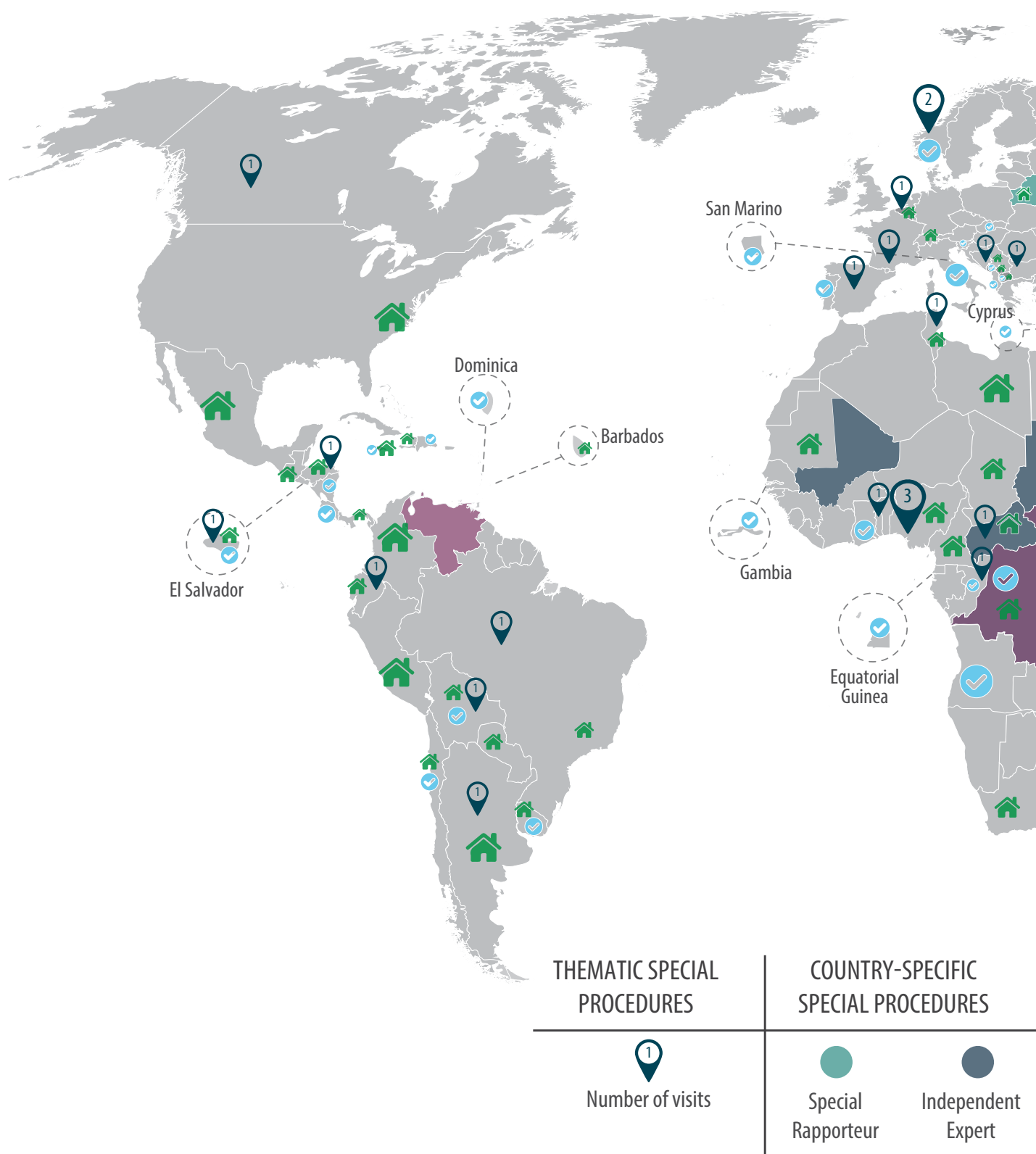
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF COUNCIL TEXTS, SPECIAL SESSIONS, AND
PANELS (2006-2019)



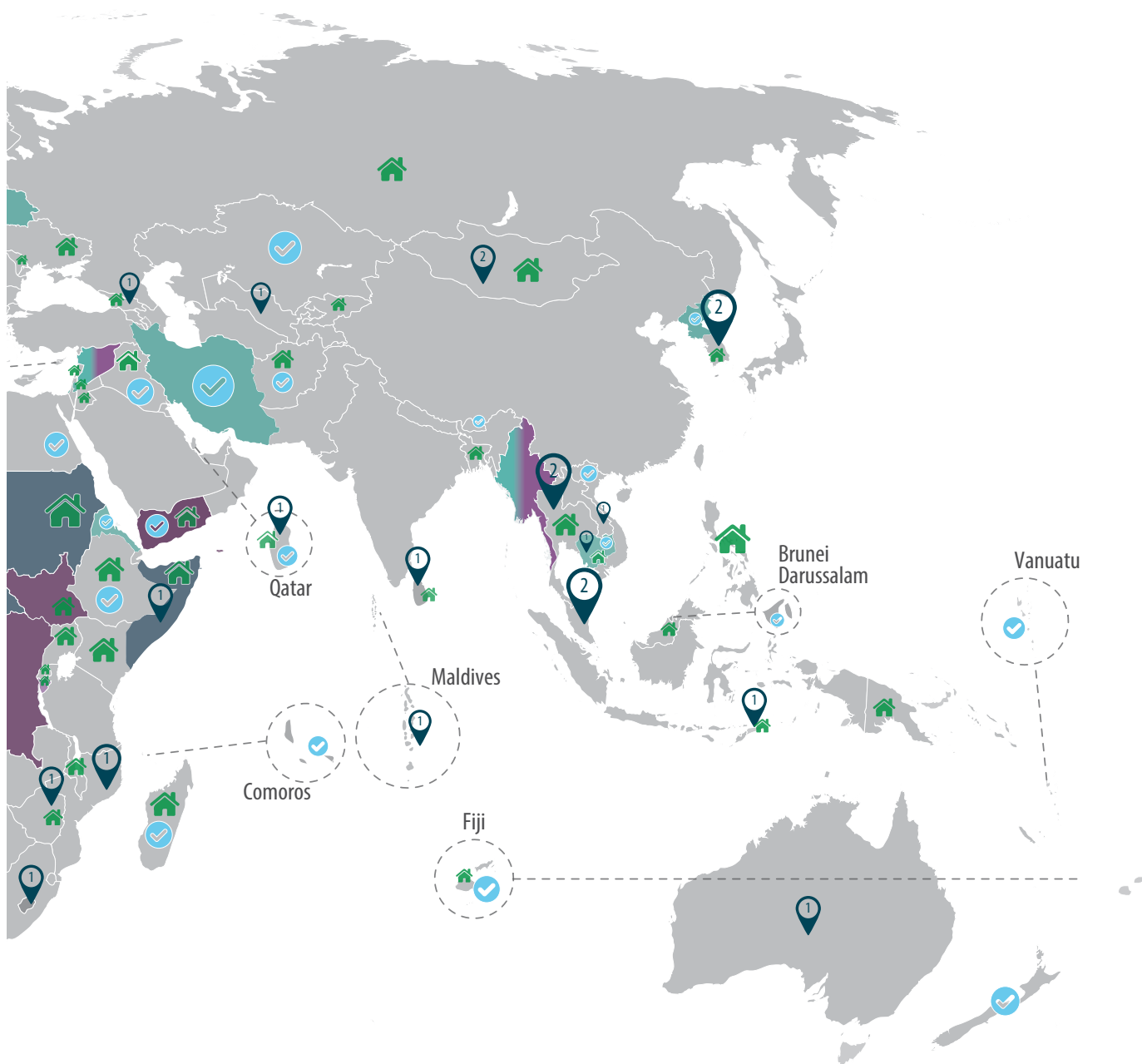







Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2019



Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions, or presidential statements) 2006-2019, available on the OHCHR website and 2019 Human Rights Appeal.



INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS			UPR	OHCHR PRESENCE
				
Commissions of Inquiry	Fact-Finding Mission	Other	UPR review completed 2019	OHCHR field presence during 2019

