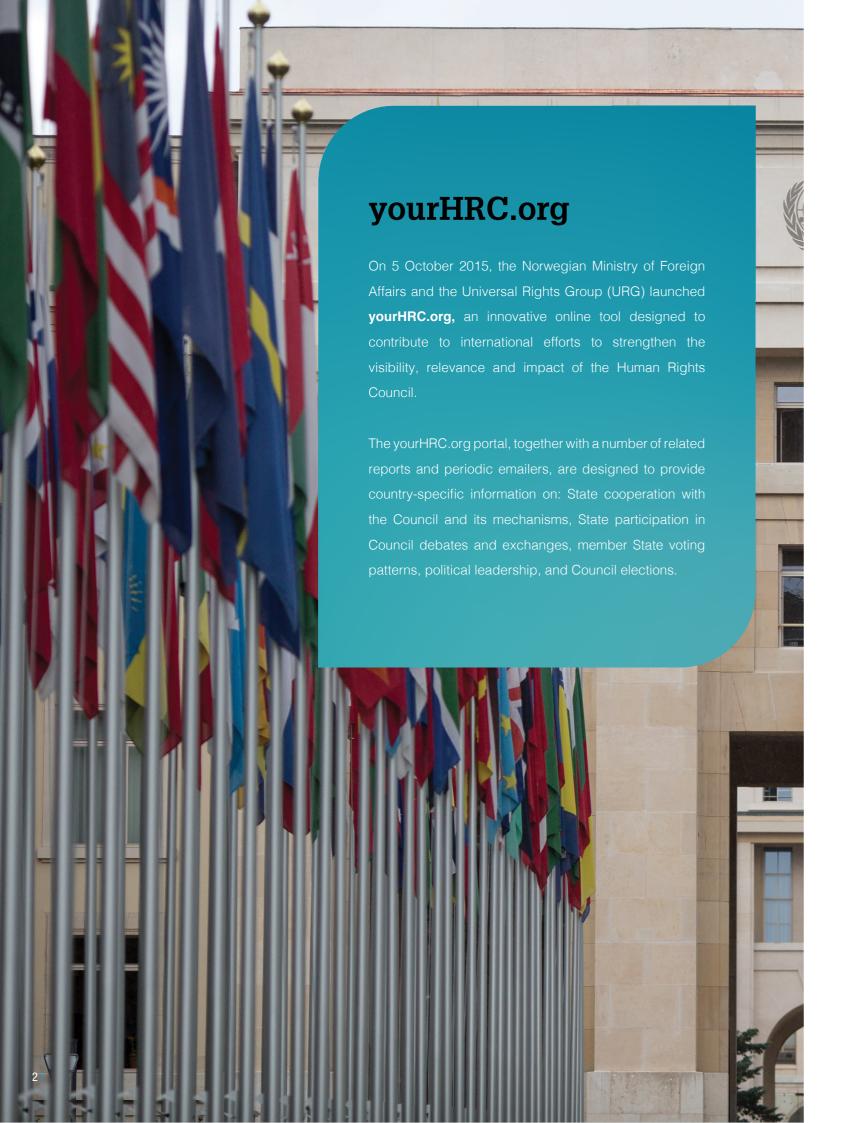
yourHRC.org

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

GUIDE TO THE 2021

UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL ELECTIONS



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

In 2006, member States took a significant step to strengthen the human rights pillar of the United Nations (UN) by establishing the Human Rights Council (Council) as the UN's principal body responsible for 'promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.'

The Council seeks to influence the on-the-ground enjoyment of human rights in several ways, including, *inter alia*, by:

- Serving as a forum for dialogue on human rights General Assembly (GA) resolution 60/251 recognises that in order to promote and protect human rights, the Council's work should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations.
- Adopting resolutions at the end of every session, Council members adopt a series of resolutions or decisions expressing the will of the international community on a given human rights situation or issue.
- Elaborating universal human rights norms the Council is responsible for making recommendations to the GA for the further development of international law in the field of human rights.
- Promoting State cooperation with the human rights mechanisms the Council has a number of mechanisms at its disposal (e.g., Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review) to promote the full implementation of the human rights obligations undertaken by States and/or to respond to violations of those rights.

To pursue and realise the mandate of the Council and thereby to 'promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,' the GA decided that the new body would consist of 47 member States, elected by a majority of members of the GA. In making their choice, members of the GA would take into account the contribution of 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 was created with a view to promoting transparency around the degree to which the Council and its members are delivering on the crucial mandate given to them by the GA and, ultimately, entrusted to them by 'the Peoples of the United Nations,' described in the UN Charter.

Membership of the Council

GA resolution 60/251, which officially created the Council, made five critical changes to the body's system of membership as compared with its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights:

- The total number of members was reduced from 51 to 47.
- Council members would be elected by the entirety of the GA, rather than the 54 members of ECOSOC, with successful candidates needing at least 96 votes in support.
- In voting for Council members, States would be required to 'take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto;'
- Council members would be ineligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- Council members could have their membership rights suspended by the GA in the event that they committed gross and systematic violations of human rights.

When the GA adopted resolution 60/251 on 15 March 2006, these new membership procedures and requirements were the most commonly discussed issue in States' explanations of votes. Many States complained that the membership criteria were not strong enough. Others emphasised the need to ensure that elected members were fully deserving of their position.

In the 15 years since the Council's creation, a total of **119** of the UN's 193 member States have served, or are in the process of serving, at least one membership term. However, before the launch of yourHRC.org, relatively little attention had been afforded to analysing how these States, once elected, contribute to the Council's work; how they engage and cooperate with the Council's mechanisms; whether they live up to the voluntary pledges they made as candidates; and how they support the realisation of the Council's mandate.



yourHRC.org seeks to contribute to the visibility, credibility, and effectiveness of the Council by providing such an analysis.

That analysis must take, as its starting point, the standards of membership set down in GA resolution 60/251. Paragraph 9 of resolution 60/251 states that 'members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights,' and that when electing members, States should, therefore 'take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights [i.e., the required standards] and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto [i.e., the voluntary standards].'

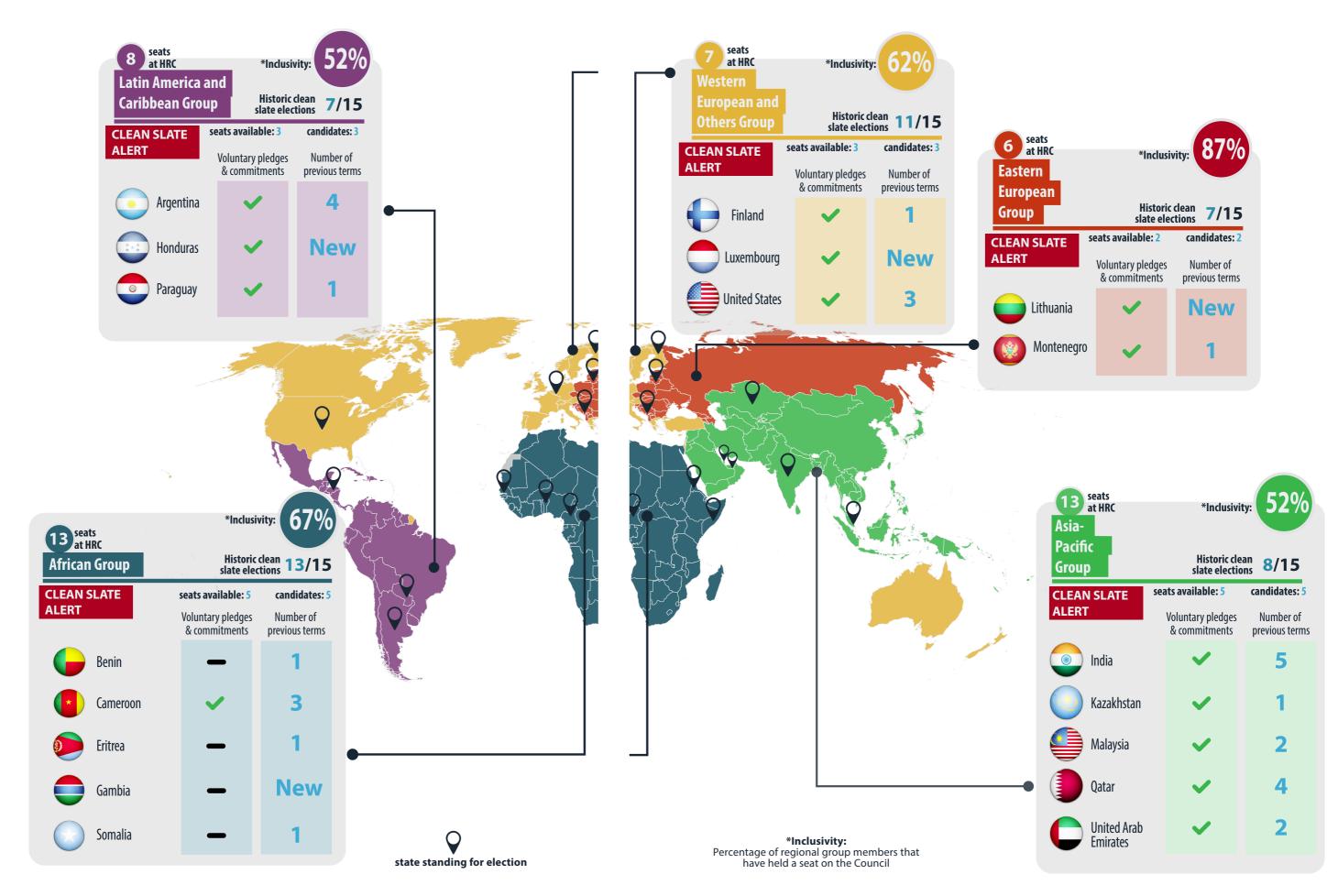


The present document is the seventh annual yourHRC.org Election Guide. It provides general information on the 2021 Human Rights Council elections (tentatively scheduled for October at the GA in New York) when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2022-2024).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2021 elections, the number of seats available, and the candidates in each UN regional group vying for those seats. The next five parts of the report then present more detailed comparative information on the candidates for each of the five UN regional groups. This includes objective information on each candidate's historic engagement and cooperation with the Council and the wider UN human rights system, its voting record (where the State concerned has previously been a Council member), an analysis of its new voluntary pledges and commitments (for the 2021 elections), and an analysis of the extent to which it has fulfilled previous voluntary pledges and commitments (again, where the country concerned has previously been a member).

