
your**HRC**.org

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



GUIDE TO THE

2016

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ELECTIONS**



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

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

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) and established the Human Rights Council (the 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 a number of 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 created a number of mechanisms (e.g. Special Procedures, UPR) to promote the full implementation of the human rights obligations undertaken by States, and/or to respond to the violation 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 the members of the GA. It was made clear 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 all States, including Member States, would promote methods of work that 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, passed to them by the GA and, ultimately, entrusted to them by ‘the Peoples of the United Nations’ described in the UN Charter.

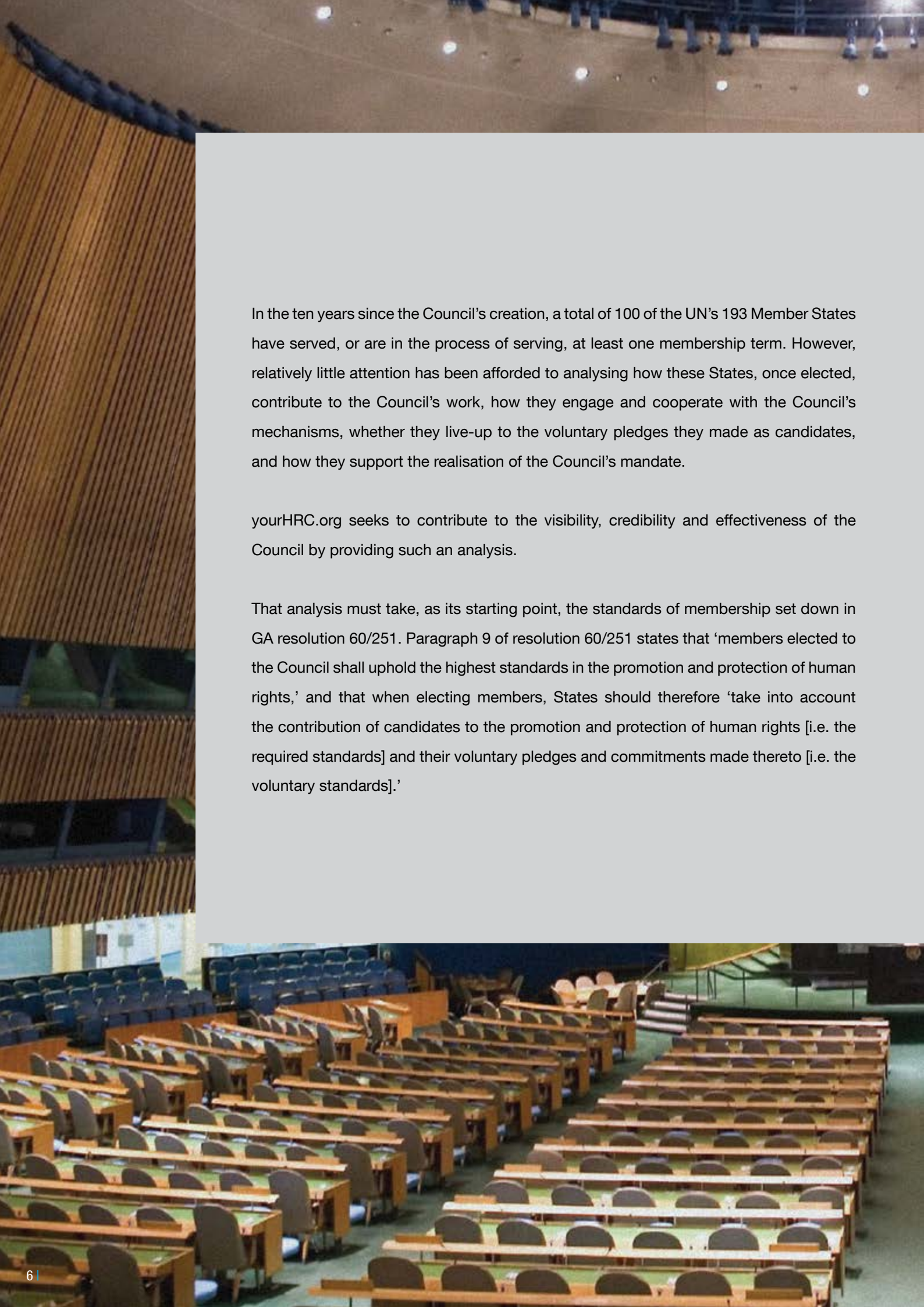
Membership of the Council

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:

- 1 The total number of members was reduced from 51 to 47;
- 2 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;
- 3 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;’
- 4 Council members would be ineligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms;
- 5 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 their 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 ten years since the Council's creation, a total of 100 of the UN's 193 Member States have served, or are in the process of serving, at least one membership term. However, relatively little attention has 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].'

Guide to the 2016 UN Human Rights Council Elections

The present document is the second annual 'yourHRC.org election guide.' It provides general information on the 2016 Human Rights Council elections (tentatively scheduled for the 28 October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2017-2019).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2016 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 the State's historic engagement and cooperation with the Council and the wider UN human rights system, its voting record (where the country concerned has previously been a Council member), an analysis of its new voluntary pledges and commitments (for the 2016 elections), and an analysis of the extent to which it fulfilled its previous voluntary pledges and commitments (again, where the country concerned has previously been a member).



2016 HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL ELECTIONS

28 October 2016 (tentative)
UN General Assembly, New York

FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2017-2019

**CANDIDATE ANALYSIS BY
REGIONAL GROUP**

Latin America and Caribbean Group

Historic clean slate elections **5/9**

8 seats at HRC seats available: **2** candidates: **3**

| | Voluntary pledges & commitments | Number of previous terms |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brazil | ✓ | 3 |
| Cuba | ✓ | 3 |
| Guatemala | ✓ | 2 |

Western European and Others Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **6/9**

7 seats at HRC seats available: **2** candidates: **2**

| | Voluntary pledges & commitments | Number of previous terms |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| United Kingdom | ✓ | 3 |
| United States of America | ✓ | 2 |

Eastern European Group

Historic clean slate elections **5/9**

6 seats at HRC seats available: **2** candidates: **3**

| | Voluntary pledges & commitments | Number of previous terms |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Croatia | ✓ | NEW |
| Hungary | ✓ | 1 |
| Russian Federation | ✓ | 3 |

African Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **8/9**

13 seats at HRC seats available: **4** candidates: **4**

| | Voluntary pledges & commitments | Number of previous terms |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Egypt | ✓ | 1 |
| Rwanda | — | NEW |
| South Africa | — | 3 |
| Tunisia | ✓ | 1 |

Asia Pacific Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT









Historic clean slate elections **6/9**

13 seats at HRC seats available: **4** candidates: **4**

| | Voluntary pledges & commitments | Number of previous terms |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| China | ✓ | 3 |
| Iraq | ✓ | NEW |
| Japan | ✓ | 3 |
| Saudi Arabia | ✓ | 3 |

African Group (AG)

Overview of Candidates

| | | Membership of HRC bureau | Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015) | NHRI accreditation status | Previous membership terms | OHCHR presence |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Egypt |  | HRC Vice-President (2009-2010) |  | A | 1 | — |
| Rwanda |  | — |  | A | 0 | Human rights advisers |
| South Africa |  | — |  | A | 3 | Regional office |
| Tunisia |  | — |  | B | 1 | Country office |

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Egypt presented voluntary pledges in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period of 2007-2010 on 18 April 2007.