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

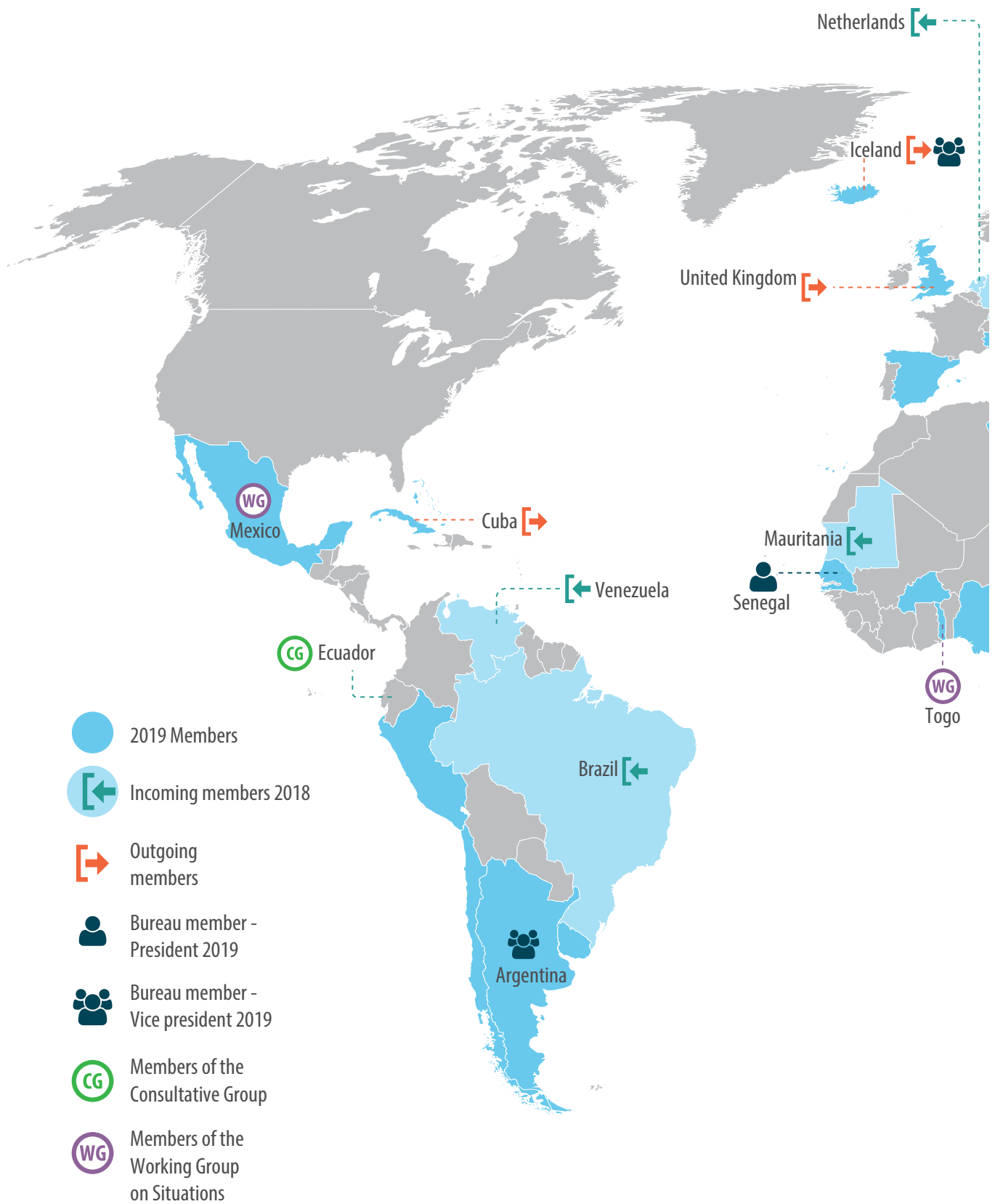


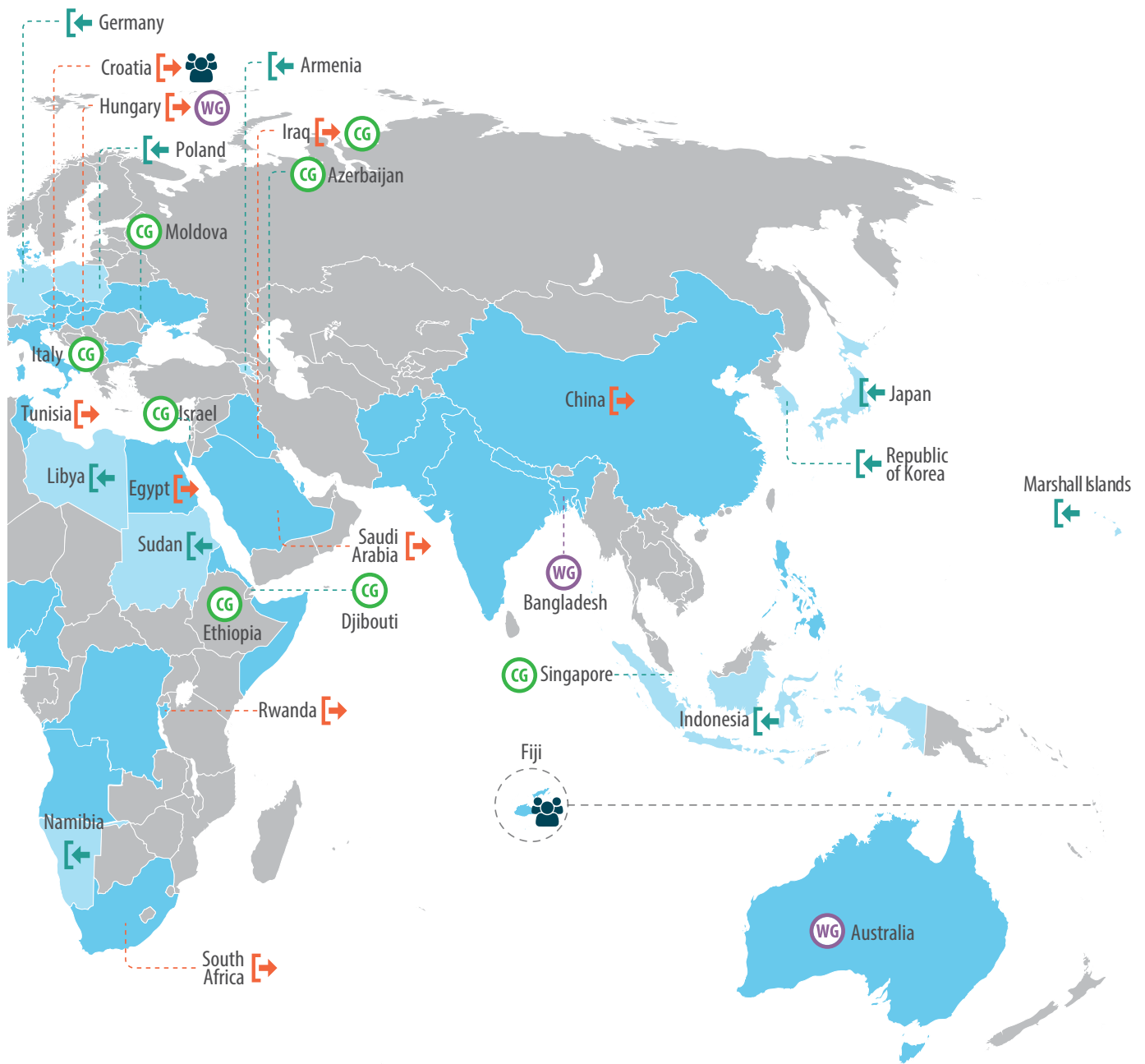


PART II

2019

**COUNCIL MEMBER STATES:
ENGAGEMENT, PRINCIPAL
SPONSORSHIP AND
COOPERATION**





MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN 2019

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 September 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr Andrew Gilmour, presented the tenth annual report (pursuant to resolution 12/2) to the 42nd session of the Council on: 'Cooperation with the UN its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights.'

With resolution 12/2, the Council 'expressed concern over continued reports of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with the UN,' its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, and condemned all acts of intimidation and reprisal.

The 2019 report highlights the activities undertaken by the UN in response to acts of intimidation and reprisal, as well as the policy developments, good practices, and efforts taken by the UN to address these situations and ensure access by civil society actors to the UN, its representatives and mechanisms.

The Secretary-General recalls that acts of intimidation and reprisals occur, not only on the ground, but also in the UN facilities and at headquarters, and are perpetrated by State and non-State actors. 'During the reporting period, incidents or trends were addressed within the UN system in the Secretariat and its field offices and peace missions, and by the GA, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, the human rights Treaty Bodies,



the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations and the World Bank Group.’

‘Reported allegations over time demonstrate that intimidation and reprisals can be more than isolated incidents, and can signal patterns.’ Within these patterns, the Secretary-General highlights: the misuse of online space through hate speech, cyberbullying and smear campaigns as a common way to threaten individuals that contribute to the work and principles of the UN; increased self-censorship by civil society actors, who decide not to cooperate with the UN to protect their lives and integrity; and the ‘use of national security arguments and counter-terrorism strategies by States as justification for blocking access to

the UN.’ ‘Women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are exposed to gender- or sexual orientation-specific barriers, threats and violence in their engagement with the UN.’

Moreover, the Secretary-General presents information on alleged acts of intimidation and reprisal based on data gathered from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2019, including follow-up information on cases discussed in previous reports. The report was prepared with full observance of the principle of ‘do no harm,’ it consequently does not include cases addressed confidentially or cases ‘in which the risk to the security and well-being of the individuals concerned, or their family members, was deemed too high.’

The 2019 report summarises and provides comprehensive information on alleged cases of intimidation and reprisals in the following countries:

Algeria	Israel
Bahamas	Kazakhstan
Bahrain	Malaysia
Bangladesh	Malta
Benin	Mauritania
Bolivia	Morocco
Burundi	Myanmar
China	Nicaragua
Colombia	Poland
Cuba	Saudi Arabia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sri Lanka
Egypt	State of Palestine
Eritrea	Tunisia
Guatemala	Turkmenistan
Honduras	United Arab Emirates
Hungary	Uzbekistan
India	Venezuela
Iran	Viet Nam
Iraq	Yemen

The report further summarises follow-up information on cases included in previous reports concerning the following countries:

Bahrain
Bangladesh
Burundi
Cameroon
China
Colombia
Cuba
Djibouti
Egypt
Guatemala
Honduras
Hungary
India
Iran
Iraq

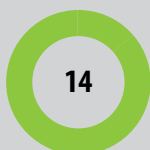
Israel
Kyrgyzstan
Mali
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Philippines
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
South Sudan
Thailand
United Arab Emirates
Venezuela
Viet Nam

Latin America and Caribbean Group

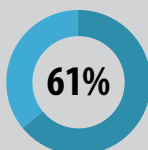
Standing invitations issued by



Average visits completed



Average communications response rate



SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Average number of treaties ratified

8/8

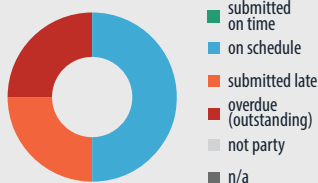
Average lateness of overdue reports

5.4
years

Most overdue report

11.5
years

Average/overall reporting status



TREATY BODIES

Midterm reports submitted by: **3/8** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **95/193** (1st cycle)
144/193 (2nd cycle)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION

African Group

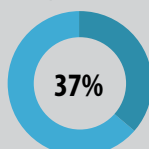
Standing invitations issued by



Average visits completed



Average communications response rate



SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Average number of treaties ratified

7/8

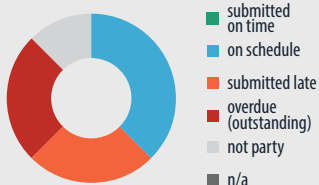
Average lateness of most overdue report

11
years

Most overdue report

35
years

Average/overall reporting status



TREATY BODIES

Midterm reports submitted by: **8/13** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **28/193** (1st cycle)
69/193 (2nd cycle)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW



Standing invitation issued



UPR midterm report submitted

Western Europe and Others Group

Standing invitations issued by

7/7
Member States

Average visits completed

10

Average communications response rate

80%

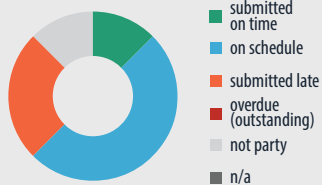
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Average number of treaties ratified **7/8**

Average lateness of overdue reports **2.8** years

Most overdue report **4** years

Average/overall reporting status



TREATY BODIES

Midterm reports submitted by: **6/7** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **105/193** (1st cycle)
157/193 (2nd cycle)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Eastern European Group

Standing invitations issued by

6/6
Member States

Average visits completed

6

Average communications response rate

63%

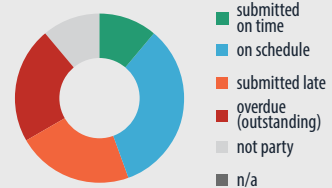
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Average number of treaties ratified **7.5/8**

Average lateness of overdue reports **7.8** years

Most overdue report **13** years

Average/overall reporting status



TREATY BODIES

Midterm reports submitted by: **6/6** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **55/193** (1st cycle)
86/193 (2nd cycle)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Asia Pacific Group