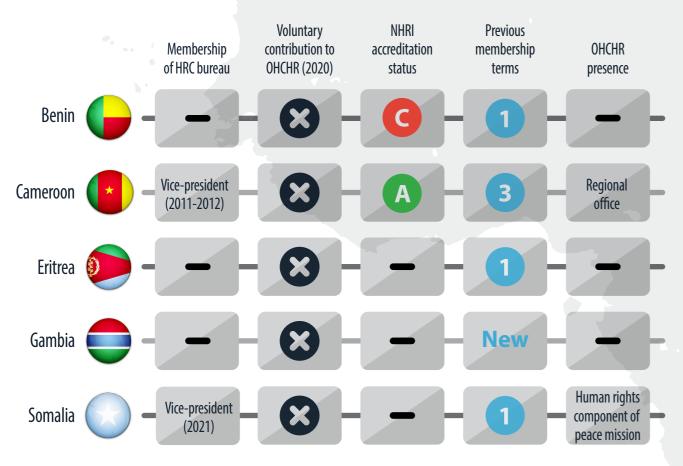






AFRICAN GROUP (AG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

FULFILLMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Benin tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 13 May 2011.

At national level, Benin made commitments to, *inter alia:* establish a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OP-CAT); implement measures to improve living conditions and promote policies on health, food, clothing, and education; and combat violence against women.

At international level, Benin pledged to, *inter alia*: follow-up on GA resolutions concerning the international year of human rights learning; and ratify the CRPD, CED and Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (on the abolition of the death penalty).

An analysis of steps taken by Benin in fulfilment of its pledges made at international level shows that Benin has indeed ratified the CED (2017), CRPD (2012) and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (2012). However, Benin has not yet notified the designation of a NPM to the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT). Benin joined consensus during voting on GA resolutions concerning the international year of human rights learning.

Cameroon's pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2019-2021 are not available.

Eritrea tabled its pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 31 August 2018.

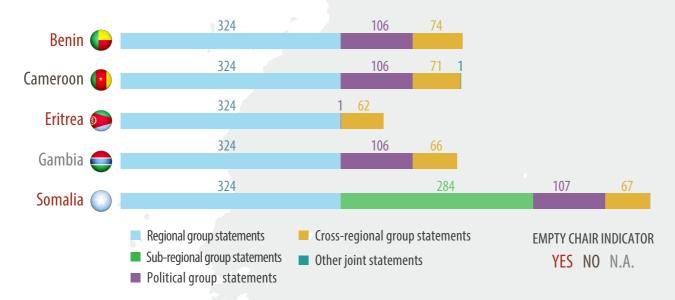
Internationally, Eritrea pledged, *inter alia*, to: fulfil its international human rights reporting obligations; continue to engage with OHCHR; ratify the CRPD and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; advocate for the protection of the rights of migrants; facilitate Special Procedures' visits; cooperate with the UPR; advocate meaningful participation by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the UPR and Treaty Bodies; work towards a more effective and credible Council, and conduct inclusive, cross-regional and transparent dialogue; encourage and support civil society engagement with the Council and its mechanisms; and advocate and work to enhance the capacity of OHCHR to provide technical support to UN member States.

At national level, Eritrea committed, *inter alia*, to: increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the national coordination body for the UPR; ensure the supremacy of, and respect for, the law; increase the accessibility, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the judicial system; protect and promote the rights of women, and persons with disabilities; and mainstream regional and international human rights instruments to which Eritrea is party into its national programmes and institutions.

An analysis of steps taken by Eritrea in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it is yet to ratify the CRPD; and, regarding cooperation with Treaty Bodies, has not submitted its periodic reports under the CAT, CERD or ICESCR. Eritrea has not extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures and has not facilitated most visit requests. Eritrea has only answered around 40% of the communications it has received from Special Procedures mandate holders.

Regarding the rights of migrants, Eritrea is yet to sign and ratify the CMW and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



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, during the last four years (June 2018 - June 2021). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Eritrea was cited in the 2019 Secretary-General's report on cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, concerning the risk of reprisals against those cooperating with the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

The Gambia has not previously been a member of the Council.

Somalia's pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2019-2021 are not available.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021 ELECTION

Benin's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2022-2024 were unavailable at the time of publication.

the Council.

Cameroon presented its pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council 2022-2024 in 10 August 2021.

Somalia's pledges and commitments in support of its

In the document, Cameroon pledges inter alia, to:

Ratify the core international human rights instruments to which it is not yet party,

including the CRPD and its Optional Protocol, the two Optional Protocols to the CRC, the CED, the OP-CAT, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education;

- Promote women's rights by, inter alia, strengthening programmes to improve the status of women, combating female genital mutilation, implementing the recommendations presented by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and fighting all forms of discrimination against women;
- Strengthen the protection of children's rights by, *inter alia*, observing the rights of children in all programmes aimed at improving living conditions, and by implementing the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding homeless children, preventing child trafficking and child labour, improving protection measures for victims, and improving the treatment of children in detention centres;
- Strengthening prison administration by, *inter alia*, improving prison conditions, facilitating access to prisons by national and international humanitarian organisations, accelerating prison reform systems, and strengthening the independence and authority of the judiciary;
- Strengthen the enjoyment of the right to health through programmes to fight HIV/ AIDS, by strengthening the health system, and by ensuring an effective response to the COVID-19 health pandemic;
- Strengthen the enjoyment of the right to education by taking steps to improve on the quality of education, and providing free primary education:

- Fight against corruption and strengthen the rule of law;
- Continue to respect civil and political rights, especially the freedom of the press and the right to vote in free and fair elections;
- Guarantee and protect the rights of minorities, and persons with disabilities;
- Strengthening its actions to preserve natural ecosystems through subregional structures for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development (e.g., Central African Forests Commission, Lake Chad Basin Commission):
- Work closely with NHRIs and civil society;
- Strengthen its cooperation with Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, and with the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

Eritrea's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2022-2024 were unavailable at the time of publication.

The Gambia's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2022-2024 were unavailable at the time of publication.

Somalia's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2022-2024 were unavailable at the time of publication.

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VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2011, Benin has either joined consensus on or voted in favour of nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country- For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), specific resolutions tabled under item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner). The exceptions are two item 4 resolutions on the situation in the Islamic Republic the OPT, and on the right of the Palestinian people to of Iran (2013-2014) - Benin abstained. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories - OPT), Benin consistently votes in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Benin has joined consensus on all resolutions except one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Benin voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Benin has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Benin has nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions to this rule are Benin's abstentions during the 2014 votes on the texts on drones, and on the integrity of the judicial system, and the 2012 vote on traditional values. Benin did not vote on a 2014 resolution on sexual orientation. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Benin has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

The question of the death penalty.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Cameroon** has (in the absence of consensus) tended to vote against or abstain during voting on item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions. Exceptions to this general trend include its votes in favour of a text on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2009), and in favour of three resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic (all adopted in 2012).

Cameroon has tended to abstain or vote against country-specific texts tabled under agenda item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner), but supported the 2012 text on Sri Lanka and the 2019 and 2020 resolutions on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in Venezuela.

Cameroon tends to abstain or (less often) vote in favour (it has supported the texts on Israeli settlements in self-determination). During the time it was a member, Cameroon voted against most item 10 resolutions (capacity-building); the only exception was a 2009 text on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (it voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Cameroon has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it has abstained, inter alia, during votes on human rights on the internet (2021) and religious discrimination (2007, 2009), and has voted against a text on the death penalty (2019) and sexual orientation (2011). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Cameroon has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

Cameroon was not a principal sponsor of a Council resolution during the period 2017-2021.

During its first membership term (2019-2021), when a vote was called with regard to country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner), Eritrea has tended to vote against. Exceptions include its votes in favour of the resolutions on the situations in Venezuela (2019, 2020), Myanmar (2019) and item 2 OPT texts (2019, 2020). Eritrea has voted against or has abstained during voting on most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). The exceptions were a 2020 vote in favour of a text on the or vote against; however, did vote in favour of three human rights situation in Myanmar, and a 2021 vote in favour of a resolution on the situation in Iran.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, Eritrea has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The exceptions were: a vote against a text on the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (2019); and four abstentions during voting on human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS (2021), human rights on the internet (2021), new technologies (2021), and the death penalty (2019).

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

Eritrea has not been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

The Gambia has not previously been a member of the Council.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

The Gambia has not been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

During its first membership term (2019-2021), with regard to country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner), when a vote was called, Somalia tended to abstain

resolutions: one on the situation in Myanmar (2019), and two item 2 OPT texts (2019, 2020). Concerning resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), in the absence of consensus, Somalia has tended to support all resolutions on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and one text on Myanmar (2020); and to abstain or vote against all other texts. The only exception was a 2020 text on Myanmar (voted in favour). Regarding item 7 (human rights in the OPT) resolutions, Somalia has tended to vote in favour - the only exception was an abstention during voting on the Syrian Golan 2019 resolution. Somalia has abstained during voting on item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions on Ukraine and supported the texts on cooperation with Georgia.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, Somalia either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. Exceptions include texts on the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, the question of the death penalty (Somalia twice voted against in 2019), and the mandate of the Independent Expert on a democratic and equitable international order (abstained once in 2020).

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights;
- Situation of human rights in Eritrea.

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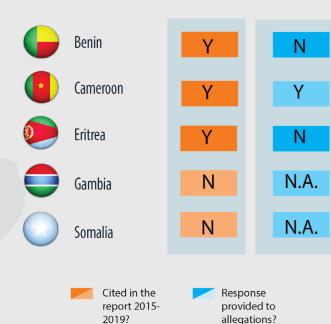
COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

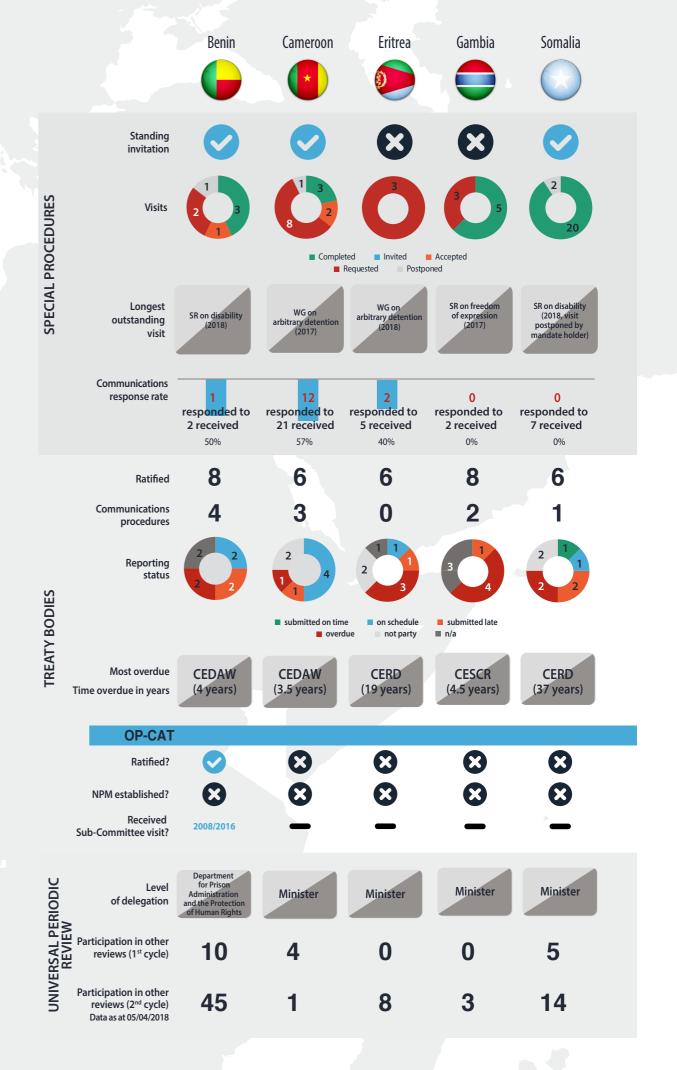
Ratification and reporting are recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' meaning: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading 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).