Internationally, Egypt committed to, *inter alia*: work to make the Council a strong, effective and efficient body; promote the role of the Council in offering technical assistance and capacity-building; support the work of OHCHR, including its new regional office in Cairo; promote the constructive role of NGOs and civil society in the work of the Council; continue to promote the realisation of the right to development; support regional and international processes that advance women’s and children’s rights; cooperate with and strengthen the Council’s mechanisms; work with other stakeholders for the reform of the Treaty Body system; provide objective and credible responses to communications from the human rights mechanisms; engage with the new UPR mechanism; ratify the CRPD and the CED; and follow-up on the implementation of the human rights instruments to which Egypt is Party.

Domestically, Egypt pledged to: preserve the freedom of the press; strengthen the independence of the judiciary; promote human rights education; provide human rights training for law enforcement and other officials; strengthen national human rights bodies; integrate human rights into national development policies; strengthen national redress mechanisms and fight against impunity; strengthen the National Council on Human Rights; promote the social, economic and political empowerment of women; adopt legislative amendments in the area of pre-trial detention; and strengthen democracy through relevant constitutional amendments.

Looking at the fulfilment of its international-level pledges, Egypt has facilitated around a quarter of Special Procedures visit requests, and has responded to around 45% of communications (34 of 78). It has not issued a standing invitation, and its longest outstanding visit request (from the Special Rapporteur on torture) dates back 20 years. Regarding UPR, Egypt participated in its own second cycle review at ministerial level, and contributed to the reviews of 90 other States during the first cycle. It has not presented a mid-term report on the implementation of UPR recommendations. Egypt ratified the CRPD in 2008. It has yet to ratify the CED. It is overdue in its reporting to 5 Treaty Bodies, with its ICCPR report overdue by nearly 12 years.

Tunisia presented an *aide memoire* in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2006-2007 on 8 May 2006. The document presented a detailed review of Tunisia’s commitment (at that time) to human rights, but did not present forward-looking pledges for future action.

Rwanda has not previously held a seat on the Human Rights Council.

South Africa tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 9 September 2013.

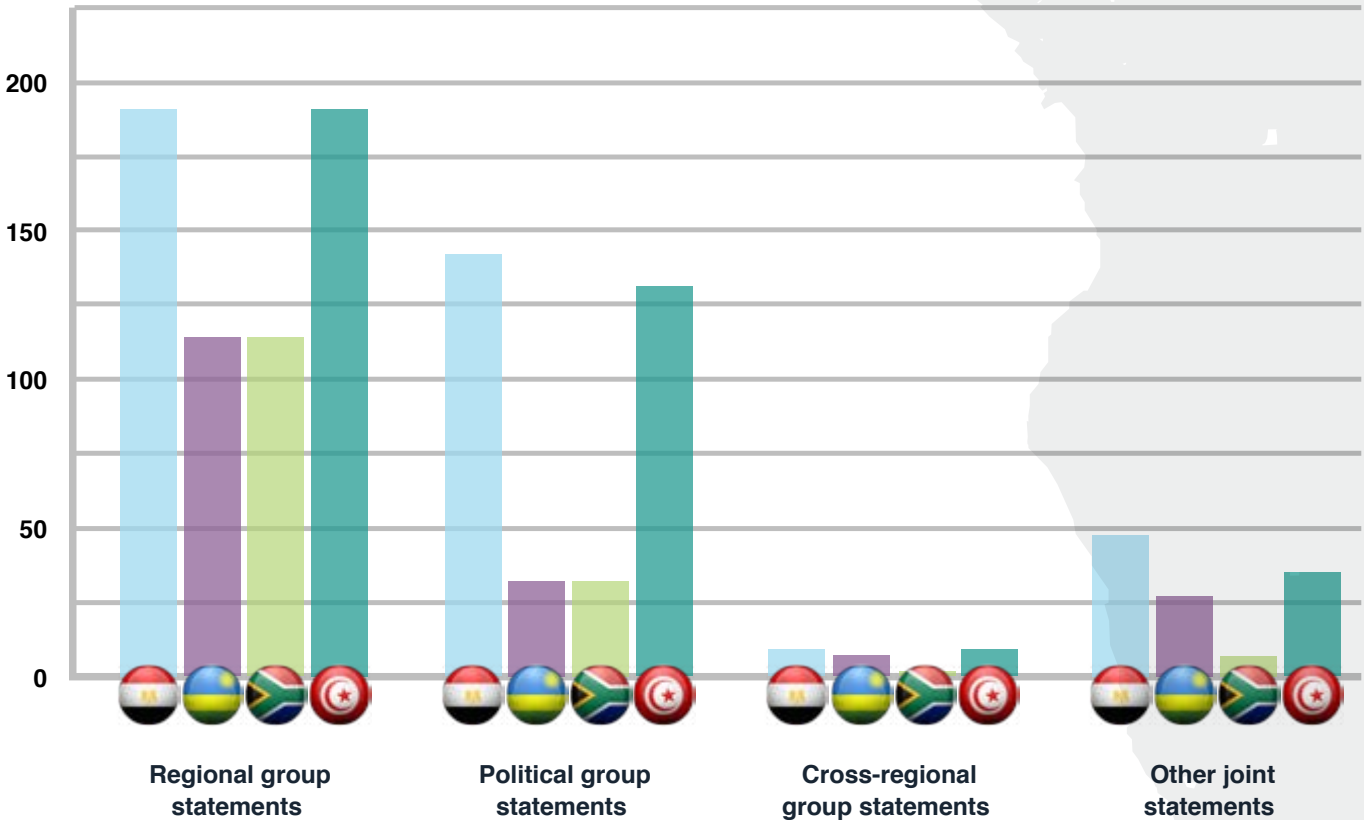
At international level, South Africa pledged to: maintain its standing invitation to Special Procedures and continue to receive visits; fulfil visit commitments for the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women; respect and protect the independence of OHCHR; contribute financially (un-earmarked) to OHCHR; support various UN human rights trust funds; support the trust fund for the

permanent UN memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade; continue to advocate for a balanced sustainable development programme within the human rights framework; push for amendments to the two international covenants to include the right to development; and continue to submit periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies.