Standing invitations issued by

6/13
Member States

Average visits completed

7

Average communications response rate

50%

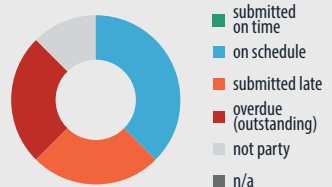
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Average number of treaties ratified **7/8**

Average lateness of overdue reports **5.9** years

Most overdue report **17** years

Average/overall reporting status

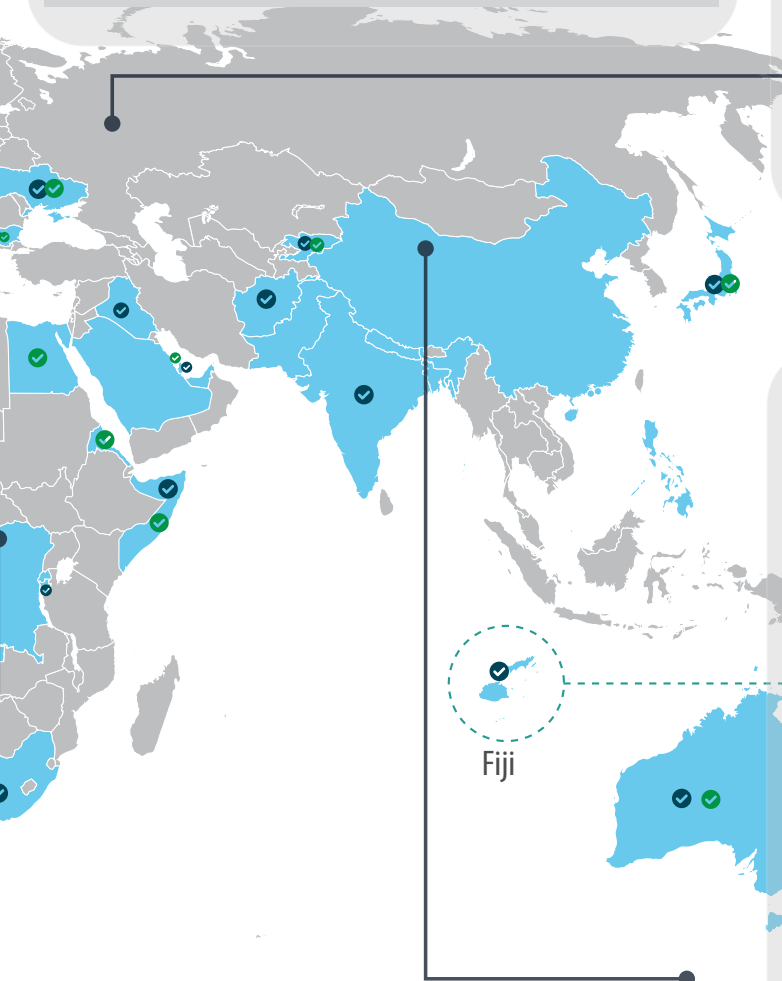


TREATY BODIES

Midterm reports submitted by: **2/13** Member States

































































Average number of reviews participated in: **41/193** (1st cycle)
83/193 (2nd cycle)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW



African Group (AG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (sep 2019)	NHRI accreditation status (may 2019)	Membership terms to date
Angola					
Burkina Faso				Lapsed accreditation	
Cameroon					
Democratic Republic of the Congo					
Egypt					
Eritrea					
Nigeria					
Rwanda					
Senegal					
Somalia					
South Africa					
Togo					
Tunisia					

Principal sponsorship

During 2019, 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 2019, members of the African Group ('AG') led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Egypt: Terrorism and human rights; access to medicines and vaccines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; and youth and human rights.

Senegal: Access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; and World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the fourth phase.

South Africa: Access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport; equal pay; and the right to social security.

Tunisia: Human rights, democracy and the rule of law; and youth and human rights.

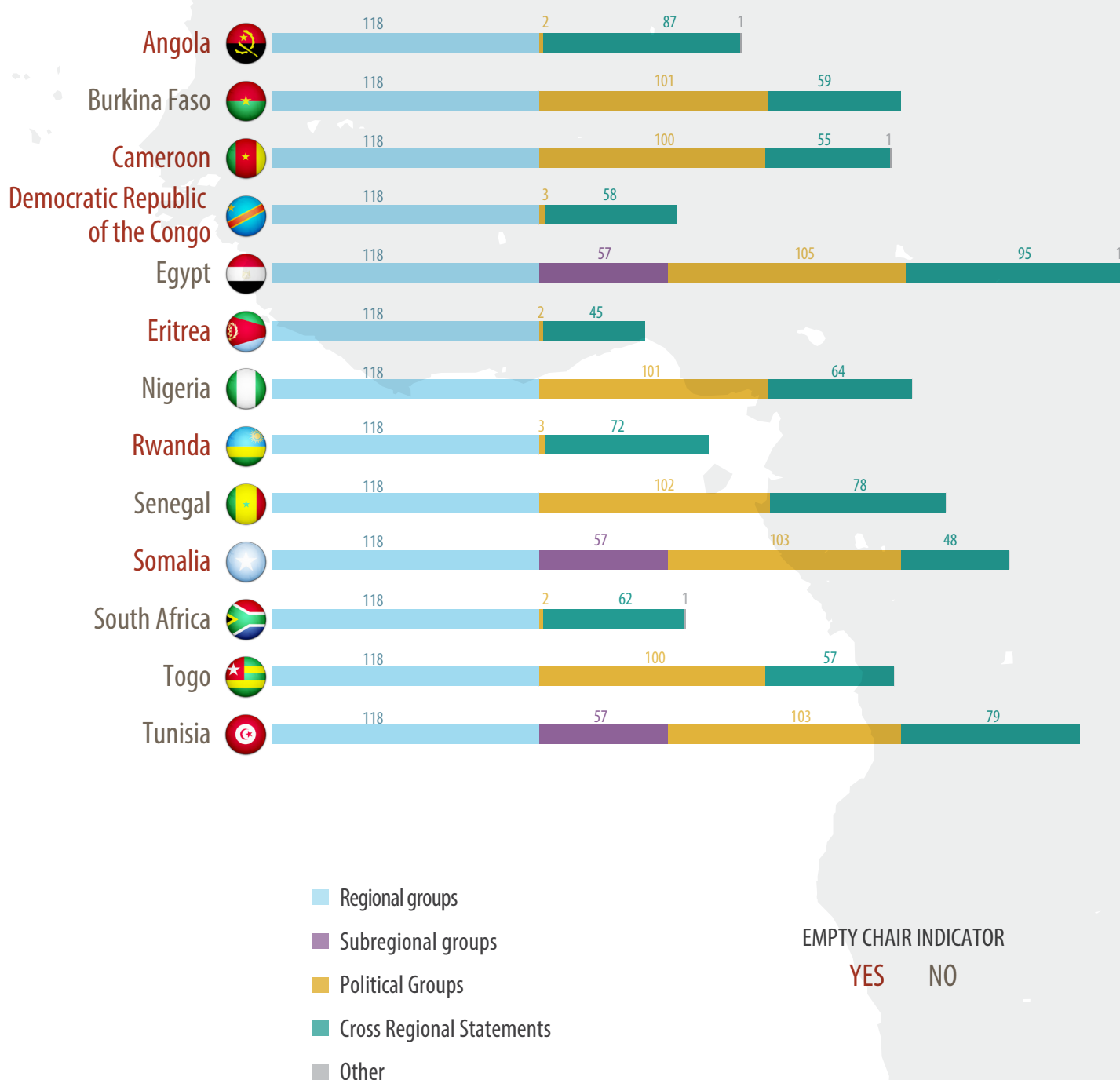
At a country-specific level, in 2019, African members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Somalia: Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that African States often work through their regional group. In 2019, the African Group led on, *inter alia*, the following resolutions: From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; protection of the rights of workers exposed to hazardous substances and wastes; 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 certain States, including the following resolutions: Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; technical assistance and capacity-building to further improve human rights in the Sudan; and technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya. Finally, the African Group also led on the renewal of the mandate of the team of international experts on the situation in the Kasai region.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2019



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, 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 10% 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 country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 2 (report of the High Commissioner), when a vote was called in 2019, AG member States tended to abstain or vote against the resolutions on Eritrea, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Yemen (the only exception was South Africa's vote in favour of the resolution on Yemen); and to vote in favour of resolutions on the situations in Venezuela, Myanmar and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) (with the exception of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which consistently abstained). Other exceptions include Cameroon's no vote on the resolution on the OPT and the following abstentions: Somalia, Senegal and Nigeria during voting on the resolution on Venezuela; Angola and Cameroon during voting on the resolution on Myanmar; and Rwanda during voting on the resolution on the OPT.

Concerning resolutions tabled under item 4 (human rights situations that require the Council's attention), in the absence of consensus, members of the AG tended to abstain or vote against. Nonetheless, there were some exceptions, including, *inter alia*: Rwanda's vote in favour of three resolutions on the human rights situations in the Syrian Arab Republic, and on the situation in Burundi; and Somalia's and Burkina Faso's vote in favour of one text on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (OPT), most African States voted in favour; except for Cameroon and DRC (both abstained during voting on all texts); Rwanda (abstained during voting on all resolutions except one on the 'Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination'); and Somalia (abstained during voting

on a text on 'human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan').