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

REPRISALS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

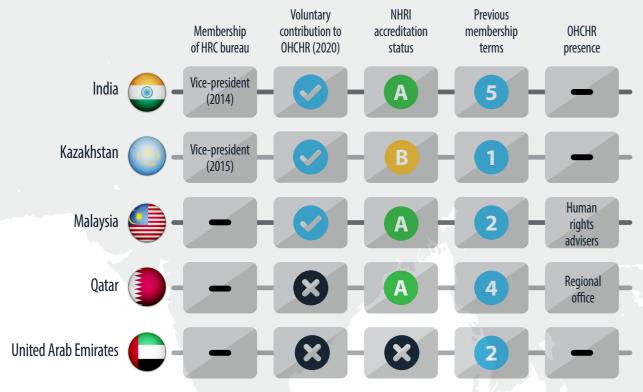
Cited in the Secretary-General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2017-2020)





ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (APG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

India presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 in August 2018.

At national level, India pledged, *inter alia*, to: strive for the full realisation of all rights, including the right to development; maintain the independence and power of its NHRIs; continue to foster transparency and accountability across government; continue to nurture civil society space; continue to pursue the necessary domestic actions to implement the 2030 Agenda.

At international level, India committed, *inter alia*, to: cooperate to help build other States' capacity to fulfil their human rights obligations; strengthen the work of the Council and further engage and cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms, as well as with the Treaty Bodies; continue to support international efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia,

and related intolerance; continue to support OHCHR, including through regular voluntary contributions; implement accepted UPR recommendations; ratify the CAT; and continue to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An analysis of steps taken by India in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that, although it maintains a standing invitation to Special Procedures, only around 30% of all visit requests received by the State have resulted in an actual mission. Moreover, India has responded to less than 30% of all Special Procedures communications. India has yet to ratify the CAT and CED. Regarding those treaties to which it is party, India is late in submitting many of its periodic reports. India has made voluntary contributions to OHCHR every year since 2008.

Kazakhstan tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015 on 6 June 2012.

Domestically, Kazakhstan committed, *inter alia*, to: implement UN human rights recommendations (e.g., from Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures) by integrating them into its national human rights action plan; table a national bill on the establishment of a NPM under the OP-CAT; and continue its efforts towards the gradual abolition of the death penalty.

At international level, Kazakhstan pledged, *inter alia*, to: participate fully in the UPR process and effectively implement the recommendations received from the Special Procedures.

An analysis of steps taken by Kazakhstan in fulfilment of its pledges shows that in 2014, the UN Committee against Torture recognised the establishment of an NPM under the OP-CAT, although it also expressed concerns about its operation. Kazakhstan has also taken steps to meaningfully participate in the UPR process by submitting mid-term reports. However,

its participation in other countries' reviews remains rather low (only 20 during the first cycle, and 33 during the second cycle.) Kazakhstan has a strong record of cooperation with Special Procedures. It maintains a standing invitation, has facilitated around 75% of the received visit requests, and has responded to almost all communications.

Malaysia tabled pledges and voluntary commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2013 on 23 April 2010.

At national level, Malaysia pledged, *inter alia*, to: raise human rights awareness among all segments of the population; establish policies to advance the rights of women; encourage dialogue between the government and civil society; implement human rights conventions; and monitor the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations.

Internationally, Malaysia made commitments, *inter alia*, to: deepen cooperation with the UN and its mechanisms, further the UN's development agenda, and work with partners under the ASEAN framework to promote human rights in the region.

An analysis of Malaysia's efforts to engage with the UN human rights system shows that it tends to participate in Council debates and dialogues; has accepted and facilitated around half of the Special Procedures' visit requests and responded to over 60% of Special Procedures communications. Malaysia is yet to ratify five of the eight core international human rights instruments, and where it is party, it generally submits its periodic reports late.

Qatar tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2018-2020 on 24 April 2017. The document presents Qatar's national, regional, and international level commitments and pledges.

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At national level, Qatar pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to strengthen and support its NHRI; support public policies that promote the human rights of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and migrant workers; and continue to integrate human rights into school curricula.

At regional level, Qatar committed, *inter alia*, to: create incentives to address human rights issues as priority topics in regional forums; and continue to provide various forms of support for the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha.

At international level, Qatar pledged, *inter alia*, to: press for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly by strengthening international efforts to report on progress made in implementing SDG16; continue cooperating fully with international organisations and UN human rights entities, particularly the Council and its mechanisms; continue supporting the work of international organisations and UN human rights entities; work to implement the recommendations accepted by the government during the UPR; maintain its standing invitation to Special Procedures; and consider

At national level, Qatar pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to acceding to the international human rights instruments strengthen and support its NHRI; support public policies to which it is not yet a party.

An analysis of steps taken by Qatar in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has submitted its periodic reports under all treaties to which it is party. It is yet, however, to ratify the communications procedures under most of these conventions (it has only accepted the complaints procedure under the CAT). Regarding the Special Procedures, Qatar, as pledged, has responded to almost 70% of all communications received, and has maintained its standing invitation. However, it has completed less than 60% of all visit requests.

The **United Arab Emirates** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2016-2018 on 18 September 2015.

Internationally, the United Arab Emirates pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to support initiatives to promote religious tolerance; continue to support OHCHR and explore the possibility of entering into a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation; continue

to follow-up on the recommendations it accepted during its second UPR; continue to promote human rights through international and regional organisations; and continue to work with partner countries and international organisations to meet international development targets through its foreign aid programme, in areas such as health, education, food security, and economic and social development.

Domestically, the United Arab Emirates committed, *inter alia*, to: adopt a law on the protection of children; establish a national task force on the empowerment of women; continue to take measures to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, in coordination with relevant ministries, national institutions and civil society; continue to take measures to strengthen protections for workers; continue its efforts to combat human trafficking; develop a national human rights action plan to set out its priority initiatives for the period 2015-2020; and establish a NHRI in conformity with the Paris Principles.

An analysis of steps taken by the United Arab Emirates in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it did not in fact continue to make contributions to OHCHR. It did, however, continue to support initiatives to combat religious intolerance. The United Arab Emirates is yet to establish a GANHRI accredited NHRI.

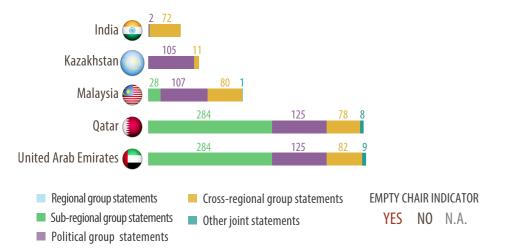
KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021

ELECTION

India presented its pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council 2022-2024 in 17 August 2021. In the document, India pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- Continue to strengthen national mechanisms and procedures to promote and protect human rights;
- Continue to cooperate with States, upon their request, to support the implementation of human rights obligations and commitments, through capacity-building, technical cooperation, bilateral dialogue, and exchanges of experts;
- Continue to promote the work of the Council in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect, cooperation, and dialogue;
- Continue to support international efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance;
- Continue to support the protection and promotion of rights of women and children, persons with disabilities, and other groups in vulnerable situation, through laws, programmes, and policies;
- Promote and protect the full enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including with regard to access to medicines, diagnostics, and therapeutics to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19;
- Work to build back better from the pandemic;
- Promote the availability, accessibility and affordability of COVID-19 vaccines for its own citizens and for all humanity;
- Continue to engage constructively with the Council and mechanisms;
- Continue to support OHCHR, including through regular voluntary contributions;
- Procedures, accept visit requests and respond to communications;

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND DIALOGUES



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, during the last four years (June 2018 - June 2021). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

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- Implement the recommendations it accepted during the third cycle of the UPR;
- Ratify the CAT;
- Cooperate with the Treaty Body system;
- Continue to strengthen the implementation of the human rights treaties that it has ratified;
- Continue to foster the participation of civil society, including human rights defenders, in the promotion and protection of human rights, and strengthen protection against reprisals;
- Continue to pursue actions to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with an overarching focus on poverty eradication, and a balanced emphasis on social development, economic growth, and environmental protection;
- Continue working with fellow developing countries, and with the UN development system, towards collectively achieving the SDGs.

Kazakhstan tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 15 June 2021. In the document, Kazakhstan pledges, inter alia, to:

- Continue supporting OHCHR, the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures;
- Provide independent and objective considerations to guide decisions on whether and when the Council should respond to country-specific situations;
- Leverage the UPR to present constructive recommendations to other States;
- Contribute to the Council's prevention mandate by supporting technical assistance and capacitybuilding initiatives;

- Promote the link between human rights and peace and security by encouraging informationsharing between the Council and the Security Council;
- Share best practices and challenges in implementing the human rights agenda at the national level in a spirit of mutual learning;
- Strengthen and enhance the capacity of its NHRIs in accordance with the Paris Principles and relevant UN recommendations;
- Increase the role and participation of civil society in the protection of human rights, including by developing national human rights oversight mechanisms;
- Continue to foster the implementation of the 'Listening State' concept, with particular attention to women, children, youth, minorities, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;
- Ensure that OHCHR human rights indicators are fully implemented and integrated with the SDGs;
- Work on the following priorities: gender equality and women's empowerment; abolition of the death penalty; fight against all forms of discrimination (including racism, sexism, xenophobia, and hate speech); freedom of religion and belief; human rights in the context of climate change; fight against digital inequality; inclusive and universal education; and respect for human rights in the fight against COVID-19.