Domestically, South Africa emphasised that it was in the process of ratifying the ICESCR, OP-ICESCR, ICRMW, OP-CAT, CED, and the Convention on statelessness. It also committed to submit a national action plan on racism, as required by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

An analysis of steps taken by South Africa in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has maintained its standing invitation, and has facilitated 9 out of 20 visit requests. Though South African pledged to facilitate a visit by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, that visit request remains outstanding (for 8 years). For those international instruments to which South Africa is Party, it tends to submit its reports late, and currently has two outstanding reports (CAT and CEDAW). South Africa ratified the ICESCR in 2015, but has yet to ratify the CED. South Africa made a voluntary contribution to OHCHR in 2015.

Participation in joint statements during Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during HRC general discussions, panel debates and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the last 7 sessions of the Council (March 2014- June 2016). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Key pledges and commitments for 2016 election

Egypt has presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- Contribute constructively, through cooperation and dialogue, to the work of the Council.
- Focus on the delivery of capacity-building assistance to States to help them fulfil their human rights obligations and confront human rights violations.
- Stand against the selective targeting of States based on political considerations, but not shy away from engaging on situations of special concern.
- Ensure that the Council gives due attention to important thematic issues including: economic, social and cultural rights; gender equality; rights of migrants; right to work; the effects of terrorism; protection of the family; youth and human rights; local government; and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Engage positively and constructively with OHCHR. Work with relevant stakeholders to address the financial and institutional challenges faced by OHCHR. Provide US\$ 30,000 in financial support to OHCHR for the period 2017-2019.
- Cooperate with Treaty Bodies: submit periodic reports on time, review reservations, review the possibility of ratifying further treaties.
- Engage with the UPR process including by implementing accepted recommendations.
- Strengthen cooperation with Special Procedures, including by increasing the frequency of country visits.

- Promote the constructive role of NGOs and civil society at all levels, in accordance with national laws and regulations.
- Work to strengthen NHRIs and their role within the international human rights framework.

Tunisia presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 in May 2016. Key pledges include:

- Contribute to the mandate and objectives of the Council.
- Maintain open dialogue and constructive co operation with other States in the Council, and work to foster consensus.
- Work within and across regional groups.
- Cooperate fully with the UPR.
- Continue supporting, through regular state ments in the Council and through various groups of friends and other unofficial groups, the Special Procedures.
- Support the independence of, and cooperate with, OHCHR, including its office in Tunisia.
- Contribute to the Treaty Body strengthening process.
- Continue to contribute to the development of universal norms, including in areas such as civil society space, freedom of expression on the In ternet, and the protection of journalists.
- Continue to cosponsor resolutions on human rights defenders, reprisals, peaceful protests, torture, business and human rights, the right to development, violence against women, racism, and persons of African descent.
- Contribute to international efforts to combat violent extremism and terrorism.

Rwanda's voluntary pledges and commitments, in support of its candidature for membership of the

Council for the period 2017-2019, were unavailable at the time the 2016 Election Guide went to print.

South Africa's voluntary pledges and commitments, in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2017-2019, were unavailable at the time the 2016 Election Guide went to print.

Voting history during previous membership terms

During its previous membership term from 2007-2010, **Egypt** consistently voted against item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions in the absence of consensus. That included texts on North Korea and Sudan. During votes on item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Egypt consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Egypt joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in DRC – which Egypt tabled on behalf of the African Group (Egypt voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Egypt has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it abstained during votes on: a resolution on the elimination of religious intolerance (2007); a text on the impact of religious discrimination on economic social and cultural rights (2009); and a resolution on torture (2009).

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Egypt has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights; freedom of local government and human rights; freedom of opinion and expression; human rights of civilians in armed conflict; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure; protection of the family; protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict; right to health and access to medicine; the right to work; trafficking in persons.

Tunisia either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, all resolutions dealing with country-specific situations during its previous membership term (2006-2007). It also joined consensus on all capacity-building resolutions (item 10).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Tunisia has generally joined consensus. When there has been a vote, it has always voted in favour.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Tunisia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts (with the exception of a 2007 vote on a resolution on unilateral coercive measures, during which Tunisia did not vote).

Principal sponsor: situation in Syria; civil society space; human rights, democracy and rule of law; human rights on the Internet; protection of the family; safety of journalists; countering violent extremism; youth and human rights.

Rwanda has not previously held a seat on the Human Rights Council.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **South Africa** has, in the absence of consensus, abstained during voting on every item 4 resolution (situations that require the Council's attention) except two (a 2009 resolution on Sudan and a 2016 resolution on Iran – South Africa voted against both texts). South Africa has never voted in favour of an item 4 resolution on a country-specific situation. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), South Africa has always voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), South Africa has joined consensus on all resolutions except for four that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (South Africa abstained three times) and on the situation in DRC (South Africa voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, South Africa has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. Notwithstanding, South Africa has voted against: a 2016 resolution on civil society space; a 2015 resolution on the effects of terrorism; a 2014 resolution on peaceful protests; and a 2009 resolution on religious discrimination. Interestingly, in June 2016 South Africa abstained during a vote on a resolution on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, despite having been the main sponsor of a resolution on the same subject in June 2011.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, South Africa has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.





Principal sponsor: access to medicines; capacity-building in public health; good governance; rights of peasants; sexual orientation and gender identity (2011); elaboration of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and human rights; right to health – sport and healthy lifestyles.