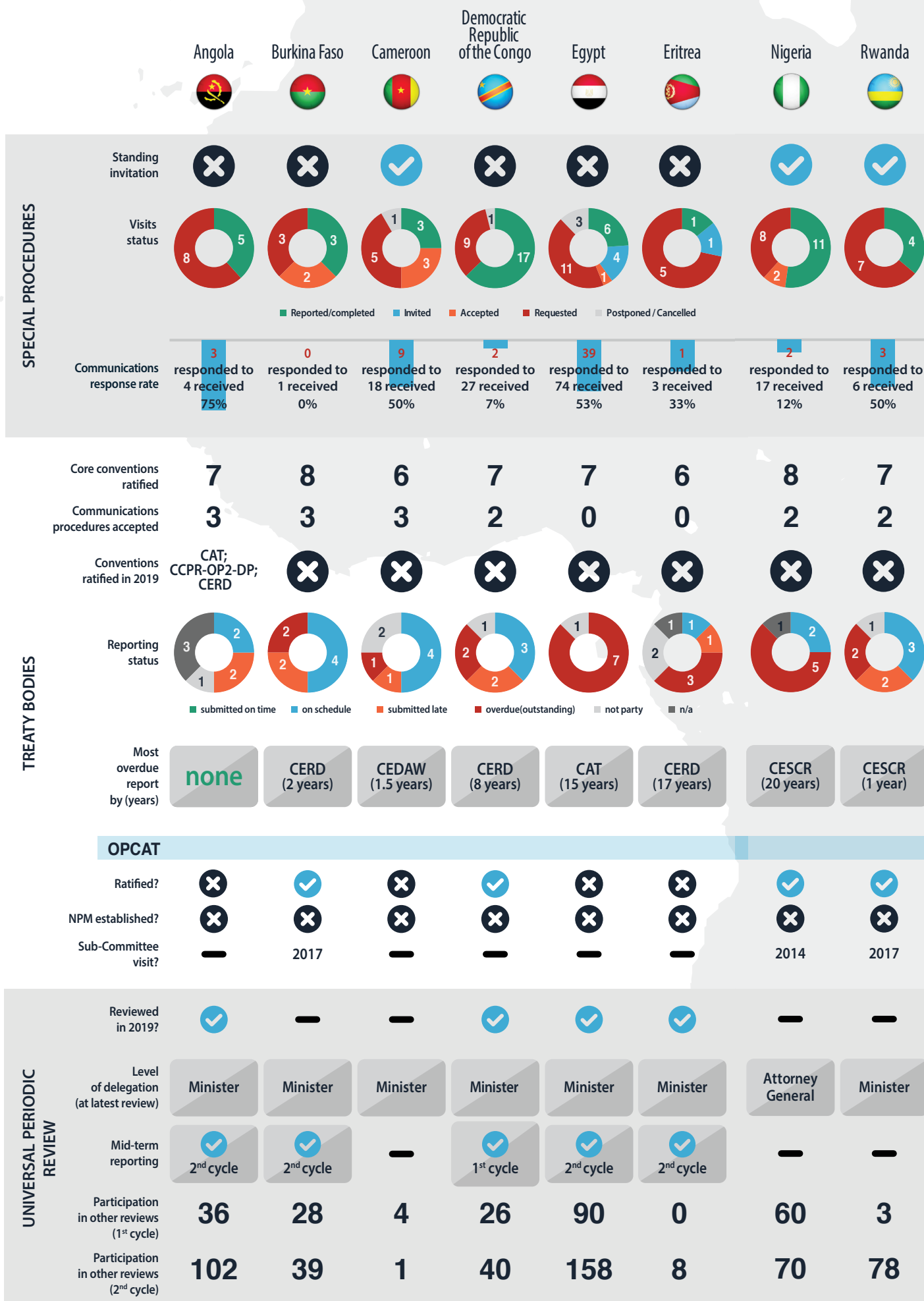
Most AG members abstained during voting on the only item 10 (technical assistance and capacity-building) text voted on during 2019, namely a resolution on cooperation with Ukraine. The exceptions were Eritrea and Cameroon (both voted against), and Rwanda (voted in favour).

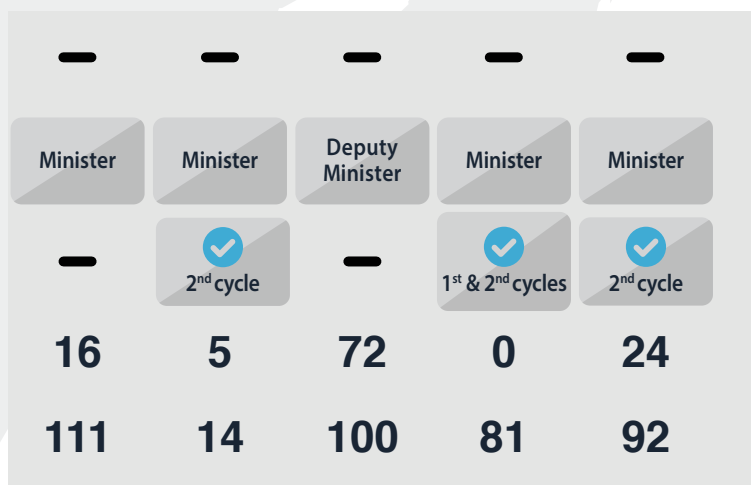
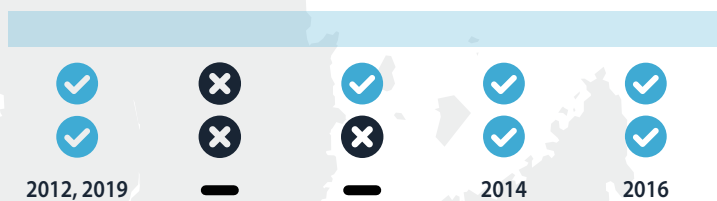
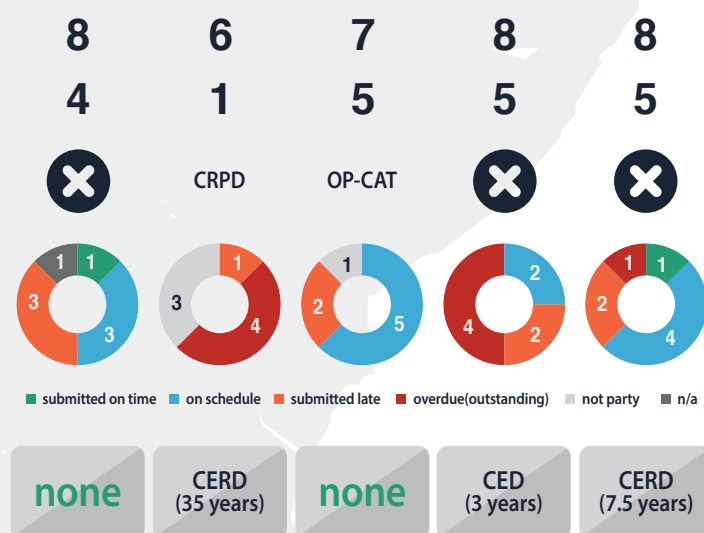
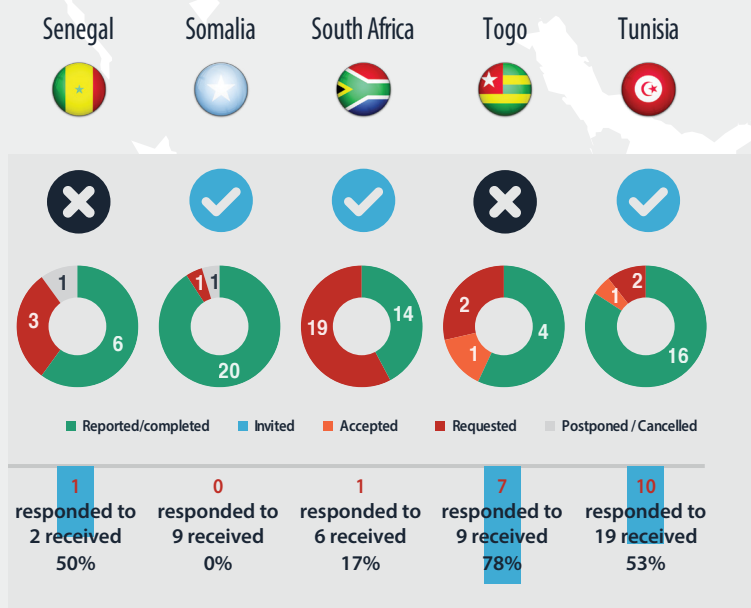
For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, African States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The only exceptions were Senegal's abstention during voting on a resolution on unilateral coercive measures; and DRC's abstention during voting on a text on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called in 2019, AG members voted in favour of the text on mercenaries (except DRC, which abstained), but were divided during voting on:

- The text on the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity - Rwanda, Tunisia and South Africa voted in favour, and all other members either abstained or voted against.
- The resolution on the death penalty - Egypt, Somalia and Cameroon voted against; Eritrea, DRC, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia abstained; and all other members voted in favour.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms





* Ratification and reporting is recorded for eight 'core UN 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 (CED), 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).

Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (sep 2019)	NHRI accreditation status (may 2019)	Membership terms to date
Afghanistan					
Bahrain					
Bangladesh					
China					
Fiji				Suspended	
India					
Iraq					
Japan					
Nepal					
Pakistan					
Philippines					
Qatar					

Principal sponsorship

During 2019, members of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) 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 2019 APG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Bangladesh: Human rights and climate change.

China: Access to medicines and vaccines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights; and making the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Fiji: Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

India: Access to medicines and vaccines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Philippines: Human rights and climate change; World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the fourth phase; and youth and human rights.

Qatar: Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.

At a country-specific level, in 2019 APG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Japan: Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia.

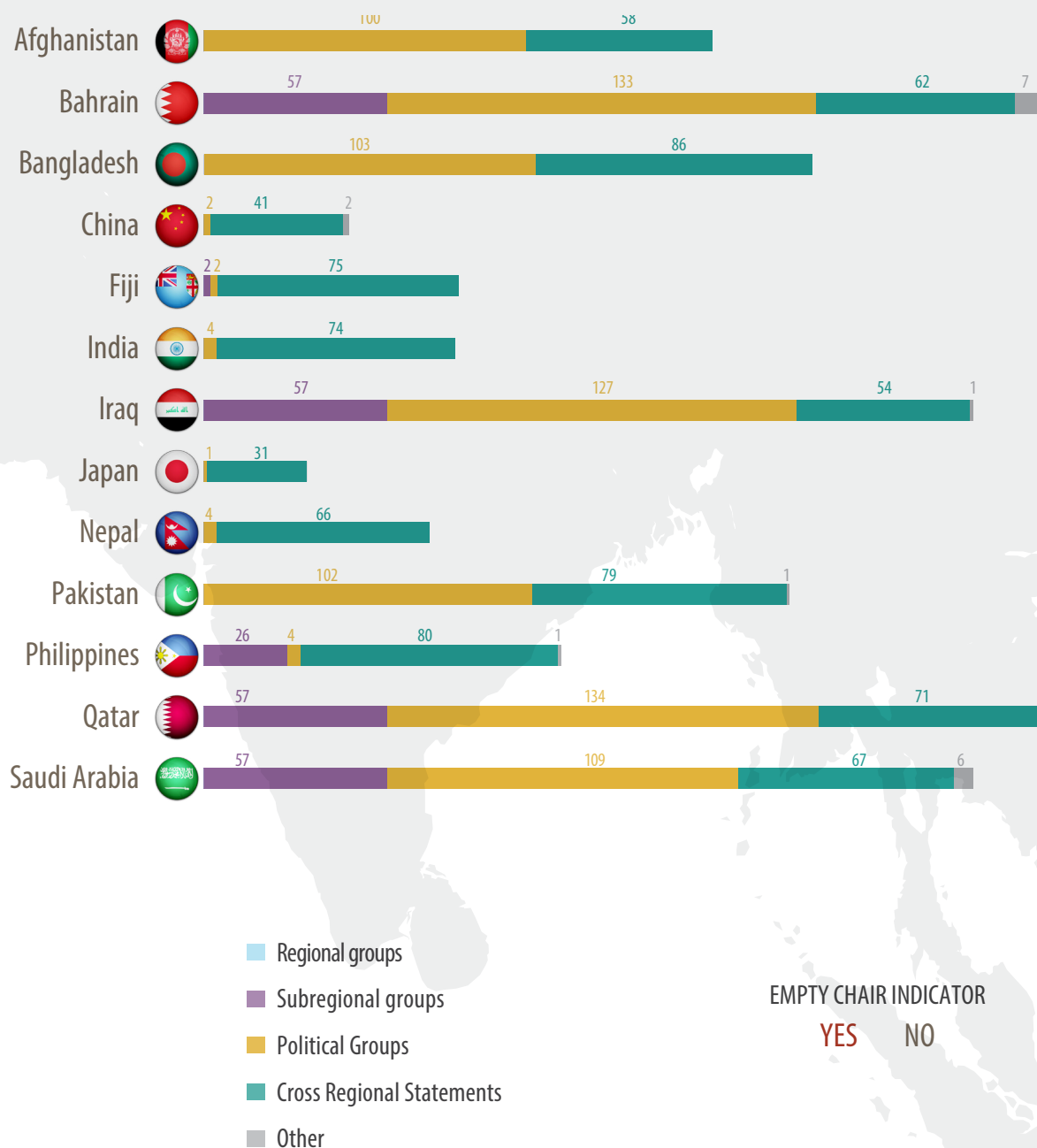
Qatar: The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (three texts).