With regard to these thematic priorities, Kazakhstan commits, inter alia, to: draw special global attention to and endeavour to eradicate practices that result in serious human rights violations; foster dialogue, tolerance and peaceful cooperation; promote digitalisation, and reduce disadvantages due to lack of access to modern technologies; prevent insecurity of children and promote rights for their equal education; combat the negative

effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and comply with all obligations stipulated in the international environmental protection agreements.

Malaysia tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 9 June 2021. In its note verbale, Malaysia pledges, inter alia, to:

- Take a whole-of-society approach to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, especially in the assessment, monitoring and implementation of UPR recommendations;
- Draw on the OHCHR national recommendations tracking database to monitor the implementation of human rights recommendations;
- Promote an inclusive dialogue with academia, civil society and the media, to strengthen the culture of human rights in the country;
- Implement its obligations under the human rights conventions to which it is party, namely, the CRC, CEDAW, and CRPD;
- Consider signing and ratifying the international human rights conventions to which it is not yet
- Cooperate with OHCHR and other relevant UN entities, including by working closely with the newly appointed human rights adviser to Malaysia;
- Continue to engage with the Council and its mechanisms on the basis of a constructive and non-politicised rather than a confrontational approach, and address human rights issues through dialogue, capacity-building and technical cooperation;
- Implement policies and legislation that promote and protect the rights of the most vulnerable, including children, indigenous peoples; and guarantee the enjoyment of the right to physical

- and mental health by, among other things, ensuring universal access to COVID-19 vaccines;
- Strengthen efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment and eliminate violence against women;
- Take greater steps towards engaging and empowering youth;
- Develop a national action plan on business and human rights;
- Intensify efforts to promote a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and improve understanding of the effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, and to this end, work with countries that are vulnerable to climate change, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other developing countries;
- Continue to promote diversity through respect for cultural rights;
- Continue to strengthen NHRIs, inter alia, through improved funding and powers;
- Continue to engage constructively with all member States and stakeholders towards the full realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

Qatar tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 23 February 2021.

At national level, Qatar pledges, inter alia, to:

- Continue to consider acceding to the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet
- Further develop its national laws and harmonise them with international human rights law;
- Implement its national development plan with a human rights perspective;

- Further develop, empower and enhance the effectiveness of its NHRI and human rights civil society organisations, and continue to examine the implementation of recommendations presented by them;
- Support public policies that promote the rights of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and migrant workers;
- Continue hosting conferences, workshops and training and awareness-raising sessions in the area of human rights.

At regional level, Qatar pledges, inter alia, to:

- Mainstream human rights into regional forums and activities;
- Continue advocating for dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes to safeguard international and regional peace and security;
- Continue calling for the establishment of a regional security system to safeguard the security and stability of the Middle East in general and the Gulf region in particular;
- Continue contributing to resolving regional crises from a legal and humanitarian standpoint, notably through mediation;
- Continue supporting the UN Human Rights
 Training and Documentation Centre for SouthWest Asia and the Arab Region in Doha.

At international level, Qatar pledges, inter alia, to:

- Engage in constructive and transparent human rights dialogue with States and civil society organisations;
- Continue cooperating with OHCHR;
- Contribute to the UPR and strengthen the Council's mechanisms:

- Cooperate constructively in the reform of the Treaty Body system;
- Maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures;
- Press for the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly by strengthening international efforts to report on the progress made in implementing SDG16:
- Continue cooperating with and supporting international organisations and UN entities related to the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Continue confronting threats to human rights that affect international peace and security, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **United Arab Emirates** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 24 June 2021. In the document, the United Arab Emirates commits, *inter alia*, to:

At national level:

- Continue to implement policies to empower women, including in partnership with UN Women:
- Continue to protect children's rights, including by building on existing agreements with UNICEF;
- Integrate persons with disabilities into the labour market:
- Amend the Labour Law of 1980, and continue to develop its partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO);
- Continue strengthening its domestic framework to support the victims of human trafficking;

- Continue to lead on the promotion of human relations and religious values within the UN;
- With regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to provide free vaccines to all nationals and residents, and provide humanitarian and medical assistance to countries affected by the pandemic.

At regional and international levels:

- Resubmit to the Council the present pledges and commitments for discussion and enrichment, as per its partnership with the United Kingdom;
- Review the report of the Arab Commission for Human Rights;
- Continue cooperating and engaging with all regional mechanisms.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, India has tended to abstain or vote against countryspecific texts tabled under agenda items 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) and 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). The exceptions were the votes in favour of the item 2 texts on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka (2012, 2013) and on the OHCHR mission to Burundi (2017), and in favour of an item 4 resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (2012). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), India has voted in favour of almost all texts but has consistently abstained during voting on the resolutions on ensuring accountability. India has tended to abstain during voting on all item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), but has, nonetheless, supported two texts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009, 2017).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, India has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. Notwithstanding, India has voted against all texts on the death penalty, one resolution on peaceful protests (2014), and a text on fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (2016). India has further abstained on a number of resolutions on issues such as: defamation of religion, transitional justice; torture; drones; and sexual orientation. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, India has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- 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
- Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

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Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, Kazakhstan has joined consensus during voting on most country-specific item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) resolutions; except for two texts on which a vote was called during the time it was a member, namely the 2013 and 2014 texts on Sri Lanka (it abstained). Turning to item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), Kazakhstan has tended to abstain or vote against all texts, except for two initiatives on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2014 and 2015), which Kazakhstan supported. For item 7 (human rights in the OPT) resolutions, Kazakhstan has consistently voted in favour. Turning to item 10 (capacity-building), Kazakhstan has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two texts on cooperation with Ukraine that were voted on during the period of its membership (Kazakhstan abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Kazakhstan has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. Notwithstanding, it has abstained during votes on preventing and countering violent extremism, the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights, and mercenaries. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Kazakhstan has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of most adopted texts; the exceptions are three abstentions: two on unilateral coercive measures (2013, 2014) and one on access to medicines (2013).

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

Kazakhstan has not been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Malaysia abstained during voting on the only two country-specific item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) texts on which a vote was called during the time it was a member, namely the 2012 and 2013 texts on Sri Lanka. As a member, Malaysia has tended to support all item 4 (situations that require the Council's

attention) texts on the Syrian Arab Republic, and to abstain or vote against all other item 4 resolutions. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), Malaysia has always either voted in favour or joined consensus. Regarding agenda item 10 (capacity-building), Malaysia has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during its time as a member: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Malaysia voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Malaysia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour - exceptions include the votes against a text on the death penalty (2013) and sexual orientation and gender identity (2011), and three abstentions during voting on resolutions on discrimination based on religion or belief (2009), elimination of religious intolerance (2007), and torture and the role of the health personnel (2009). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Malaysia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

Malaysia has not been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, Qatar has voted in favour of item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) texts on the OPT, the human rights situation in Yemen, situation of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, and strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in Venezuela; against the texts on reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka, and promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines; and abstained during voting on OHCHR's mission to Burundi, the human rights situation in Nicaragua, promotion and protection of human rights in Venezuela, and the human rights situation in Eritrea. Turning to item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, Qatar has mostly abstained or voted against, but has consistently supported item 4

texts on the Syrian Arab Republic and Myanmar, and has also voted in favour of two item 4 resolutions on Iran (2016, 2017). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), Qatar has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Qatar has tended to abstain, but voted in favour of two texts on the Democratic Republic of Congo (2009, 2017).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Qatar has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has generally voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Qatar tends to vote against resolutions on sexual orientation and on the death penalty; and to abstain during voting on texts on the arms trade, civil society space, freedom of religion, international drug control, integrity of the judicial system, peaceful protests, rights of peasants, and the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Qatar has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
- Fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect;
- · Protection of the family;
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- The safety of journalists.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, the **United Arab Emirates** has (in the absence of consensus) tended to vote in favour of all country-specific item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) texts, with four exceptions: the promotion and protection of human rights in Venezuela (2018 -

abstained), the human rights situation in Yemen (2018 - voted against), and promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka (2013, 2014 - voted against both times). Turning to item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, the United Arab Emirates has tended to vote in favour. However, it abstained during voting on all resolutions on Belarus; three texts on Iran (2013, 2014, 2015); and one on Burundi (2016). It further voted against a resolution on Burundi (2018) and the renewal of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (2017). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), the United Arab Emirates has always voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the United Arab Emirates has tended to abstain; the only exception was a 2017 text on Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour).

For the matic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the United Arab Emirates has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has generally voted in favour. Notwithstanding, the United Arab Emirates has voted against resolutions on the death penalty, the world drug problem, and sexual orientation. It has further abstained during the voting on texts on the arms trade, an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations, civil society space, democracy and the rule of law, drones, firearms, transitional justice, human rights defenders, and peaceful protests. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, the United Arab Emirates has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Realising the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl;
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights.

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

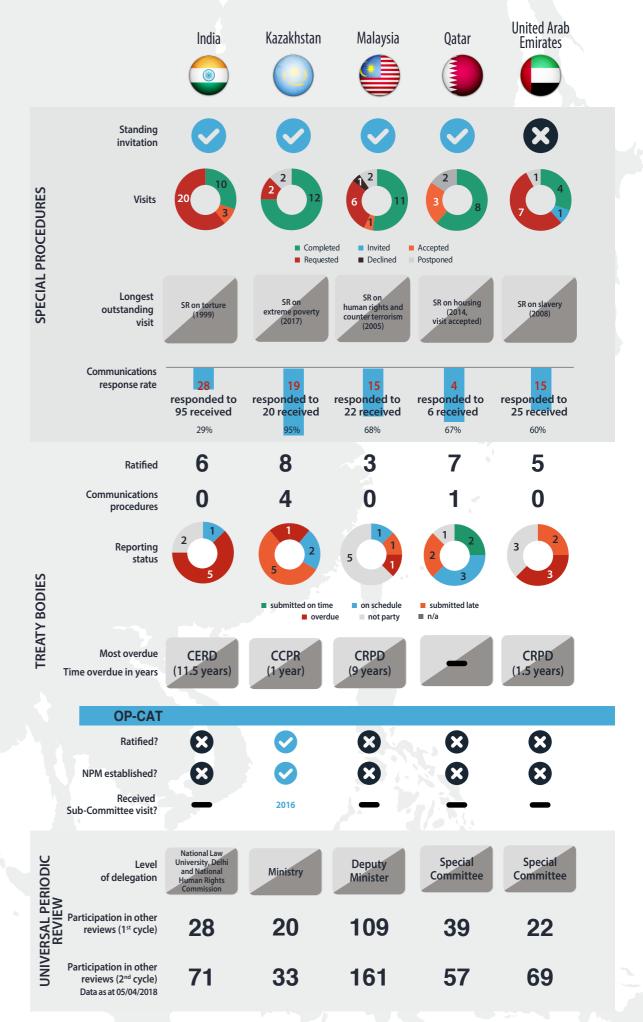
* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' namely the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

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

REPRISALS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Cited in the Secretary-General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2017-2020)

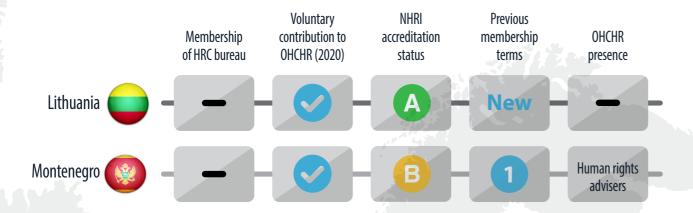




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EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (EEG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Lithuania has not previously been a member of the Council.