Inclusivity / Access

Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

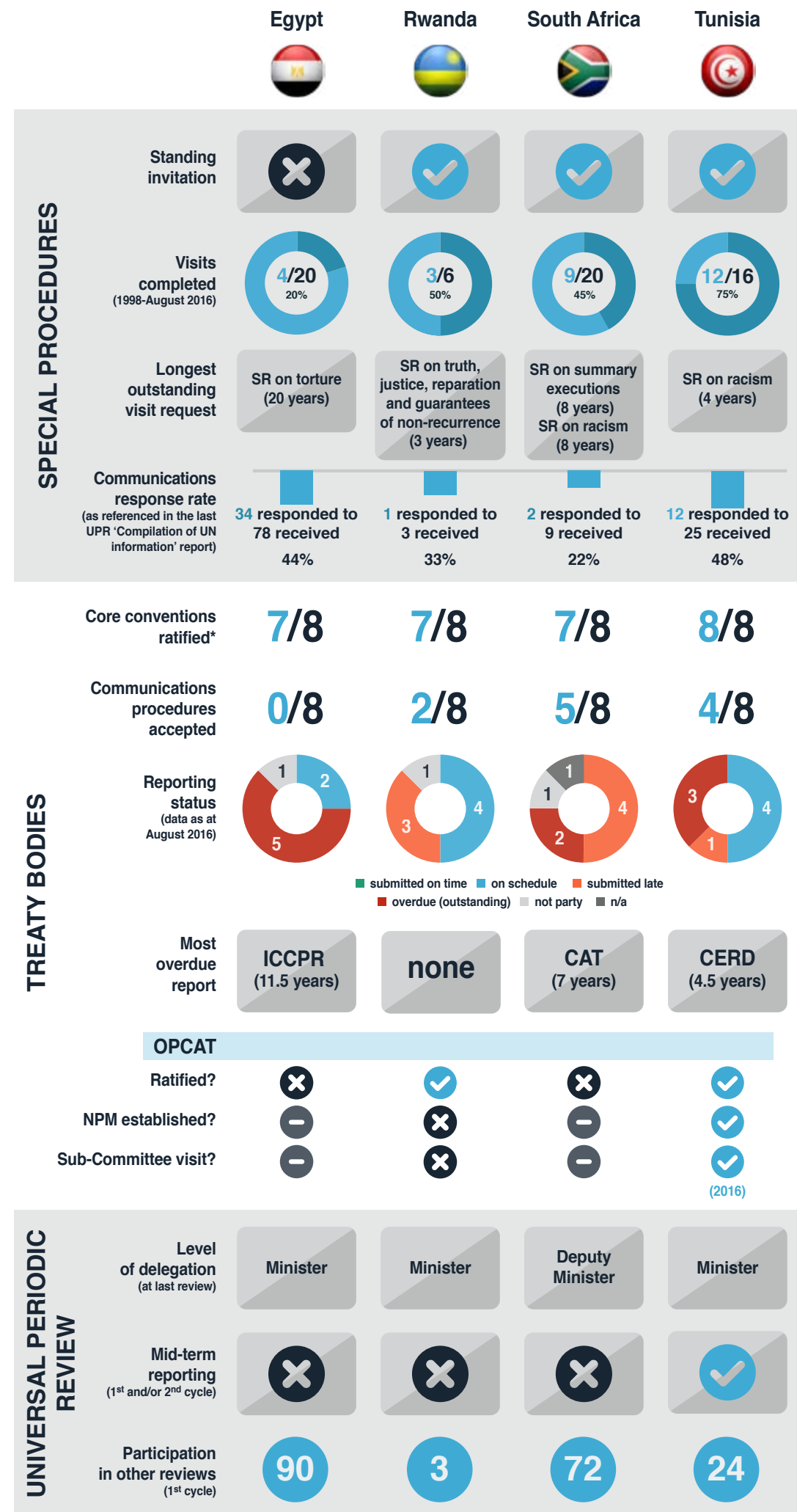
56%

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' (2010-2015)? **

| Egypt | Rwanda | South Africa | Tunisia |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Y | Y | N | N |
| Y | N | | |

 **Cited in the report 2010-2015?**  **Response provided to allegations?**

** The Secretary-General's reports are entitled: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.' In his most recent such report, the Secretary-General notes that it has been 'submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (A/HRC/27/38, para 1).



























Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

* 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 Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED); the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of Candidates

| | | Membership of HRC bureau | Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015) | NHRI accreditation Status | Previous membership terms | OHCHR presence |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Iraq |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Saudi Arabia |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

China tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 5 June 2013. China made a number of concrete pledges and commitments at both international and national levels.

At international level, China pledged to: participate actively in the work of the Council; cooperate with Special Procedures, including by responding in a timely manner to communications and considering requests to visit; and support technical cooperation with OHCHR.

Domestically, China made commitments to: promote employment; improve the national health system; support the elderly, disabled, orphans and the poor; improve institutions for democracy; develop relations between ethnic groups; and expand the coverage of the child welfare system.

An analysis of steps taken by China in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that the country is an increasingly active participant in the Council's work. In 2015-16, China introduced and/or took the lead on new thematic initiatives on issues including: human rights and public health; women's rights and the Beijing Declaration; and sport and human rights. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, China completed only 6 out of 27 visit requests, and has an outstanding request from the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion that dates back 10 years. China did, however, respond to 80% of the 100 communications received.

Japan tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015 on 27 March 2012.

At international level, Japan committed to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations received from Treaty Bodies. In so doing, Japan pledged to enhance its dialogue with civil society. It also committed to ratify the CRPD (which it had already signed) and consider accepting the individual communications procedure. Regarding Council mechanisms, Japan committed to cooperate with Special Procedures and the UPR, and implement recommendations.

Japan also pledged to fully engage and cooperate with the Council, OHCHR, the GA and the Security Council, and to use its bilateral development assistance programmes to promote and protect human rights. Japan specifically committed to provide support to vulnerable groups. Likewise, Japan committed to continue to provide voluntary contributions to OHCHR.

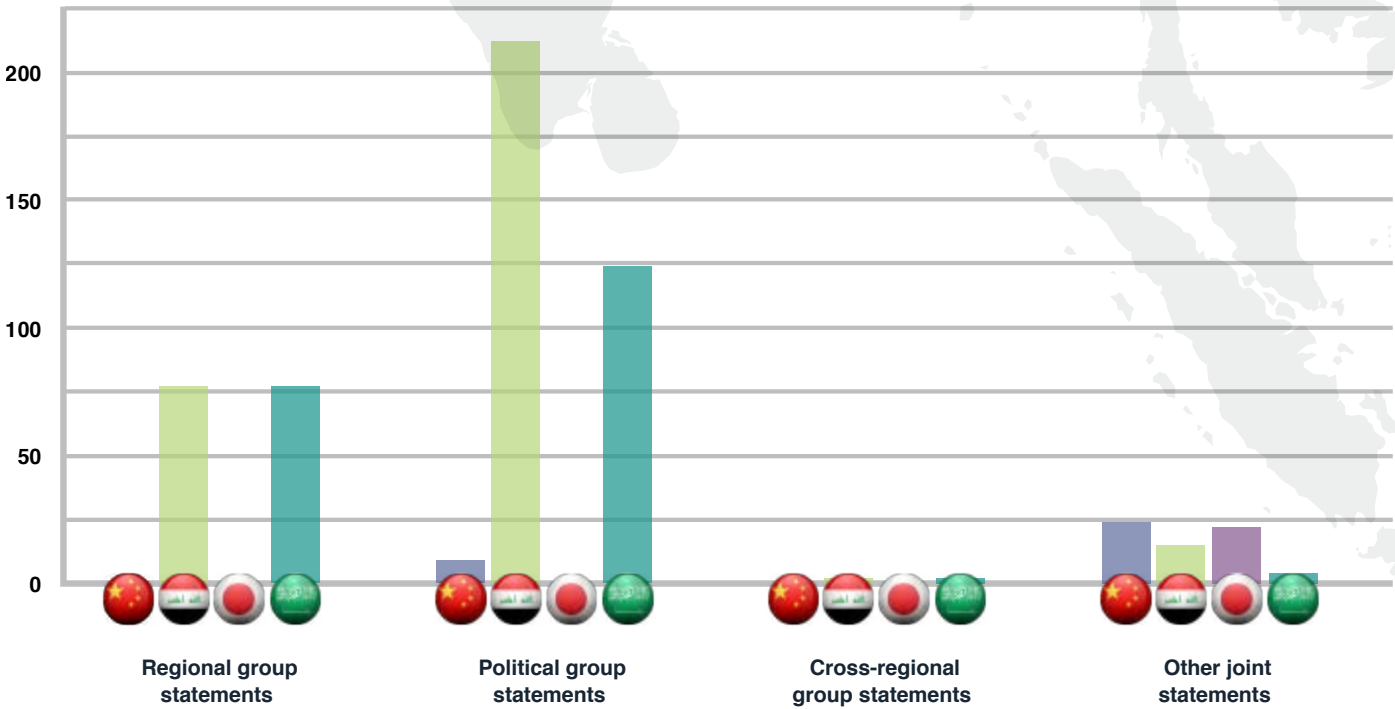
At national level, Japan pledged to continue its work to promote gender equality, including by increasing the representation of women in leadership positions to at least 30% by 2020, and committed to continue legislative reforms aimed at strengthening the rights of children and the rights of indigenous peoples.