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some APG States regularly work through political groups, especially the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab Group.

During 2019, the OIC, at thematic level, led on a resolution on 'combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief.' At country-specific level, the OIC led, *inter alia*, on the resolutions on: ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; and situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

In 2019, the Arab Group led on a resolution on technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2019



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, 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 10% 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 country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner), when a vote was called in 2019:

- On the resolution on the situation in Venezuela - Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Japan and Saudi Arabia abstained; while Fiji, Iraq, China, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan and Qatar voted in favour.
- On the resolution on Nicaragua - most APG members abstained, but Fiji, Japan and Afghanistan voted in favour.
- On the resolutions on the situation in Myanmar and the OPT - APG members were divided. India, Nepal and Japan abstained during voting on both resolutions, while most other APG members voted in favour of both texts. Exceptions include China and the Philippines which voted against the text on Myanmar, and Fiji which voted against the resolution on the OPT.
- On the resolutions on Yemen, the Philippines and Eritrea - most APG members either abstained or voted against. Exceptions include Fiji's vote in favour of all texts; Japan's vote in favour of the text on Eritrea; Qatar's vote in favour of the resolution on Yemen, and Afghanistan's 'no vote' during voting on the text on Yemen.

With regard to item 4 texts (situations that require the Council's attention), when a vote was called in 2019, APG members displayed markedly different voting records. When a vote was called on a resolution on the human rights situation in Iran, for example, APG members were divided in three groups. Afghanistan, China, India, Iraq and Pakistan voted against; Nepal, Bangladesh, Qatar and the Philippines abstained; and Bahrain, Japan, Fiji and Saudi Arabia voted in favour. When votes were called on resolutions on the situations in Syria (three texts), Venezuela, Burundi and Belarus; APG members were similarly divided. Japan and Fiji tended to vote in favour (although Fiji abstained during voting on the text on Venezuela); Qatar and Saudi Arabia voted in favour of all

item 4 texts on Syria but either abstained or voted against other item 4 resolutions; while all other APG members either abstained or voted against (except Afghanistan, which did support the March text on Syria).

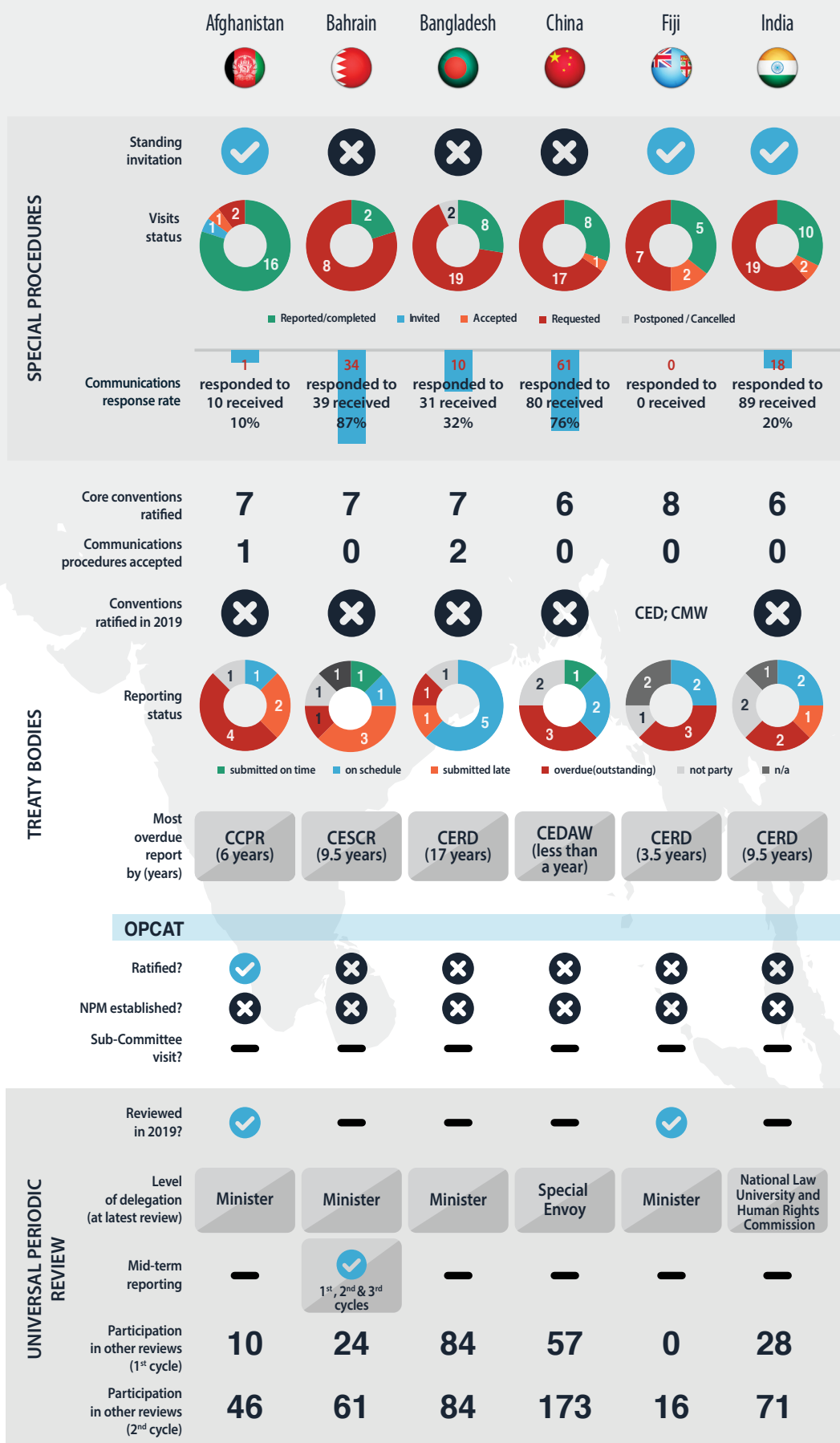
During voting on item 7 resolutions (OPT), Asia-Pacific States nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions were Fiji (abstained once), Japan (voted against once), and Saudi Arabia (did not vote once).

Regarding the one item 10 resolution (technical assistance and capacity-building) on which a vote was called during 2019, namely on cooperation with Ukraine, APG members tended to abstain or vote against. The only exceptions were Fiji and Japan, which both voted in favour.

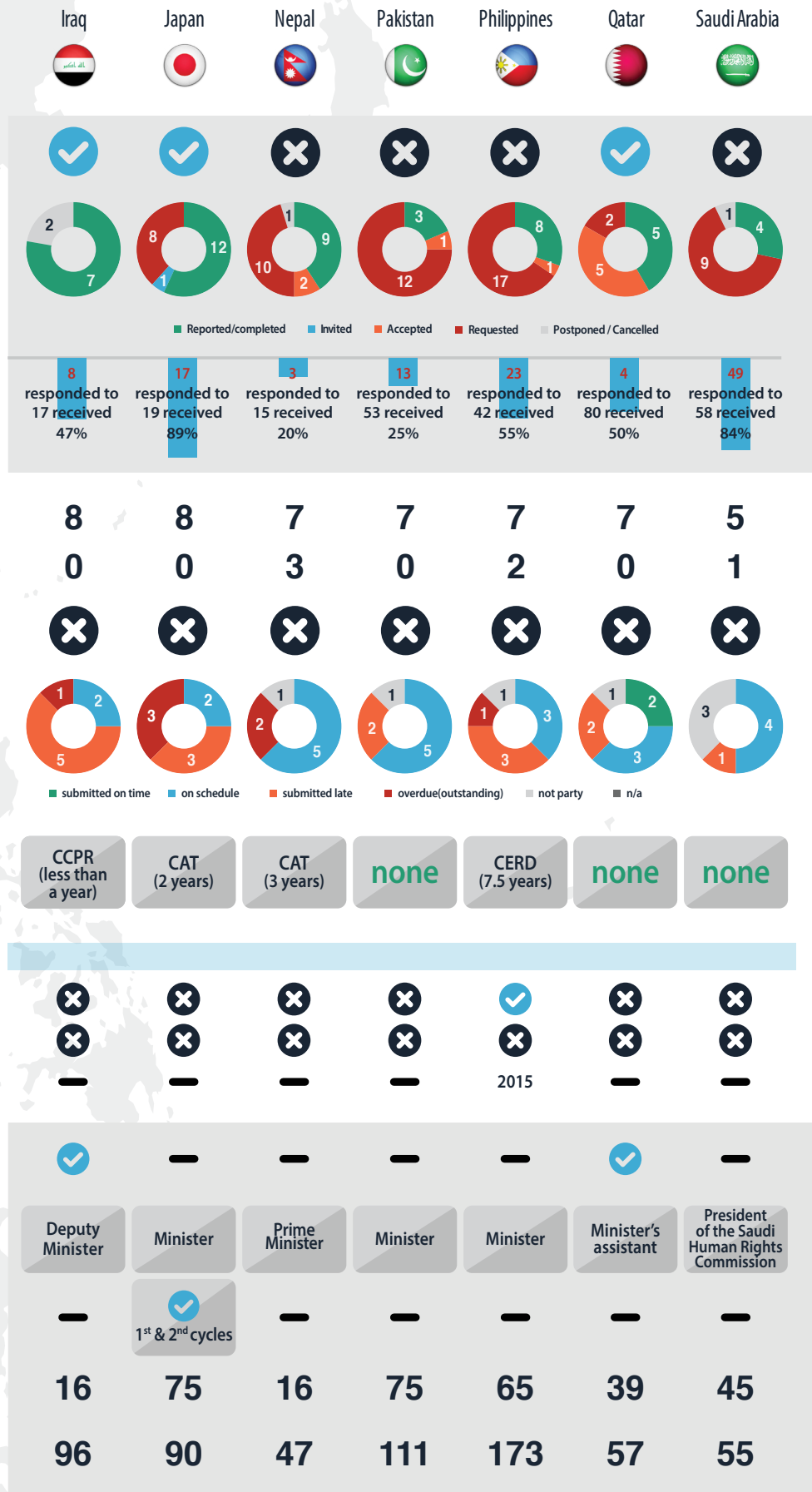
For thematic resolutions related to civil and political rights, or to economic, social, and cultural rights, where a vote was called during 2019, APG members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions include:

- Most APG members voted against the resolution on the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; though Fiji, Japan, Nepal and the Philippines voted in favour, while India abstained.
- Most APG members voted against the resolution on the question of the death penalty, though the Philippines abstained, and Fiji and Nepal voted in favour.
- When there was a vote, Japan voted against all item 3 resolutions (except on the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity – see above).
- Afghanistan abstained during voting on the resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, mercenaries, and a democratic and equitable international order.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight 'core UN human rights conventions' which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CED, 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 (2018)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (sep 2019)	NHRI accreditation status (may 2019)	Membership terms to date
Bulgaria					
Croatia					
Czech Republic					
Hungary					
Slovakia					
Ukraine					

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

Principal sponsorship

During 2019, members of the Eastern European Group (EEG) 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 2019 EEG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Czech Republic: The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Hungary: The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights and cooperation with the

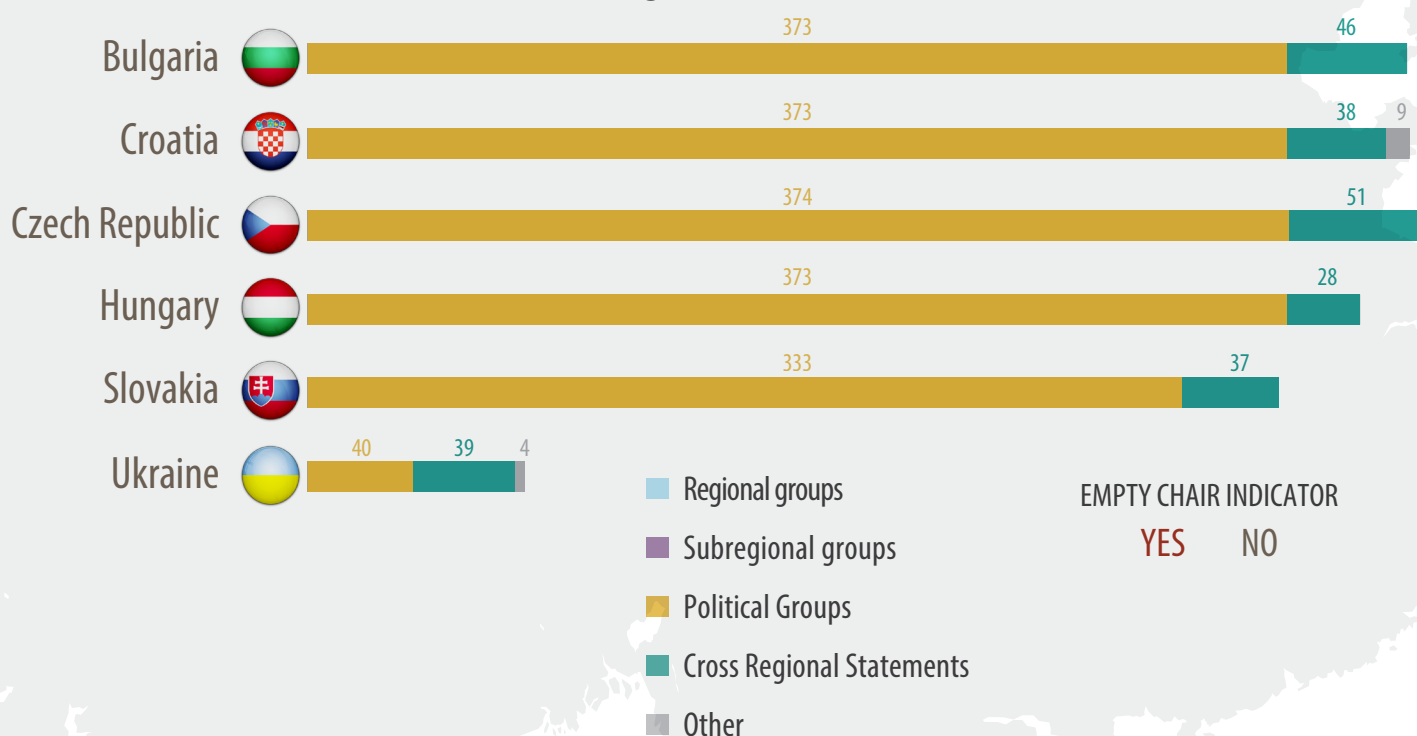
United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

Ukraine: The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights.

At a country-specific level, in 2019 EEG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Ukraine: Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2019



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, 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 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Voting analysis

In 2019, when a vote was called on country-specific item 2 texts (reports of the High Commissioner), EEG members:

- Abstained during voting on the text on Venezuela (except for Ukraine, which voted against);
- Voted against the resolution on the OPT (except for Croatia and Slovakia - both abstained); and
- Tended to vote in favour of resolutions on Yemen, Myanmar, Eritrea, Nicaragua and the Philippines – although Ukraine abstained during voting on the resolution on Myanmar and did not vote on the resolution on Yemen, while Hungary abstained during voting on the text on the situation in Eritrea and voted against the resolution on the Philippines.

Concerning item 4 (human rights situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, all EEG members either joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts adopted during 2019.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (OPT), when a vote was called in 2019 EEG States voted against the text on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, abstained during the voting on the resolution on Israeli settlements (except Hungary, which voted against), and voted in favour of the texts on the right of Palestinian people to

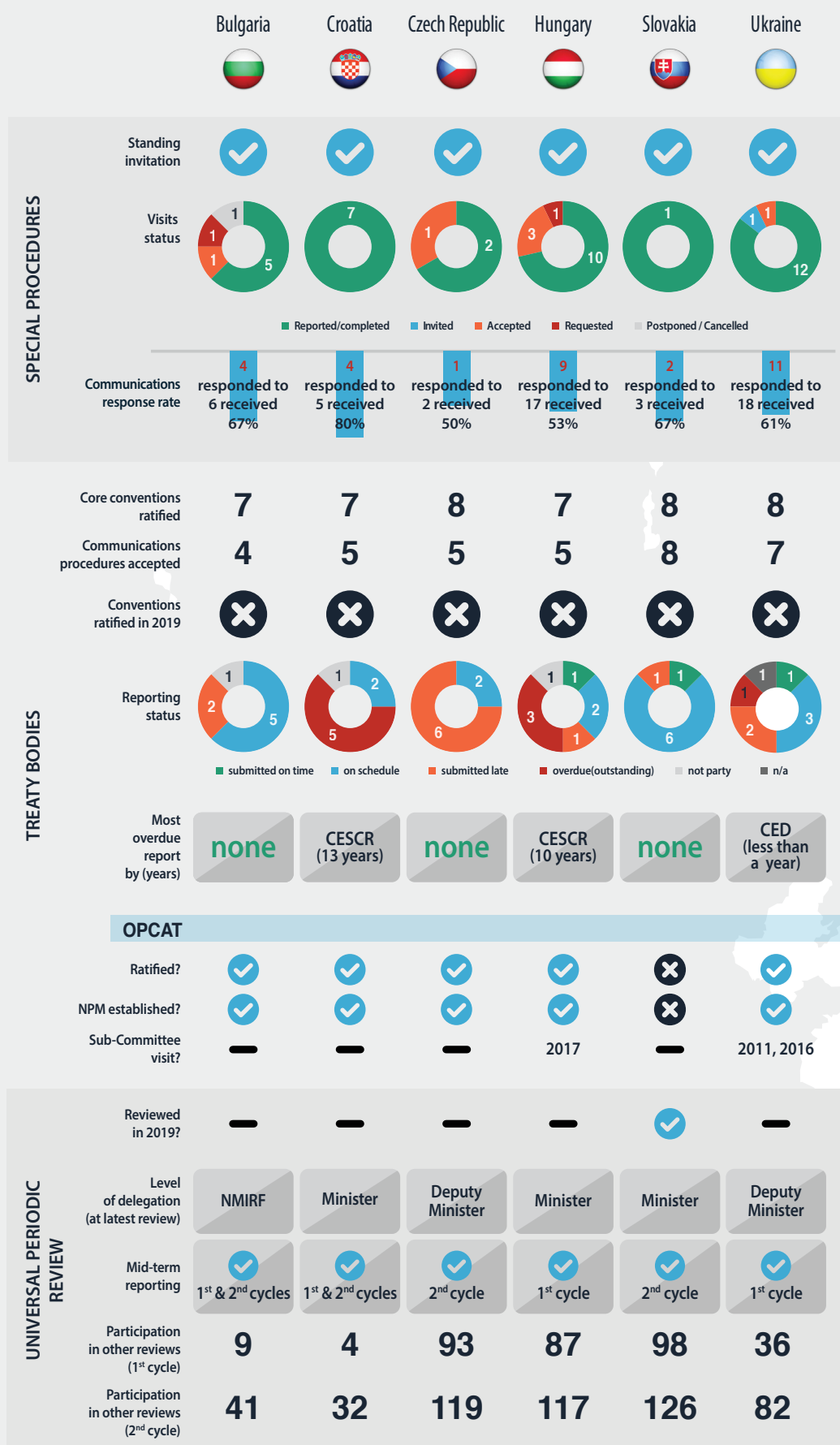
self-determination and the human rights situation in the OPT (except for Hungary, which abstained during voting on the latter).

For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), in 2019 EEG members joined consensus on all texts and, when a vote was called, voted in favour.

For thematic resolutions, where a vote was called in 2019, EEG members usually voted against. Notable exceptions include:

- All EEG members voted in favour of the text on the death penalty.
- EEG members voted in favour of the resolution on the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity - except Hungary, which abstained.
- EEG members abstained during voting on the text on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin - except for Ukraine which voted against.
- Ukraine did not vote on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



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

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

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (sep 2019)	NHRI accreditation status (may 2019)	Membership terms to date
Argentina					
Bahamas					
Brazil					
Chile					
Cuba					
Mexico					
Peru					
Uruguay					

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

Principal sponsorship

During 2019, Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) 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 2019 GRULAC members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Argentina: Consequences of child, early and forced marriage; human rights and transitional justice; mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; the human rights of older persons; and the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.