Montenegro tabled an aide memoire in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2013-2015 on 11 June 2012.

Internationally, Montenegro pledged, *inter alia*, to: fully cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms; cooperate with and support the activities of OHCHR; contribute to the improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Council; cooperate with and fully participate in the UPR; promote the implementation of human rights norms at home and abroad, and include all relevant domestic actors in the process of implementation; work to ensure that the Council responds robustly to human rights violations and emergencies; find innovative ways to promote effective mainstreaming; strengthen cooperation between the Council and civil society, NHRIs and regional organisations; support Council initiatives on combatting racial, religious and other intolerance;

promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue and the rights of minorities; and submit regular reports to the Treaty Bodies.

Domestically, Montenegro committed, *inter alia*, to: implement laws and policies to combat violence against women, including domestic violence; and take forward a project on the legal recognition of same-sex relationships/marriage in Europe with the aim of suggesting ways to proceed in Montenegro.

An analysis of steps taken by Montenegro in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it is yet to submit half of its periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies. Montenegro contributes to a majority of the Council's panel discussions and general debates. In terms of cooperation with Special Procedures, Montenegro maintains a standing invitation and has completed all visit requests. Regarding the UPR, Montenegro participated at a high level (ministerial) and undertook efforts to increase its engagement with the UPR (it went from presenting recommendations to no other State during the 1st cycle to presenting recommendations to 145 States during the 2nd cycle).

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



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, during the last four years (June 2018 - June 2021). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021 ELECTION

Lithuania presented its pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council 2022-2024 in 2021. In the document, Lithuania pledges inter alia, to:

At international level:

- Cooperate with and support the UN institutions and mechanisms, including the Special Procedures, and OHCHR:
- Cooperate and enter into dialogue with civil society and human rights defenders, and strive for their engagement with the Council;
- Continue to promote multilateralism to address climate change, global health emergencies and other human rights-related challenges, including cyber security and conflict prevention;
- Respond to emerging human rights threats, such as those related to digitalisation, data protection, artificial intelligence, climate change, global health emergencies, migration and others;
- Strive for a more effective and efficient response of the Council to emerging human rights threats across the world, such as deteriorating security situations, the worsening situation of the media, At international level: restrictions to civic space, and attacks against human rights defenders;
- Fight corruption as a violation of human rights and the rule of law;
- Encourage the UN to leverage synergies between its three pillars, and press for deeper integration of human rights across the work of the UN;
- Strengthen the efficiency of the Council, promoting coherence between UN actions in Geneva and New York:

- Continue to defend the rights of women and girls; freedom of expression, including safety of journalists; freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and freedom of religion and belief;
- Work on the following thematic priorities: protection of human rights defenders, rights of the child, rights of persons with disabilities, and human rights in conflict areas. With regard to these priorities, Lithuania commits to:
- Encourage governments to fulfil their international human rights commitments and defend the victims of human rights violations and abuses;
- Encourage better implementation of the CRC and its protocols;
- Pursue the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities and enable their full social integration;
- Support the prevention of conflicts, in close cooperation with human rights defenders.

Montenegro presented an aide-mémorie with its pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council 2022-2024 in 2021. In the document, Montenegro pledges, inter alia,

- Fully cooperate with civil society and advocate for the creation of an environment that enables significant and unhindered participation of civil society in the work of the Council;
- Promote international human rights law and international humanitarian law within the UN;
- Promote intercultural dialogue among member States to foster understanding and relations between different cultures and peoples;

- Support the Council to improve its efficiency and effectiveness;
- Work on strengthening the role of the Council in the prevention of conflicts and assist the Council in responding to new crises and conflicts;
- Provide full support to the work and mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the independence and integrity of OHCHR:
- Promote the activities and independence of Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies;
- Continue to advocate for strengthening the UPR, actively promote this mechanism and share related experiences and good practices;
- Continue to call on all States to take action to abolish the death penalty.

At national level:

- Promote and strengthen national human rights dialogue and improve cooperation among all relevant actors:
- Strengthen the capacity of its NHRI;
- Enhance national policies and constantly harmonise them with international standards;
- Continue to advance mechanisms for the protection of human rights of groups in situations of vulnerability, in particular women and girls, LGBTI persons, minority groups, persons with disabilities, children, the elderly, displaced and internally displaced persons, and migrants;
- Continue to protect human rights defenders, regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or social status:
- Fight against trafficking humans, with a focus on prevention, protection of victims, prosecution, partnership, coordination, and international cooperation;

- Confront the global environmental crisis, and promote the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- Focus on the needs and priorities of youth and their participation in the social, political, economic and cultural development of society;
- Submit regular reports to the Treaty Bodies and implement their recommendations.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Lithuania has not previously been a member of the Council.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, Montenegro has voted in favour of or has joined consensus on all country-specific resolutions tabled under items 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), 2 (reports by the High Commissioner) and 10 (technical assistance and capacity building). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), Montenegro has voted in favour of all texts except three, all of them concerning the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Montenegro has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has either abstained or voted against; however, it voted in favour of resolutions on: regulation of firearms; human rights, democracy and rule of law; the question of the death penalty; sexual orientation; peaceful protests; and arms transfers. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, in the absence of consensus, Montenegro

has abstained or voted against. The exceptions were two texts on the right to development (2013, 2014 - voted in favour).

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka;
- Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

REPRISALS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

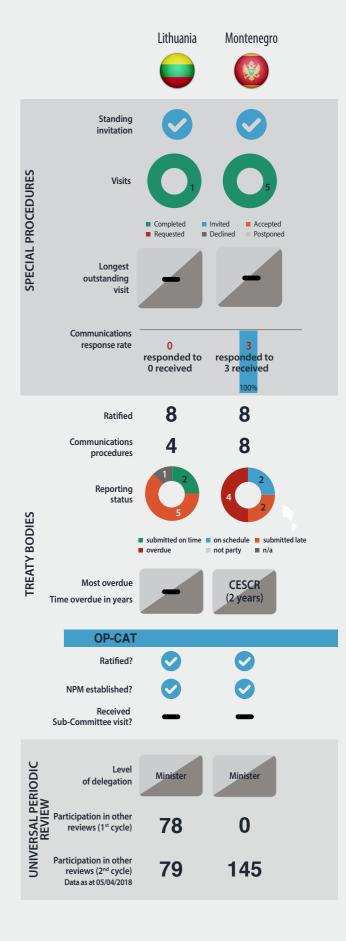
Cited in the Secretary-General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2017-2020)



COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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

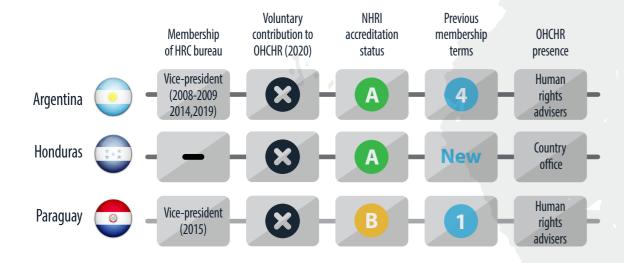
Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see the endnote.



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LATIN AMERICAN AND **CARIBBEAN GROUP (GRULAC)**

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Argentina presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 19 September 2018.

At the international level, Argentina committed, inter alia, to: strengthen engagement with specialised agencies to help empower women and end violence against them; promote multilateralism as an efficient tool for defending human rights; further engage with and support civil society organisations; strengthen the Council's capacity to address grave human rights violations; further support and engage with the Special Procedures, OHCHR and the UPR; promote the issues of anti-discrimination and

violence against women via the UPR mechanism; and work for the universal ratification and implementation of the CED.

At regional level, Argentina pledged, inter alia, to: foster dialogue and cooperation to develop a coherent regional approach to the Council; work with the OAS Working Groups on the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities; and promote the adoption of national action plans to further the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325/2000 on women, peace and security.

At national level, Argentina made commitments, inter alia, to: mainstream a gender perspective across all national policies; cooperate with UN Women Argentina; engage with civil society organisations in the promotion of human rights policies, and adopt a gender perspective in the follow-up process of the UPR.

An analysis of steps taken by Argentina in fulfilment of At international level, Paraguay made commitments, its international level pledges shows that Argentina has facilitated the completion of most Special Procedures visits and has a high response rate for communications.

Argentina engages strongly with its own UPR (e.g., it invitation to Special Procedures. has submitted mid-term reports on implementation), 120 reviews during the first cycle and 189 during the second cycle).

Argentina has, indeed, promoted anti-discrimination and violence against women via the UPR mechanism, presenting over 170 recommendations on this topic to States under review. Argentina has cooperated with and supported the work of OHCHR, inter alia, through voluntary financial contributions and by hosting a human rights adviser.

Honduras has not been a member of the Council before.

Paraguay tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 27 December 2013.

At national level, Paraguay pledged, inter alia, to: promote the implementation of its national human rights action plan; strengthen the functioning and coordination of national human rights mechanisms, especially those responsible for implementing UN human rights recommendations; measure compliance with international norms by developing national human rights indicators; create an effective mechanism to follow-up and report on implementation; strengthen public policies to protect the rights of vulnerable groups; and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

At regional level, Paraguay pledged, inter alia, to: engage with and support the Inter-American system; implement Inter-American system rulings; and support the reform and strengthening of the Inter-American system.

inter alia, to: fully cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms; support and protect the independence of OHCHR; promote the strengthening of the UPR and submit a mid-term UPR report; and maintain a standing

and the UPR reviews of other States (it participated in An analysis of steps taken by Paraguay in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it cooperates with the Council by actively participating in interactive dialogues and Council debates. Paraguay maintains a standing invitation to the Special Procedures and has a strong record of accepting their visits. It participated in its UPR review at ministerial-level and presented a midterm UPR report during the first and second cycles. Paraguay supports the work of OHCHR and hosts a UN human rights adviser. Paraguay has developed a National Mechanism for the Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF), which remains active, and guides domestic implementation of its international human rights and SDG commitments.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021 ELECTION

Argentina presented pledges and commitments in support of its 2022-2024 candidacy in 2021. In the document, Argentina pledges, inter alia, to:

At international level:

- Promote multilateralism as a key tool to defend human rights, with a special focus on memory, truth, and justice, the protection of vulnerable and/or historically discriminated persons and groups, the institutionalisation of human rights, and the prevention of mass atrocities;
- Reinforce the role of the Council as the main body for the progressive development of international human rights law, and cooperate with all States to avoid politicisation;

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- Improve the ability of the Council to respond effectively to urgent situations;
- Work in cooperation with civil society organisations to create new opportunities for their participation at the Council;
- Continue to support and strengthen OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms;
- Discourage, through diplomatic consultations, practices such as 'no-action motions';
- Support the strengthening of Special Procedures and the UPR, while promoting the delivery of technical assistance to those States requesting it;
- Address issues of discrimination and gender-based violence in its UPR recommendations;
- Continue efforts to ensure universal implementation of the CED;
- Work to build consensus on the drafting of a legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons.