An analysis of steps taken by Japan in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that Japan ratified CRPD in 2014, but has not yet accepted the individual communication procedure under the convention. It has continued to make significant contributions to the UN's

regular budget and to OHCHR (US\$2.3 million in 2015). Regarding Japan’s cooperation with Special Procedures, since 2011 Japan has maintained a standing invitation. It continues to respond positively to visit requests and has facilitated 8 out of 15 visits. Furthermore, Japan has responded to all of the 6 communications received.

Iraq has not previously held a seat on the Human Rights Council.

Participation in joint statements during Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during HRC general discussions, panel debates and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the past seven sessions (March 2014- June 2016). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Saudi Arabia tabled a *note verbale* in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 6 October 2013. Saudi Arabia made relatively few concrete pledges and commitments. The majority of the document was dedicated to describing existing practices and contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights.

At international level, Saudi Arabia pledged to: cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms and participate actively in the body’s work; cooperate with the UPR mechanism; and support the OHCHR by contributing \$1million per year over a period of five years (starting 2012).

Domestically, Saudi Arabia committed to enact legislation and establish mechanisms to strengthen the institutional framework for human rights. Saudi Arabia also undertook to cooperate with the OHCHR and specialised agencies to conduct training programmes on human rights, thereby building national capacity.

Regarding cooperation with the Council’s mechanisms, Saudi Arabia has not extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures, and has accepted and facilitated only 2 out of 12 visit requests. Its longest outstanding visit request (from the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and opinion) dates back 12 years. It has replied to 20 out of 45 communications received from Special Procedures. In terms of engagement with UPR, Saudi Arabia has not submitted a mid-term report on implementation, and participated in the reviews of 45 other States. Saudi Arabia has so far lived up to its pledge to donate at least US\$1 million to the OHCHR every year, contributing US\$1million in 2014 and US\$1.9 million in 2015.

Key pledges and commitments for 2016 election

China has presented *aide memoire* in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- ☒ Promote economic, social and cultural rights, including in the areas of education and social security.
- ☒ Strengthen the system of consultative democracy, accelerating community building and enhancing democracy at grass-roots levels.
- ☒ Improve legal guarantee of human rights, accelerate relevant legislation in key areas.
- ☒ Protect the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, women, children, elderly and people with disabilities.
- ☒ Encourage all States to engage in constructive dialogues and cooperation at international level (at the Council and Third Committee), and to attach equal importance to both categories of human rights.
- ☒ Fulfil China’s obligations under international human rights treaties to which it is party, and engage in constructive dialogue with relevant Treaty Bodies on implementation.
- ☒ Engage in constructive dialogue with Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, reply to the letters from the Special Procedures in a serious and timely manner, and facilitate visits by mandate-holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- ☒ Continue to speak up for other developing countries to oppose interference in internal affairs

- under the pretext of human rights.
- Continue its human rights dialogues and consultations, on the basis of equality and mutual respect, with relevant countries and regional organisations
- Pursue technical cooperation on human rights with relevant countries.

Iraq has presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- Continue to present regular periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies.
- Promote the full implementation of the treaties to which Iraq is Party.
- Promote partnerships with civil society.
- Increase the participation of women in national decision-making processes. Repeal laws that discriminate against women.

Japan presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 in July 2016. Key pledges include:

- Implement the obligations contained in the international instruments to which Japan is Party.
- Continue to bring situations of concern (e.g. DPRK, Cambodia) and important thematic issues (e.g. leprosy and human rights) to the Council's attention.
- Continue to offer its full cooperation to OHCHR.
- Continue to cooperate fully with Special Procedures.
- Actively contribute to the activities of the Council, including the UPR. Present a UPR midterm report in 2016.

- Contribute to on-going discussions on improving the methods of work of the Council, to maximise its efficiency and effectiveness.
- Continue to promote human rights at the GA, exercising leadership in areas such as human security, women's empowerment, and disaster risk reduction.
- Continue to hold bilateral dialogues on human rights.
- Help promote human rights overseas through development cooperation, especially focused on the right to health, women's rights, education, disaster risk reduction, and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Saudi Arabia presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2017-2019 on 12 February 2016. Key pledges include:

- Continue to implement its commitments under regional and international human rights instruments to which it is a Party.
- Continue to consider accession to human rights instruments to which it is not yet Party.
- Continue to strengthen Saudi Arabia's domestic legal framework for the protection of human rights by adopting pertinent laws. For example, a new law for juveniles is expected to come into force soon. It will provide the most robust protection for juveniles during arrest, investigation, trial and punishment.
- Review existing domestic laws to ensure compliance with the country's

commitments under international and regional human rights instruments.