Brazil: Access to medicines and vaccines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; new and emerging digital technologies and human rights; promoting international cooperation to support national mechanisms for Implementation, reporting and follow-up; the human rights of older persons; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the right to privacy in the digital age; and World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the fourth phase.

Chile: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; and mandate of the Independent

Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Cuba: Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; human rights and international solidarity; promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; promotion of the right to peace; 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; the right to food; the Social Forum; and the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination.

Mexico: Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls; human rights and indigenous peoples; human rights and indigenous peoples: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; making the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; terrorism and human rights; the human rights of migrants; the question of the death penalty; the right to privacy in the digital age; and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Peru: Impact of arms transfers on human rights and human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Uruguay: Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; consequences of child, early and forced marriage; the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; and cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

Chile: Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Peru: Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

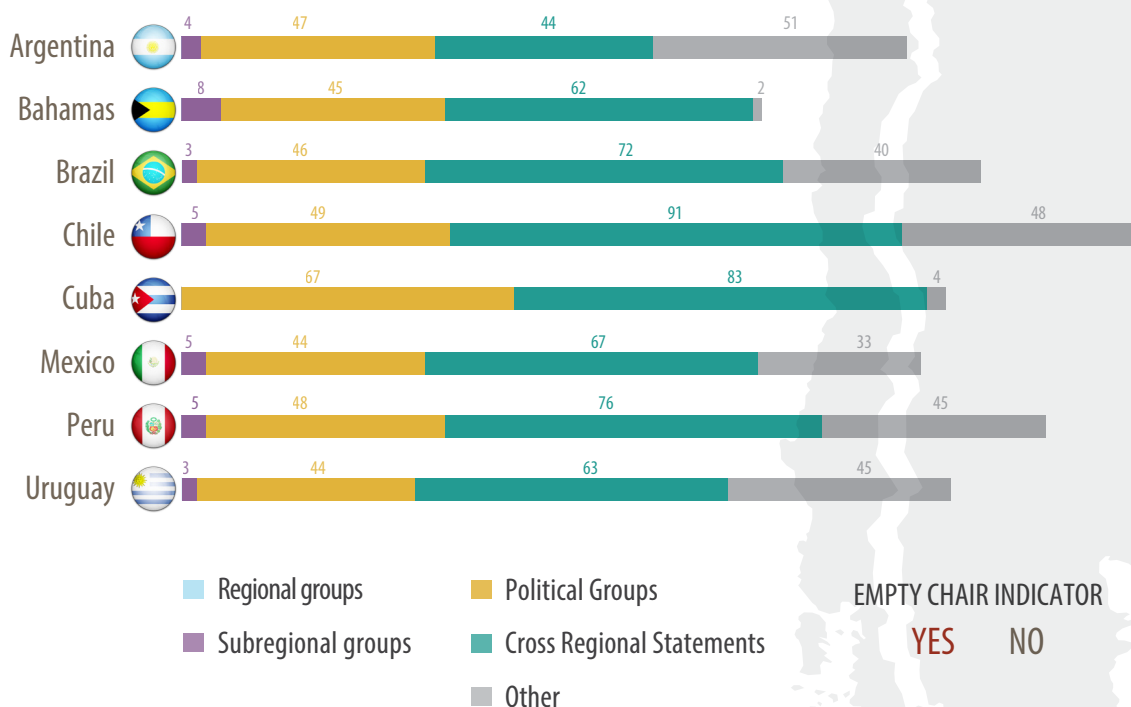
At the country-specific level, GRULAC members led, *inter alia*, on the following resolutions:

Argentina: Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Brazil: Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that Latin American and Caribbean States also worked through their regional group. In 2019, the GRULAC led on, *inter alia*, the following initiatives: the rights of the child: empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education; and thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2019



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, 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 10% 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 2 (Annual report of the High Commissioner) texts, when a vote was called in 2019, GRULAC members displayed different voting records:

- On the resolutions on Yemen, Myanmar, Eritrea, the Philippines and Nicaragua - Cuba tended to vote against (but did not cast a vote during voting on the resolution on Myanmar), while all other GRULAC members tended to vote in favour (the exceptions being Brazil and Chile's abstentions during voting on the text on the Philippines).
- On the resolution on Venezuela - Mexico, Cuba and Uruguay voted in favour; Brazil, Chile, Peru and Argentina voted against; and Bahamas abstained.
- On the text on the OPT - Argentina, Uruguay and Bahamas abstained; Brazil voted against; and Chile, Peru, Mexico and Cuba voted in favour.

During voting on item 4 resolutions, GRULAC members tended to vote in favour of all texts; except for Cuba which consistently voted against all item 4 resolutions on which a vote was called during 2019. Exceptions to this trend include the following abstentions: Uruguay during voting on the resolutions on the situations in Venezuela, Belarus and Iran; Mexico during voting on the resolution on the situation in Venezuela; Bahamas during voting on the text on the situation in Belarus, and Brazil during voting on the resolution on the situation in Iran.

Regarding item 7 resolutions (human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories), Latin

American States nearly always voted in favour (the exception was Brazil's abstention during voting on a resolution on Israeli settlements and its vote against a text on human rights in the Syrian Golan).

For the one item 10 resolution (technical assistance and capacity-building) where a vote was called in 2019, namely the resolution on cooperation with Ukraine, Latin American and Caribbean members were divided: Bahamas, Chile, Peru and Mexico voted in favour; Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay abstained; and Cuba voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called in 2019, GRULAC member States usually joined consensus or, where a vote was called, voted in favour. The exceptions were Bahamas' vote against a text on the death penalty; and Brazil and Mexico's abstentions during voting on a resolution on the use of mercenaries.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, and cross-cutting matters, where a vote was called in 2019:

- On the resolutions on the right to development, enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, and unilateral coercive measures, GRULAC members were divided into two groups. On one side, Cuba, Uruguay and Bahamas tended to vote in favour (although Uruguay abstained during voting on

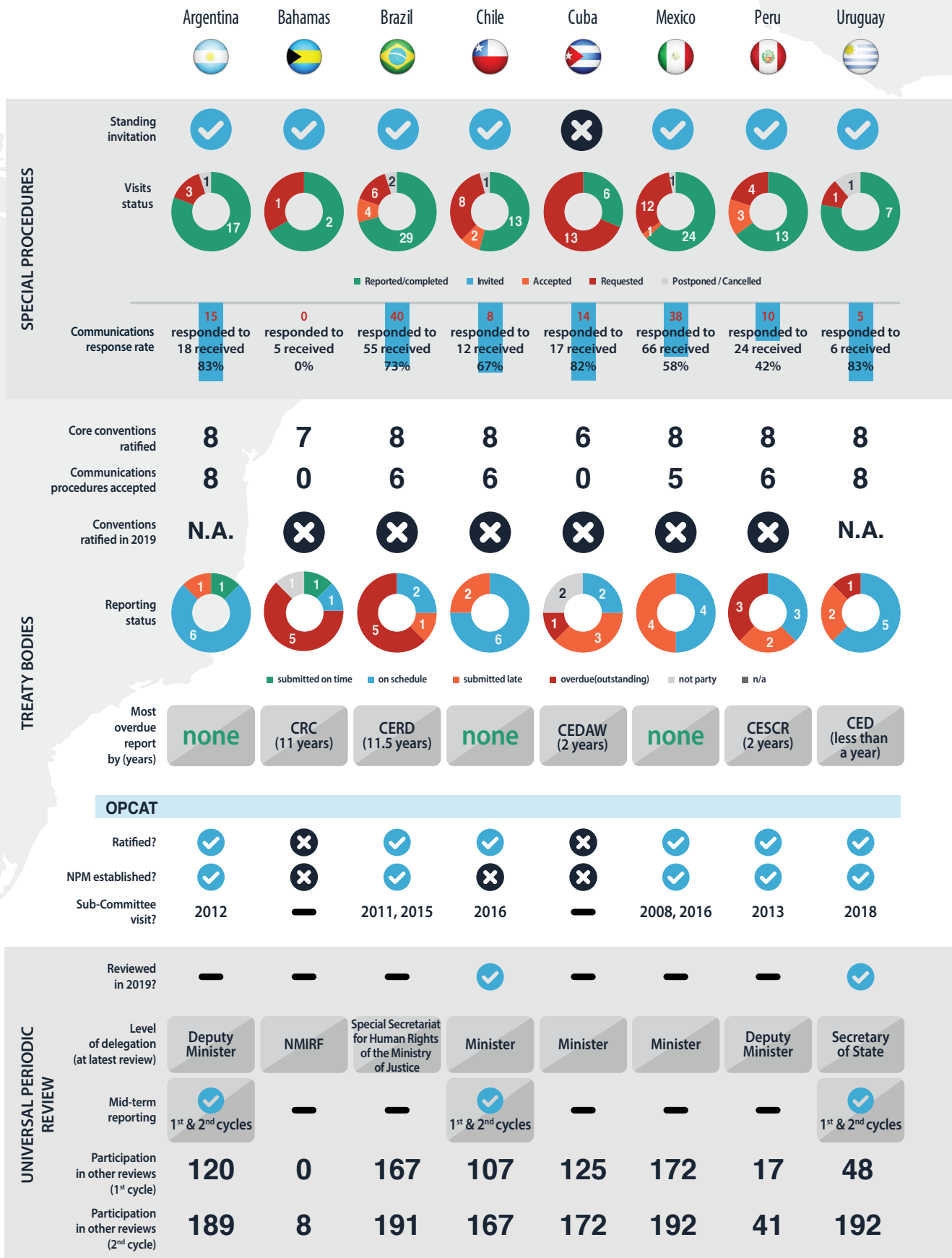
a text on the right to development); while on the other side, all other GRULAC members tended to abstain (the exceptions being Brazil's vote against and Chile's vote in favour of a resolution on unilateral coercive measures).

- On the resolutions on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, international solidarity, right to peace and the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights, GRULAC members tended to vote in favour. Notable exceptions include Argentina's abstention during voting on a resolution on the right to peace; Mexico's abstention during voting on the text on international solidarity; and Bahamas' and Mexico's abstentions during voting on a resolution on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin.

* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight "core human rights conventions" which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CED, 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



Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (sep 2019)	NHRI accreditation status (may 2019)	Membership terms to date
Australia					
Austria					
Denmark					
Iceland					
Italy					
Spain					
United Kingdom					

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

Principal sponsorship

During 2019, the members of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) 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 2019 WEOG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Australia: Equal pay; the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; and Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences.

Austria: The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice; new and emerging digital technologies and human rights; the right to privacy in the digital age; and mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

Denmark: New and emerging digital technologies and human rights; and making the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Iceland: Equal pay and the right to social security.

Italy: Consequences of child, early and forced marriage; World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the fourth phase; and youth and human rights.