At regional level:

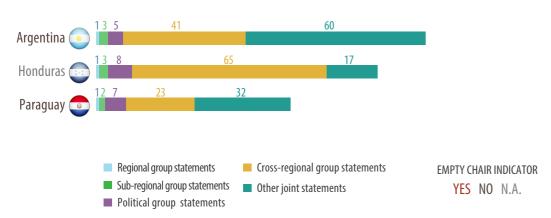
Cooperate in the strengthening of democracy and human rights in the region;

- Continue to actively support and promote the work of the Inter-American human rights system;
- Work to secure a higher number of ratifications of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

At national level:

- Continue to implement the obligations assumed under universal and regional human rights instruments;
- Continue to support the progressive expansion of rights and greater inclusion of historically discriminated, marginalised or vulnerable persons and peoples;
- Work with civil society organisations to develop and promote public policies that guarantee respect for human rights;
- Make progress on the creation of a National Plan on Business and Human Rights;
- Continue working on the implementation of the National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence and the 2021-2023 National Plan on Equality in Diversity:

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



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, during the last four years (June 2018 - June 2021). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

- Continue to increase access by women to political and economic decision-making positions.
- Work towards the ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and All Forms of Related Intolerance and Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Intolerance.

Honduras presented voluntary pledges commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 14 July 2021. Key pledges include, inter alia:

- Promote the Council as the main UN human rights body, and work to strengthen its mechanisms, At international level: including the Special Procedures;
- Foster dialogue between the international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Procedures, and regional human rights mechanisms:
- Foster the creation of more efficient indicators to monitor human rights;
- Strengthen its national human rights system by cooperating with OHCHR, ratifying relevant treaties, and implementing recommendations and rulings;
- Maintain cooperation with the Treaty Bodies, including by presenting periodic reports;
- Implement, through its NMIRF, accepted UPR and received Treaty Body recommendations;
- Protect human rights defenders, journalists and the judiciary, and strengthen relevant national protection mechanisms, including by reinforcing their preventative focus;
- Continue to pursue accountability for human rights violations against human rights defenders;
- Maintain an open dialogue and cooperation with civil society organisations;

- Continue implementing the SDGs, with a human rights-based approach;
- Continue to recognise that climate change and environmental damage threaten human rights, and continue recognising environmental human rights defenders and their contribution to society;
- Promote a human rights-based approach to climate and environmental policy.

Paraguay presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 2 March 2021. Key pledges include, inter alia:

- Strengthen the multilateral system as an instrument for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Encourage dialogue with civil society and its participation in the Council's work, and support initiatives against all forms of reprisals;
- Continue to cooperate with OHCHR and support its mandate and independence.
- Continue to support the work of the Special Procedures and maintain Paraguay's standing invitation;
- Support and promote initiatives that seek to expand the number of standing invitations to Special Procedures, and that seek to increase treaty ratifications;
- Strengthen cooperation with the Treaty Bodies by submitting periodic reports and following up on recommendations;
- Continue participating constructively in the UPR, following up on received recommendations, and submitting periodic reports;
- Promote and support initiatives that respond to the situation of the most vulnerable groups,

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including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, those living in poverty and extreme poverty, older persons, women, girls, boys, and adolescents;

Promote international cooperation and technical assistance for capacity-building as a useful tool for the realisation of human rights, in particular by strengthening the cooperation programme on NMIRFs.

- Continue working on preventing and combating human trafficking;
- Continue to promote a culture of active transparency, access to public information, accountability, and citizen participation, as an effective means of combating corruption;
- Strengthen cooperation with OHCHR through its representation in Paraguay.

At regional level:

- Continue to support the work of the Inter-American system and to implement its recommendations, friendly settlement agreements and judgments;
- Support discussions on strengthening the Inter-American human rights system;
- Continue working to strengthen the system for monitoring Inter-American recommendations (SIMORE-Inter-American Commission on Human Rights).

At national level:

- Implement its international human rights obligations and make their mainstreaming visible in reporting under the 2030 Agenda;
- Promote the implementation of social and antipoverty policies, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable:
- ☑ Continue working to build human rights indicators;
- Continue strengthening Paraguay's NMIRF as a tool to enhance on-the-ground impact;
- Strengthen spaces for dialogue and joint work with civil society and non-governmental organisations;
- Work in a coordinated and participatory manner with the NPM:

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, Argentina has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on all country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and almost all resolutions under item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner). Regarding the latter, Argentina abstained during a 2020 vote, and voted against during a 2019 vote, on texts on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in Venezuela; and abstained during a 2019 vote on an item 2 OPT text. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), Argentina has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), in the absence of consensus, Argentina has tended to abstain, except during voting on a 2009 resolution on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Argentina voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Argentina has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has almost always voted in favour; the only exception is a 2009 text on defamation of religion, which Argentina voted against. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Argentina has either joined consensus or has tended to vote in favour. Notwithstanding, Argentina abstained during voting

on the following texts: eliminating inequality within and among States (2020); promoting a democratic and equitable international order (2019); right to development (2019); enhancement of international cooperation (2019); right to peace (2019); the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures (2019); protection of the family (2014, 2015); a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations (2014); and traditional values (2011).

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- · Business and human rights;
- Child, early and forced marriage;
- Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage;
- Enforced or involuntary disappearances;
- Human rights and transitional justice;
- Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);
- Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of nonrecurrence;
- The human rights of older persons;
- The incompatibility between democracy and racism;

- The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights;
- Trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Honduras has not previously been a member of the Council.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Child, early and forced marriage;
- Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;
- Panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
- Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2015, **Paraguay** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on all country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda items 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and 2 (reports of the High Commissioner). The only exception to the latter was Paraguay's abstention during voting on the text on the OHCHR mission to Burundi (2017). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the OPT), Paraguay has generally abstained during votes (with the exception of a 2015 resolution on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination – Paraguay voted in favour). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Paraguay has joined consensus or voted in favour of all resolutions

except for the two texts on cooperation with Ukraine that were voted on during the period of its membership (Paraguay abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Paraguay has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has always voted in favour. The only exception to this was a 2017 text on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Paraguay voted against). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Paraguay has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts; except for two resolutions (2015, 2016) on promoting a democratic and equitable international order (it abstained), and a 2017 text on repatriation of funds (abstained).

- Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua;
- Promoting international cooperation to support national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up;
- Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
- The incompatibility between democracy and racism;
- Situation of human rights in South Sudan;
- The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

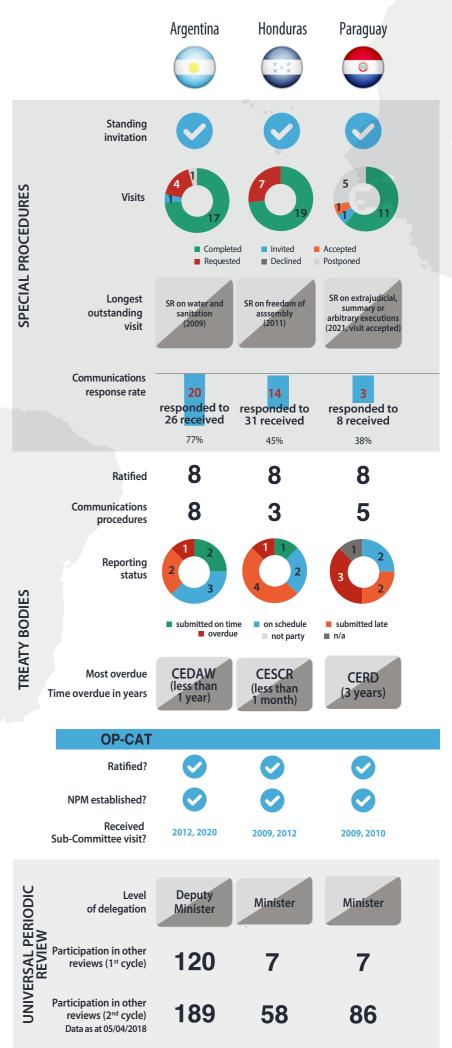
REPRISALS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS



COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

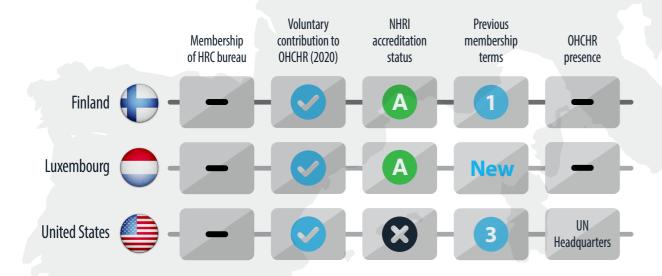
* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' namely the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

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



WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP (WEOG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Finland tabled its pledges and commitments to support its candidacy for membership for the 2006-2007 period on 9 May 2006. In the document, Finland pledged, *inter alia*, to:

At international level: ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography; and fully cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms, and with the Treaty Bodies. At domestic level: further intensify efforts to eradicate violence against women, human trafficking, racism, and discrimination; and strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly the Sami.

An analysis of steps taken by Finland in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it did indeed ratify the OP-CRC. Finland has also cooperated with Special Procedures, maintaining a standing invitation and responding to all communications. Similarly, Finland has shown a solid commitment to the UPR process, participating at ministerial level, submitting a mid-term report on implementation, and participating in the reviews of 59 other states

during the first cycle and 92 during the second cycle. Finland is party to seven core human rights conventions.

Luxembourg has not previously been a member of the Council.