- Continue to implement programmes to foster a culture of human rights and provide human rights education.
- Continue to empower women in order to protect and promote their rights under the Islamic sharia and international laws and standards.
- Support civil society, strengthening its role and enabling it to play a vital part in promoting and protecting human rights. Involve civil society in preparing the periodic reports of Saudi Arabia under the international instruments and under the UPR.
- Cooperate with the Council by taking an active role in its work; by respecting its working procedures; by implementing and complying with its resolutions; and by taking action to develop friendly relations among nations, foster tolerance, peaceful coexistence and dialogue, reject racism and all forms of extremism, and strengthen cultural diversity.
- Cooperate with the UPR mechanism and continue to implement the recommendations made in the context of the first two cycles.
- Cooperate with the Council's Special Procedures by responding to communications, facilitating country visits, and following up with mandate-holders.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **China** has (in the absence of consensus) voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). China has also voted against country-specific resolutions under item 2 (i.e. the situation in Sri Lanka), although in 2015 it did join consensus on an OIC resolution on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), China consistently votes in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), China has joined consensus on all resolutions except four that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (with China three voting against), and on the situation in DRC (with China voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, China has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, China has usually voted in favour. The exceptions to this rule are China's votes on a 2016 resolution on sexual orientation; a 2016 resolution on civil society space; a 2014 resolution on the question of the death penalty; and a 2014 resolution on peaceful protests, (all of which China voted against). China has abstained during votes on resolutions dealing with issues including: human rights, democracy and rule of law (2012, 2015); sexual orientation (2011, 2014); torture (2009); religious discrimination and its impact on economic, social and cultural rights (2009); countering violent extremism (2015); and religious intolerance (2007).

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, China has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: access to medicines; capacity building in public health; enhancement of international cooperation; promoting human rights through sport; protection of the family.

Iraq has not previously held a seat on the Human Rights Council.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Japan** has (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). Japan abstained on two item 2 country-specific resolutions (2013, 2014) on the situation in Sri Lanka (though in 2015 it joined consensus). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Japan tends to either abstain or vote in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Japan has joined consensus on all resolutions except for three that were voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in DRC (Japan abstained), and on cooperation to Ukraine (Japan twice voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Japan has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Japan has voted in favour of resolutions on torture, sexual orientation, education as a tool to prevent racism, arms transfers, peaceful protests, and democracy and rule of law. Japan has voted against resolutions on, *inter alia*: defamation of religion; a global call for concrete action against racism; right to peace; complementary standards to CERD; drones; question of the death penalty; and the effects of terrorism on human rights.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Japan has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour of NAM resolutions on the right to development (though it twice abstained). It has voted against texts on: effects of economic reform policies; effects of foreign debt; globalisation and its impact on human rights; international solidarity; non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin; and unilateral coercive measures.

Principal sponsor: technical assistance for Cambodia; situation in DPRK; civil society space; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; enforced disappearances; human rights through sport.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Saudi Arabia** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions on the situations in North Korea (2008, 2009, 2010), Iran (2016) and Syria (regularly). It has voted against resolutions on the situation in Sudan. Saudi Arabia has abstained during votes on the situations in Belarus, Iran (e.g. 2015) and North Korea (e.g. 2015). Saudi Arabia voted against country-specific item 2 resolutions on Sri Lanka, but joined consensus on an item 2 resolution on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Saudi Arabia has always voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Saudi Arabia has joined consensus on all texts except for four that were voted on during its time as member: on cooperation with Ukraine (Saudi Arabia voted against once and abstained twice), and on the situation in DRC (Saudi Arabia voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Saudi Arabia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Saudi Arabia has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Saudi Arabia has voted against three resolutions on sexual orientation, and two on the question of the death penalty. It has abstained during voting on: torture (2009); peaceful protests (2014); integrity of the judicial system (2014); human rights, democracy and rule of law (2015); and civil society space (2016).

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Saudi Arabia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: situation in Syria; protection of the family; effects of terrorism.

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' (2010-2015)? **



Y

Saudi Arabia



Y

Y

Cited in the report 2010-2015?

Response provided to allegations?

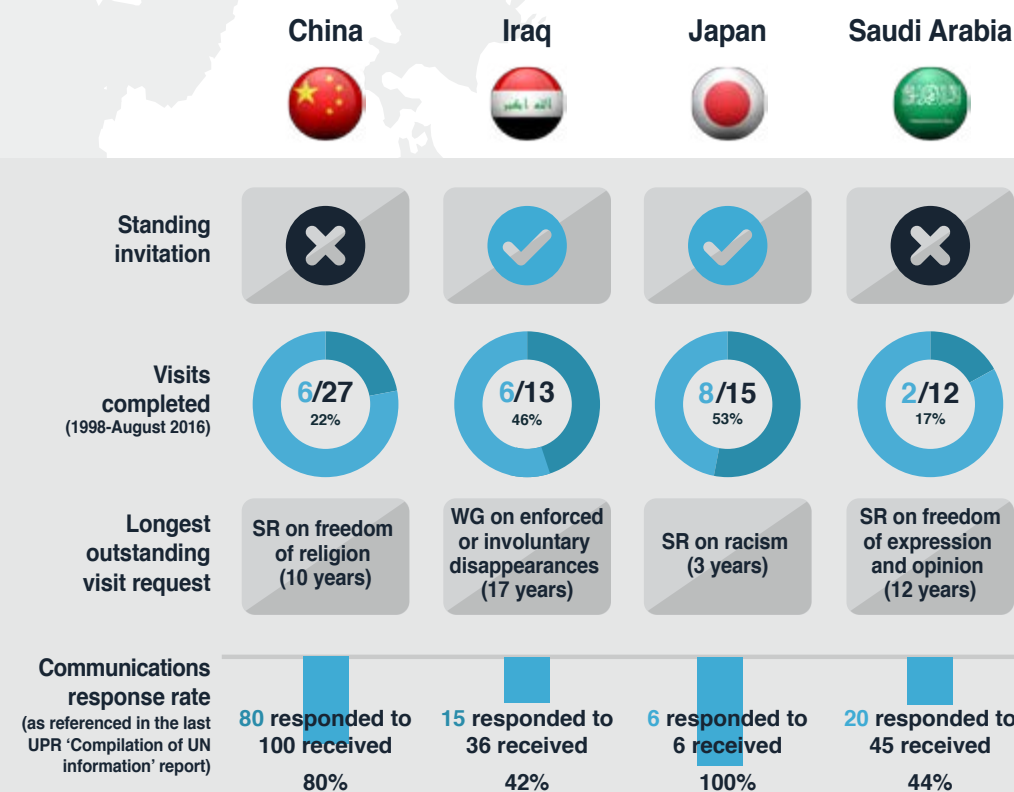
Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