Spain: The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

United Kingdom: The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; consequences of child, early and forced marriage; and Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences.

On country-specific resolutions, members of the WEOG, led on, *inter alia*, the following resolutions:

Australia: Situation of human rights in Eritrea.

Austria: Situation of human rights in Eritrea.

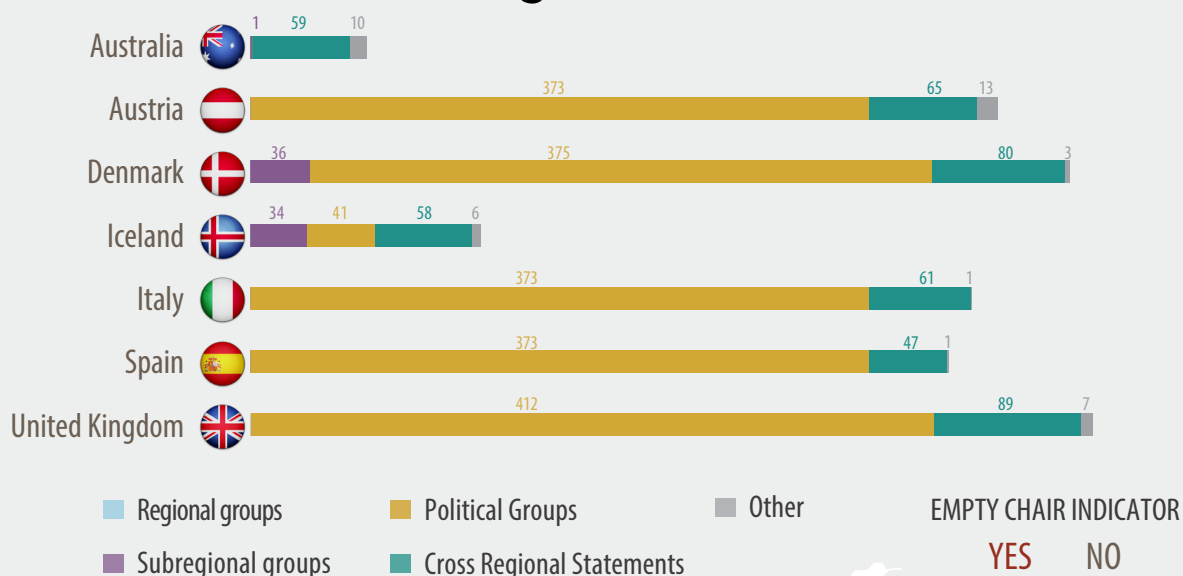
Iceland: Promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines.

Italy: The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

United Kingdom: Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; situation of human rights in South Sudan; situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; 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 2019, at the thematic level, the EU led on the following resolutions: Rights of the child: empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education; thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and freedom of religion or belief. At the country-specific level, the EU led on: The situation of human rights in Myanmar; situation of human rights in Burundi; the situation of human rights in Belarus; and situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

Contribution to debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2019



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, 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 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Voting analysis

During 2019, when a vote was called on (reports of the High Commissioner) country-specific resolutions tabled under item 2, WEOG members voted in favour of texts on Yemen, Myanmar, Eritrea, the Philippines and Nicaragua; and tended to abstain during voting on the resolution on Venezuela (except for Australia – voted against) and the resolution on the OPT (except for Australia and Austria which voted against, and Spain which voted in favour).

Turning to texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), WEOG members either joined consensus on or voted in favour of all resolutions that were called to a vote. This included resolutions on the human rights situations in the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Iran, Belarus and Burundi.

Concerning voting on item 7 resolutions (OPT), all WEOG members voted against the text on 'human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan,' but were divided in three groups during voting on other item 7 texts: Australia, Denmark and the UK voted against; Iceland, Italy and Spain voted in favour; and Austria abstained during voting on the resolution on Israeli settlements and voted in favour of the other two texts.

All WEOG members voted in favour of the only item 10 (technical assistance and capacity building) resolution on which a vote was called during 2019, namely the resolution on cooperation with Ukraine.

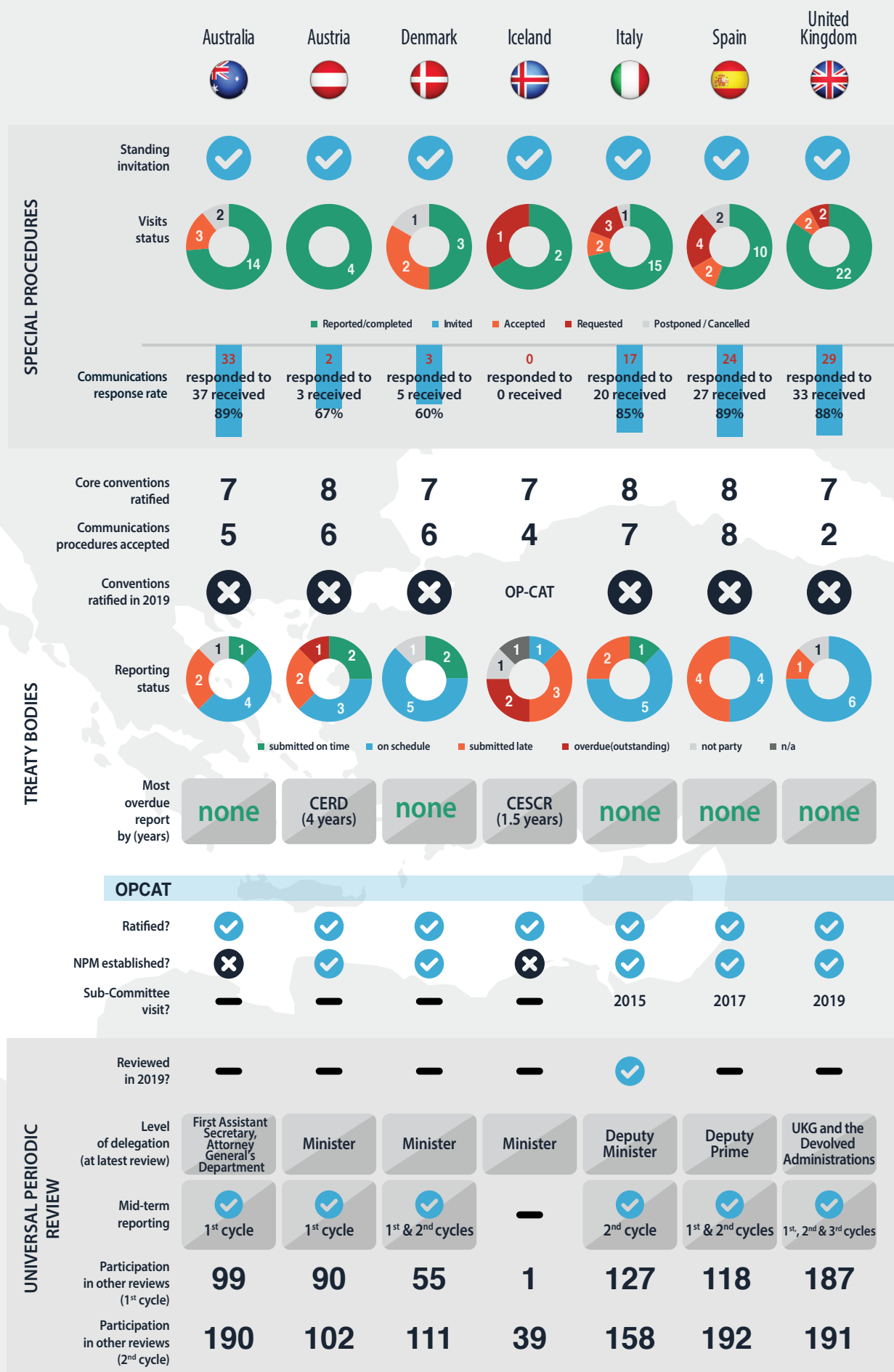
For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, in the absence of consensus, WEOG members voted in favour of resolutions on the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and on the question of the death penalty; but against the text on the use of mercenaries.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, and cross-cutting matters, in the absence of consensus, all WEOG States abstained during voting on a resolution on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and voted against all other texts (i.e., resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights, international solidarity, right to peace, international cooperation, right to development, and democratic and equitable international order). The exceptions to this pattern were Iceland's abstentions during voting on resolutions on the right to peace and the right to development.

* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight "core human rights conventions" which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CED, 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: 2006-2019.

Data as of: 30 October 2019

Special Sessions

Source: OHCHR website.

Timeframe: 2006-2019.

Data as of: 30 October 2019

The focus of Council texts by agenda item (2008-2019)

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

Timeframe: 2008-2019

Data as of: 30 October 2019

Financial Implications of Council resolutions (2011-2019)

Source: Individual PBIs. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2011-2019

Data as of: 30 October 2019

Top themes in 2019: focus of thematic resolutions

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

Timeframe: 2019

Data as of: 30 October 2019

Geographic focus of the Council texts, special sessions, and panels (2006-2019)

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

Timeframe: 2006 - 2019

Data as of: 30 October 2019

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2019

Source: OHCHR website. UN Human Rights Appeal 2019.

Timeframe: 2019

Data as of: 30 October 2019

State participation on Interactive Dialogues of Special Procedures in 2019

Source: HRC Extranet

Data as of: 30 October 2019

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 2019 sessions (i.e. during the Council's sessions 40-42). 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: 30 October 2019.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018 and 2019)

Source: OHCHR website.

Most recent information published by the OHCHR, data as of 30 September 2019.

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>

Most recent information published by the OHCHR, data as of 9 May 2019.

Previous membership terms

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

Contribution to Council debates, panels, and dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

Note: The participation of the members of the Council in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from June 2016 until September 2019 (i.e. during HRC sessions 31-42). Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing Invitation

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

Visits Completed

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 30 October 2019

Note: 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.

Communications response rate

Source: OHCHR – Communication report and search database.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

Note: Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight ‘core UN 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 with the information published on the OHCHR website on the 30 October 2019.

Communications procedures accepted

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

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: 30 October 2019.

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

Universal Periodic Review

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

Source: The Head of a State’s delegation (for its last UPR) was determined using the report submitted by the corresponding State during its last UPR. Where the rank of the representative was not clear, the URG followed up with the relevant missions as far as possible.

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

Mid-term reporting

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

Data as of: 30 October 2019.

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: 30 October 2019.

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.

Photo credits:

Palais des Nations, Geneva. The flags of the 193 member states are back after the renovation of the “Allée des Drapeaux” at the Palais des Nations. 7 February 2014. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. Photo ID: 579261; and 18th Session of Human Rights Council. A wide view of the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, in Geneva, Switzerland. 16 September 2011. UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré. Photo ID 484393. Photos licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>

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 2019, 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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A window onto cooperation, dialogue, leadership
and policymaking at the UN Human Rights Council



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