The United States of America presented commitments and pledges supporting its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2017-2019 in December 2015. In the document, the United States committed to:

- Work for a balanced, credible and effective Council;
- Continue to cooperate with and support the work of the human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures and the UPR;
- Support States with the implementation of their human rights obligations through dialogue, exchange, technical cooperation, and support for civil society;
- Consider ratification of CEDAW and CRPD:
- Strengthen international mechanisms to advance the rights of women;
- Address stigma and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Continue to promote the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Combat racial and ethnic discrimination, domestically and internationally;
- Promote the active involvement of CSOs in the work of the Council:
- Work in a spirit of consultation to address situations of concern;
- Continue to support OHCHR financially;

- Support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the Secretary-General's plan of action to counter violent extremism;
- Promote ratification and implementation of the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons;
- Promote freedom of religion, support the implementation of Council resolution 16/18, and contribute to the Istanbul Process;
- Support economic, social and cultural rights, and the achievement of the SDGs;
- Continue to play a leadership role in promoting business and human rights;
- Continue to champion freedom of expression and the protection of journalists.

An analysis of the steps taken by the United States to fulfil its pledges and commitments shows that it did continue to support OHCHR financially. The United States joined consensus on all resolutions on business and human rights adopted during the time it was a member. However, the United States did not move to ratify the CEDAW or CRPD, and is yet to complete around 30% of Special Procedures visit requests.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021 ELECTION

Finland presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2022-2024 on 21 July 2021. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

Continue to push for the effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights across the entire UN system. In this regard, Finland commits to:

- o Furthering collaboration between the Council and the Security Council to prevent conflicts, seek their resolution and enhance peacebuilding;
- Cooperate with all States to promote and protect human rights, especially by ensuring meaningful participation for, and cooperation with, civil society organisations;
- o Support the Council in addressing countryspecific violations of human rights;
- o Uphold the role of the Council as a forum for dialogue on thematic human rights issues;
- Promote the role of the Council in the prevention of human rights violations and abuses;
- Support OHCHR and its independence, including by offering technical assistance on human rights and capacity-building, and making voluntary contributions;
- Strengthen and support Special Procedures, maintain the standing invitation, and respond within the specified time limit to urgent appeals and communications;
- Make effective use of the Treaty Bodies and UPR recommendations when developing policies and legislation;
- Contribute to strengthening the UPR by making thoughtful and specific recommendations;
- o Ratify the CED;
- Strengthen and engage with the Treaty Bodies through its periodic reporting as well as through the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations;
- Increase the transparency in the national selection procedure of experts to be nominated as candidates to the Treaty Bodies;
- Strengthen the national implementation of human rights obligations and include in the National Action Plan human rights indicators to support decision-making.

- Support human rights defenders. With regards to this pledge, Finland commits to:
- Continue providing visible support to the work and rights of human rights defenders, placing particular attention on women, environmental and indigenous human rights defenders;
- o Support NHRIs, in line with the Paris Principles;
- Protect and promote freedom of expression, media freedom and pluralism, online and offline, and access to information;
- Ensure that human rights defenders, journalists, media workers and other civil society actors are able to enjoy all human rights freely without harassment or reprisals;
- Continue to work actively towards ending impunity for the most serious crimes under international law, and to address the situation of victims and survivors of such crimes;
- Work towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty.
- Contribute to the full enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls. And to this end:
- Continue advancing gender equality, promoting the rights and equal opportunities of all women and girls, address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and strengthen their public and political participation and decisionmaking power;
- Address the rights of women and girls with disabilities;
- o Advance comprehensive understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- o Remain committed to the comprehensive implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

- Embrace diversity and strengthen the participation of all persons. Specifically:
- Promote and strengthen the full, effective, equal, and meaningful participation of all persons, without discrimination of any kind;
- Enhance the rights of persons with disabilities, including their right to enjoy a life free from violence, stigma and discrimination;
- Continue to strongly support the implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy;
- Continue to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples, and to enhance their meaningful participation at the UN;
- Protect and fulfil the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including national, ethnic, religious, sexual, gender and linguistic minorities, in accordance with the applicable international norms and standards;
- Step up international, regional and national efforts against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- o Promote the right to freedom of religion and

- belief, including the freedom to change one's religion;
- Promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) persons and continue to fight all discrimination against them;
- o Continue advocating the consideration of the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations in all humanitarian action.
- Place human rights at the core of the Agenda 2030 implementation:
- Apply a human rights-based approach and the cross-cutting objectives of gender equality, non-discrimination, climate resilience and low emission development in all development cooperation and policy actions;
- Promote a stronger emphasis on the interlinkage between climate change and the full realisation of human rights;
- o Advance the human rights to water and sanitation, and acknowledge that safe drinking

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



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, during the last four years (June 2018 - June 2021). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

- water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights;
- Support the right of all people to access equitable and inclusive education of the highest attainable quality, with a particular focus on girls, persons with disabilities and those in the most vulnerable situations;
- Continue promoting the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- Continue to support for the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation;
- Advance a human rights-based approach and diversity in participation in the governance, design, development, procurement and use of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence;
- Bridge digital divides by enhancing inclusive policies, investment and the digital skills of all women and girls, as well as persons with disabilities;
- o Continue to work for a human rights-based approach to cybersecurity and finding a common understanding on how existing international humanitarian law applies to cyber operations during armed conflict;
- Work together to ensure that COVID-19 responses and recovery plans place human rights at the core of all efforts.

Luxembourg presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidature for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 9 June 2021. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At national level:

- Develop a national human rights action plan with the input of CSOs and international human rights mechanisms;
- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Treaty Bodies and submit regular reports;

- Continue to implement accepted UPR recommendations, with the involvement of all relevant ministries, and in consultation with civil society and NHRIs;
- Complete the ratification of the CED;
- Continue to hold regular consultations with civil society and NHRIs and report on the implementation of these voluntary pledges and commitments:
- Establish a support platform for human rights defenders:
- Realise the SDGs through its National Sustainable Development Plan, with the aim of combating poverty and reducing intersecting and multidimensional inequalities, while preserving the planet in the face of climate disruption and biodiversity loss;
- Organise, with the support for the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, an interactive dialogue on the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and to hold in-depth national discussions on the links between poverty and intersecting and multidimensional inequalities, human rights, climate change, migration, technology and other major trends;
- Accelerate efforts towards the adoption of a national strategy for the prevention of discrimination, and combat all forms of discrimination and exclusion;
- Implement its feminist foreign policy and its 'Women and Peace and Security' National Action Plan, for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);
- Continue legislative efforts towards the development of a juvenile justice system focused on prevention and restorative justice;
- Draft a law to protect the rights of children whose mothers gave birth anonymously, and children conceived through medically assisted fertilisation to know their origins;
- Draft a law to protect the right of intersex children to physical integrity, autonomy and self-determination;

- Continue efforts in human rights education and professional training;
- Strengthen laws on the protection of whistleblowers.

At international level:

- Answer the Secretary-General's Call to Action by taking action in the seven priority areas;
- Actively support multilateralism and universal values by integrating human rights across diplomacy, development and defence;
- Maintain its voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the UN system and advocate sustainable and predictable financing for UN human rights mechanisms, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Support the strengthening and independence of the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, and continue to provide both political and financial support to OHCHR;
- Continue to participate constructively in the UPR by making recommendations to the countries under review;
- Support the active and meaningful participation of civil society and human rights defenders in the work of the Council, including by continuing to contribute to combatting reprisals;
- Support civil society and NHRIs;
- Continue its efforts to strengthen the protection of journalists and support media freedom in accordance with the ICCPR;
- Continue to provide political and financial support to the International Criminal Court and other international criminal justice bodies;
- Contribute to the strengthening of peacebuilding and the prevention of conflicts and the most serious crimes of concern to the international community by, *inter alia*, promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law;

- Continue to meet the UN target of 0.7 per cent and allocate at least 1 per cent of its gross national income to official development assistance;
- Promote the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas;
- Promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination, in particular, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Combat the pushback against sexual and reproductive health and rights, the rights of LGBTQI persons, and the rights of refugees and migrants, and continue to strengthen those rights;
- Continue to support the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and engage in efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence;
- Continue to systematically promote the rights of children in all international forums and support the work of Special Procedures mandate-holders dealing with the rights of the child;
- Continue its efforts to contribute actively to the promotion of human rights within climate action, including through the development of a roadmap for human rights-based climate financing.

The **United States** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2022-2024 on 2 March 2021. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At international level:

Continue to advocate for all people around the world who suffer from discrimination, abuse, and oppression, and to defend human rights defenders;

- Continue working for a balanced, credible, and effective Council, and to promote its universality, transparency, and objectivity;
- Promote the full participation of NGOs in the work of the UN and other international organisations;
- Continue to support OHCHR and remain one of its largest donors;
- Support the seventh review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism;
- Promote and protect the interests and welfare of indigenous peoples in the work of the UN, including through continued attention to indigenous issues;
- Continue supporting States in the implementation of their international human rights obligations;
- Continue its efforts to strengthen mechanisms in the international system to advance the rights, protection, and empowerment of women;
- Continue to address stigma and discrimination in laws and policies, and promote the human rights of persons regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Continue to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities and workers; and to support economic, social, and cultural rights;
- Counter all forms of racism, xenophobia, and racial and ethnic discrimination domestically and internationally;
- Promote the ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
- Continuing its leadership role in promoting business and human rights globally;
- Promote and protect human rights through regional organisations;

- Continue to champion freedom of expression both online and offline, and promote a free media and the protection of journalists worldwide;
- Supporting the work of the Group of Friends on the Responsibility to Protect.

At national level:

- Consider the ratification of the CEDAW, CRPD, and ILO Convention 111, among other treaties;
- Implement its international human rights obligations and participate in a meaningful dialogue with Treaty Bodies;
- Expand cooperation with the UN and Inter-American human rights mechanisms, including through regular communications with mandate holders and official visits;
- Address and combat systemic racism and discrimination based on race, colour, age, national origin, religion or belief, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, health status, and disability in various sectors in our society; as well as human trafficking;
- Eliminate racial discrimination and the use of excessive force in policing;
- Strengthening government-to-government relationships with federally recognised Tribes, and further US policy on indigenous issues;
- Implement an orderly, safe, and humane immigration system that protects the rights of all migrants and migrant children in particular.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

During its membership term 2006-2007, regarding country-specific resolutions, Finland tended to abstain or vote against. This includes resolutions on Israel, Palestine (three texts), Lebanon and Sudan. However, it voted in favour of a resolution on Israeli settlements in the OPT. For resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Finland generally joined consensus. It voted against a text on defamation of religions, a resolution on preparations for the Durban Review Conference, and a decision on global efforts for the total elimination of racism. Regarding economic, social, and cultural rights texts, Finland generally joined consensus. Notwithstanding, Finland voted against resolutions on economic reform policies and foreign debt, unilateral coercive measures, and the impacts of globalisation on the enjoyment of human rights.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living;
- Promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);
- The right to social security.