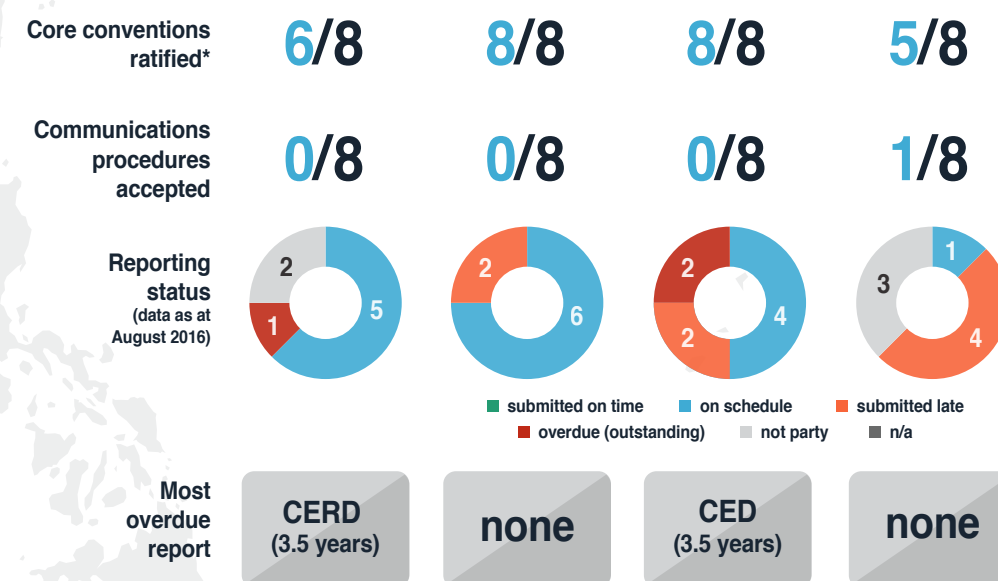
* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhumane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

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

SPECIAL PROCEDURES



TREATY BODIES



OPCAT



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW



Inclusivity / Access

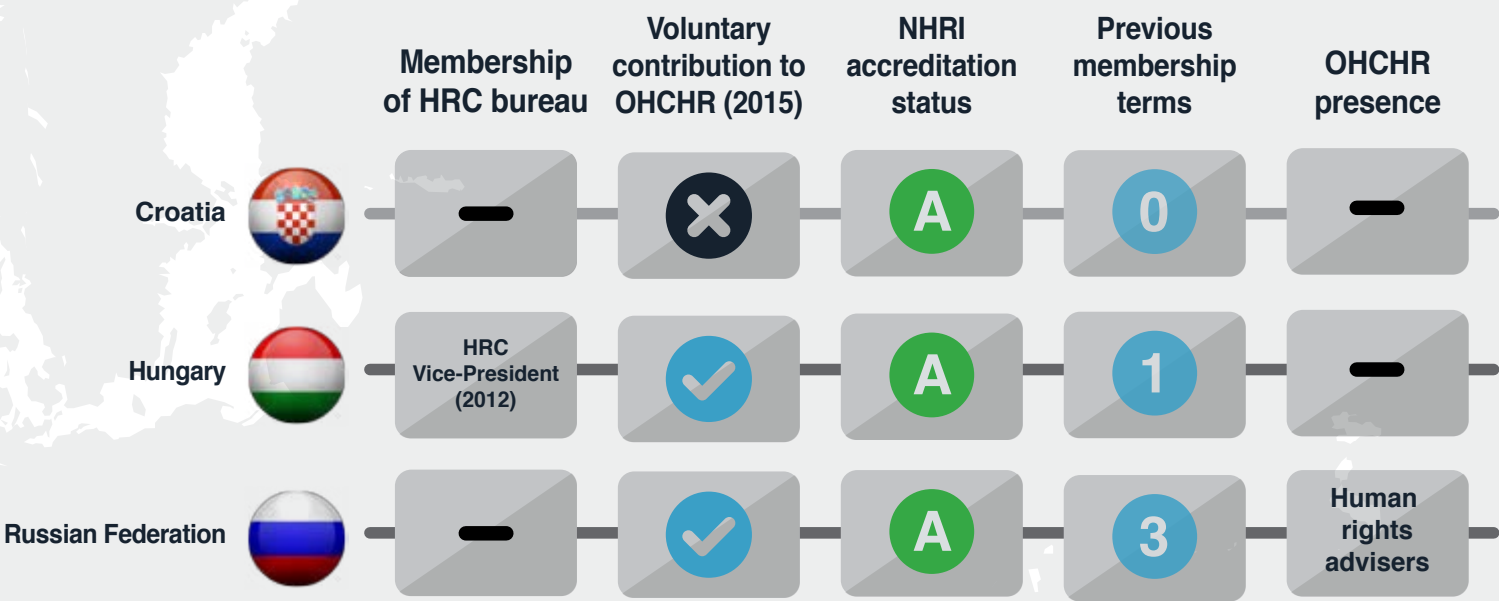
Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

41%

** The Secretary-General's reports are entitled: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.' In his most recent such report, the Secretary-General notes that it has been 'submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (A/HRC/27/38, para 1).

Eastern European Group (EEG)

Overview of Candidates



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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Croatia has not previously held a seat on the Human Rights Council.

Hungary tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2009-2012 on 12 May 2009.

The pledges included commitments to: sign and ratify the OP-CAT; further engage domestic and international NGOs in the law-making process; and to promote the cause of the prevention of genocide.

Hungary signed and ratified OP-CAT in 2012.

The Russian Federation tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 15 July 2013. The Russian Federation made a number of concrete pledges and commitments.

International level pledges included: to cooperate constructively with the human rights Treaty Bodies; to cooperate with thematic Special Procedures; to support OHCHR, including financially; to actively participate in the UPR mechanism, in particular through the implementation of accepted recommendations; to give priority to the fight against racism; and to contribute to the prevention of human trafficking.

An analysis of steps taken by the Russian Federation in

fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that the Russian Federation has responded to 48 out of 55 Special Procedures communications, but completed just 10 out of 25 visit requests. Of the outstanding visit requests, one (from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions) dates back 16 years. the Russian Federation has ratified most (seven) core international human rights conventions. The Russian Federation makes important voluntary contributions to OHCHR, including US\$ 2 million in 2015.