Luxembourg has never been a member of the Council.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- High-level panel discussion on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island States;
- Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Situation of human rights in Yemen.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2009, the **United States** has voted in favour of all country-specific item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) texts; the exception was a text on the OHCHR mission to Burundi (2017). Furthermore, the United States either voted in favour of or joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and against every resolution tabled under item 7 (human rights in the OPT). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the United States joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts, except when a vote was called on a 2017 text on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – the United States voted against.

In the absence of consensus, for thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the United States has tended to abstain or vote against. This includes resolutions on defamation of religions; the right to peace; integrity of the judicial system; effects of terrorism on human rights; and drones. However, the United States has regularly supported texts on preventing violent extremism, democracy and the rule of law, and peaceful protests. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, when a vote has been called, the United States has tended to vote against.

Principal sponsorship (2017-2021):

- Freedom of opinion and expression;
- Human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka;
- Situation of human rights in South Sudan;
- Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- The promotion, protection, and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet.

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

* Ratification and reporting is recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the 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.

REPRISALS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Cited in the Secretary-General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2017-2020)



Finland



N.A.

N.A.

N.A.



Luxembourg

United States

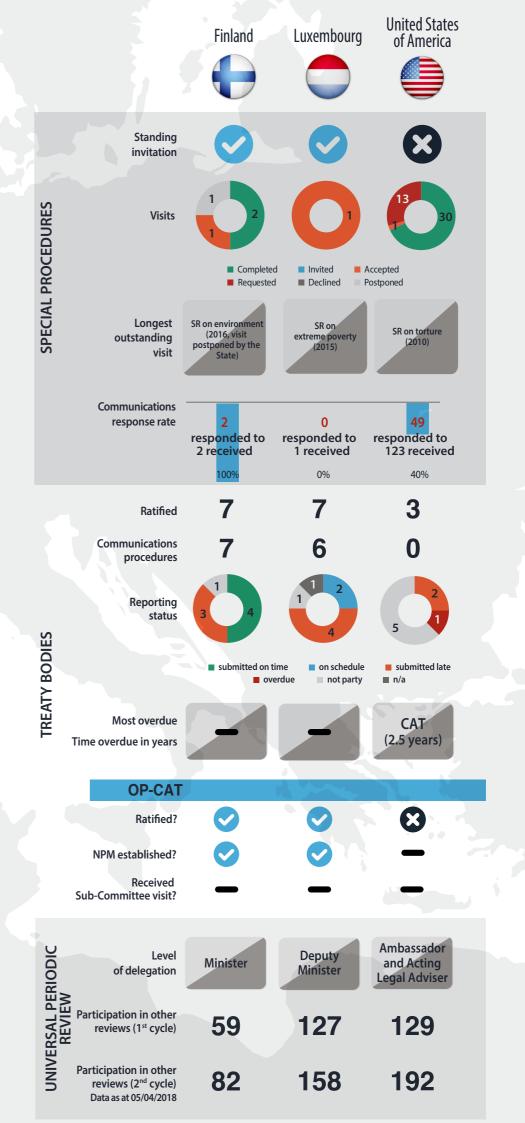


Ν



Cited in the report 2015-2019?

Response provided to allegations?



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.

Overview of membership

Membership of Council Bureau

Source: OHCHR website. Presidency and bureau.

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Presidency.aspx

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/ Bureau.aspx

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2020)

Source: OHCHR website. Our donors. Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2020.

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/ FundingBudget/VoluntaryContributions2018.pdf

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

NHRI Accreditation Status

Source: Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI);

https://ganhri.org/accreditation/

Data as at: 8 August 2021.

Previous membership terms

Source: OHCHR website. Membership of the Human Rights Council.

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/ Bureau.aspx

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

OHCHR Presence

Source: OHCHR website. Human Rights Report 2018.

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ OHCHRreport2018.pdf

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Source: UN General Assembly website; OHCHR

website.

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: yourHRC.org summarises the specific, forwardlooking pledges made by States when presenting their candidatures for membership of the Human Rights Council. GA resolution 60/251 establishing the Human Rights Council stipulates that, when electing members of the Council, States shall take into account: the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights; and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto. Beyond this provision, the GA provided no further guidance and established no particular framework for the form and content of electoral pledges, commitments, and statements. Notwithstanding, OHCHR has published a helpful document on 'suggested elements for voluntary pledges and commitments by candidates for election to the Human Rights Council' which states that voluntary pledges and commitments should be 'specific, measurable, and verifiable.' The paper then provides a general framework for assessing pledges and commitments against this benchmark. yourHRC. org uses this framework to identify the number of specific pledges presented by candidates. yourHRC. org also presents a short analysis of the degree to which members of the Council have fulfiled the internationallevel pledges they made when running for their current or last term of membership. This analysis aims to be independent and objective, without value judgements. The analysis is mainly based on data in the yourHRC. org analysis of member State engagement with the UN human rights system.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues

Source: Council Extranet.

Data as at: 23 August 2020.

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 2017 until June 2020. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Statements not listed on the Extranet were not counted, nor were we able to count joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed.

An example of the classification of the groups can be found in the table below.

Regional Groups AG

APG EEG GRULAC WEOG

Subregional Arab Group

Groups ASEAN

Benelux
CARICOM
Nordic
Nordic-Baltic
Others

Political Groups ALBA

CELAC

Council of Europe
European Union

Gulf Cooperation Council

Mercosur OIC Others

Cross-regional Beneficiaries of LDCs/SIDS Trust

Fund BRICS

Climate Vulnerable Forum

Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Community of Portuguese Language Countries

Core-group on National policies and human rights

Core-Group on the right to Privacy

Geneva Support Group Western Sahara

Group of Friends of the International Criminal Court in Geneva

Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect

Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict

Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking

Groupe Francophone

Like-Minded Group

MIKTA

Non-Aligned Movement

Platform for Human Rights Education and Training

Safe Schools Declaration

Territorial integrity of Kingdom of Morocco

The Group of Friends of Economic Social and Cultural Rights Others

Other

Any statement delivered by two or more countries of the same regional group (but not the whole regional group)

Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant State delivered individual statements in less than 11% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates, and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its two last (most recent) membership terms.

Key pledges and commitments for 2021 election

Source: Document submitted by the candidates either formally, or informally to the URG.

Data as at: 7 September 2021.

Note: yourHRC.org summarises the key specific, forward-looking pledges made by States when presenting their candidatures for membership of the Human Rights Council. GA resolution 60/251 establishing the Council stipulates that, when electing members of the Council, States shall take into account: the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights; and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto. yourHRC.org presents these key pledges in a factual manner, without value judgement. Notwithstanding, the lists of key pledges are non-exhaustive – with selection based on an analysis and the judgement by URG analysts.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Source: URG HRC Voting Portal (http://www.universal-rights.org/country-voting-history-portal/) which in turn is updated with the information published on the HRC Extranet.

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: The yourHRC.org analysis aims to be purely factual, without value judgement as to the merit of individual resolutions, or moral or legal judgements about the nature of State voting patterns. For each member State of the Council, past and present, URG analysts look for patterns in State voting on both country-specific resolutions (items 2, 4, 7, and 10) and thematic resolutions (both civil and political, and economic, social, and cultural – including the right to development).

Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2017-2020).

Source: Last five Secretary-General's 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights' reports.

Data as at: August 2021.

Inclusivity/Access

Source: OHCHR website. Membership of the Human Rights Council.

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/PastMembers.aspx

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: Self-calculated figures based on the past and current members, as reported by the OHCHR.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing invitation

Source: OHCHR website. Special Procedures: Standing invitations.

http://spinternet.ohchr.org/ Layouts/ SpecialProceduresInternet/StandingInvitations.aspx

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Visits Completed and longest outstanding visit

Source: OHCHR website. Special Procedures: Country and other visits. Country visits since 1998.

http://spinternet.ohchr.org/ Layouts/ SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits. aspx?Lang=en

Data as at: 10 September 2021.

Note: The number of visits completed 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, when initial request date is not available, the date taken to calculate the time a visit is overdue was the earliest reminder published in the OHCHR website); only visits requested by the Special Procedures that have not yet been accepted by the State are considered in this calculation.

Communications response rate

Source: Special Procedures communications report and search data base, OHCHR.

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: The response rate to Special Procedures communications (i.e., to letters of allegations and urgent appeals) is calculated for the last five years.

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website. Country Pages. Ratification Status.

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: 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 (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).

Treaty body reporting dates relate to the State's current reporting cycle, as listed on the OHCHR website. In cases where there is no deadline for the current reporting cycle, the status of reporting of the previous cycle was used, where available.

Explanation of Options:

- SUBMITTED ON TIME: The State Party Report submitted the report before the due date.
- ON SCHEDULE: the current cycle due date is in the future. This occurs when a State's reporting cycle changes, so the deadline for the next report is set.
- SUBMITTED LATE: The State Party Report has been submitted for the current cycle, but was submitted late.
- OUTSTANDING (OVERDUE): the current cycle report has not yet been submitted, and is overdue.
- NOT PARTY: The State has not ratified the respective Treaty.
- N/A: data is not available.

The "most overdue" report time is for the outstanding report that is the most overdue.

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website. Country pages. Ratification Status.

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

NPM Established:

Source: OHCHR website. National Preventive Mechanisms

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/ NationalPreventiveMechanisms.aspx

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: Shows if the country has notified the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture that it has designated a national preventive mechanism.

Sub-Committee visit:

Source: OHCHR website. Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (CAT-OP). Country Visits. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

Note: Indicates whether the Sub-Committee has visited the country against torture, and the years in which this occurred, when applicable.

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 at: 15 August 2021.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR Website

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx

Data as at: 15 August 2021.

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 at: 15 August 2021.

Note: Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other 1st and 2nd cycle reviews (out of 192) during which the State concerned presented its own recommendations.

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

About your HRC.org

The yourHRC.org project has four component parts:



A universally accessible and free-to-use web portal - yourHRC.org – providing information on the performance of all 116 States that have stood for and won election to the Council, and of the candidates for the 2020 election that have never been members of the Council before. 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 sponsorship of 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 fulfiled the voluntary pledges and commitments made before its previous membership term.



An annual 'yourHRC.org Election Guide,' providing at-a-glance information on candidatures for upcoming Council elections.



An annual 'yourHRC.org end-of-year report' (published each December), providing information on levels of member State engagement and cooperation over the course of that year.



Periodic 'Know yourHRC members' and 'Know yourHRC candidates' email alerts, to be sent to stakeholders profiling Council members, or informing them of candidature announcements for future Council elections.



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