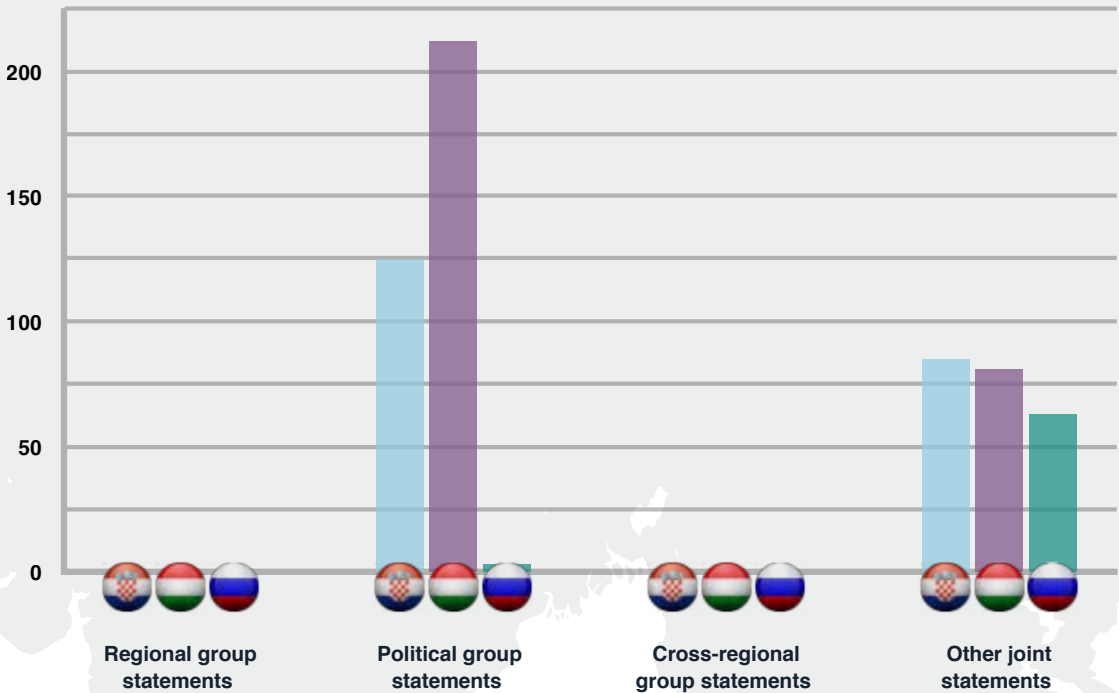
Key pledges and commitments for 2016 election

Croatia has presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- Implement UN obligations and commitments, and harmonise national laws with international standards.

- Maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures and closely cooperate with thematic mandates.
- Implement UPR and Special Procedures recommendations.
- Engage domestic NGOs and the NHRI in the UPR process, including in the implementation of recommendations.
- Ratify OP-CRC (communications procedure) and CED.
- Fulfil reporting obligations under the human rights treaties, and implement recommendations.
- Cooperate with other UN members of the implementation of Council resolution 16/18 and its resolutions on freedom of religion.
- Share domestic experience with addressing hate crime. Support UN work on women's rights and violence against women. Engage in the implementation of the Security Council's women, peace and security agenda.
- Continue to table resolutions on conscientious

Participation in joint statements during Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during HRC general discussions, panel debates and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the past seven sessions (March 2014- June 2016). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

- objection to military service.
- Advocate in favour of civil society space both domestically and at the UN.
- Strengthen prevention at the Council by supporting the development of an early warning mechanism, reducing selectivity, and ensuring a more timely and effective response.
- Help strengthen the Council's delivery of capacity-building and technical support.
- Continue close cooperation with OHCHR.

Hungary has presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- Apply and promote a rights-based approach to the implementation of the SDGs.
- Support domestic and international NGOs.
- Contribute to international initiatives to combat sexual violence in conflict.
- Adopt and implement a national action plan on business and human rights.
- Promote minority issues at the Council, as well as issues around the independence of judges and lawyers, and human rights defenders.
- Cooperate with the mechanisms of the Council.
- Maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures.

The **Russian Federation** has presented an *aide memoire* in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- Pursue a fair, mutually respectful and equal dialogue on human rights. Promote inter-State cooperation on human rights at the Council.
- At domestic level: pursue the realisation of social guarantees in the Constitution; ensure the broad participation of citizens, political parties and other social institutions in the formation of

state policy; improve the legal system and promote the integrity of the court system in order to combat corruption and ensure the rule of law; further expand economic and entrepreneurial freedom; and support national traditions and cultures of the peoples of Russia.

- At the international level: seek worldwide respect for human rights through constructive international dialogue, the rejection of double standards, and respect for the national and historical peculiarities of each State; promote States' compliance with their international human rights obligations; strongly oppose manifestations of racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, and other radical ideologies; enhance cooperation with NGOs while reminding everyone about the responsibility of individuals for their actions (e.g. in the context of insulting religious feelings, fostering mutual understanding and respect); bring Russian laws into line with the international instruments.
- Continue to provide financial and other necessary support to OHCHR to hold events dedicated to the anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants.
- Support changes designed to make the Council and efficient and effective body for promoting and protecting human rights throughout the world.
- Continue to cooperation with and support OHCHR, including by making important financial contributions to its budget.
- Continue to cooperation with the Special Procedures, including by receiving visits and by responding to communications.
- Follow-up on the recommendations from the second cycle of the UPR.
- Submit periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies in a timely manner. In 2016, submit reports under the CERD, CESCR and CAT.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Croatia has not previously held a seat on the Human Rights Council.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2009, **Hungary** has voted in favour of, or has joined consensus, on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Hungary often abstains. Where it does take a position, Hungary usually votes in favour, though it voted against two item 7 resolutions in 2010.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Hungary has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: sexual orientation; and human rights, democracy and rule of law. It has voted against a resolution on the right to peace, and a resolution on defamation of religions.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Hungary has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has voted against are: the effects of foreign debt; international solidarity; and unilateral coercive measures. It has consistently voted in favour of resolutions on the right to development. Hungary has abstained on resolutions on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin.

Principal sponsor: cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms (reprisals); independence and impartiality of the judiciary; the role of prevention.




Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **Russian Federation** has (in the absence of consensus) voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as country-specific resolutions under item 2. Where there have been votes on item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Russian Federation has always voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Russia has joined consensus on all texts except for four that were voted on during its time as member: on cooperation with Ukraine (the Russian Federation voted against three times), and on the situation in DRC (the Russian Federation voted in favour).



For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Russian Federation has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: the regulation of firearms; drones; the effects of terrorism; right to peace; human rights, democracy and rule of law; defamation of religion; torture; complementary standards to CERD; and preparations for the Durban Review Conference. It has voted against resolutions on: civil society space; countering violent extremism; peaceful protests; and sexual orientation. The Russian Federation has abstained on resolutions on the question of the death penalty.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, the Russian Federation has either joined consensus or has voted in favour of all resolutions.

Principal sponsor: arbitrary deprivation of nationality; human rights and business; effects of foreign debt; enhancement of international cooperation; integrity of the judicial system; protection of the family; protection of Roma; protecting human rights through sport; traditional values.

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' (2010-2015)? **

| Croatia | Hungary | Russian Federation |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| N | N | Y |
| | | Y |

 Cited in the report 2010-2015?
 Response provided to allegations?

Inclusivity / Access

Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

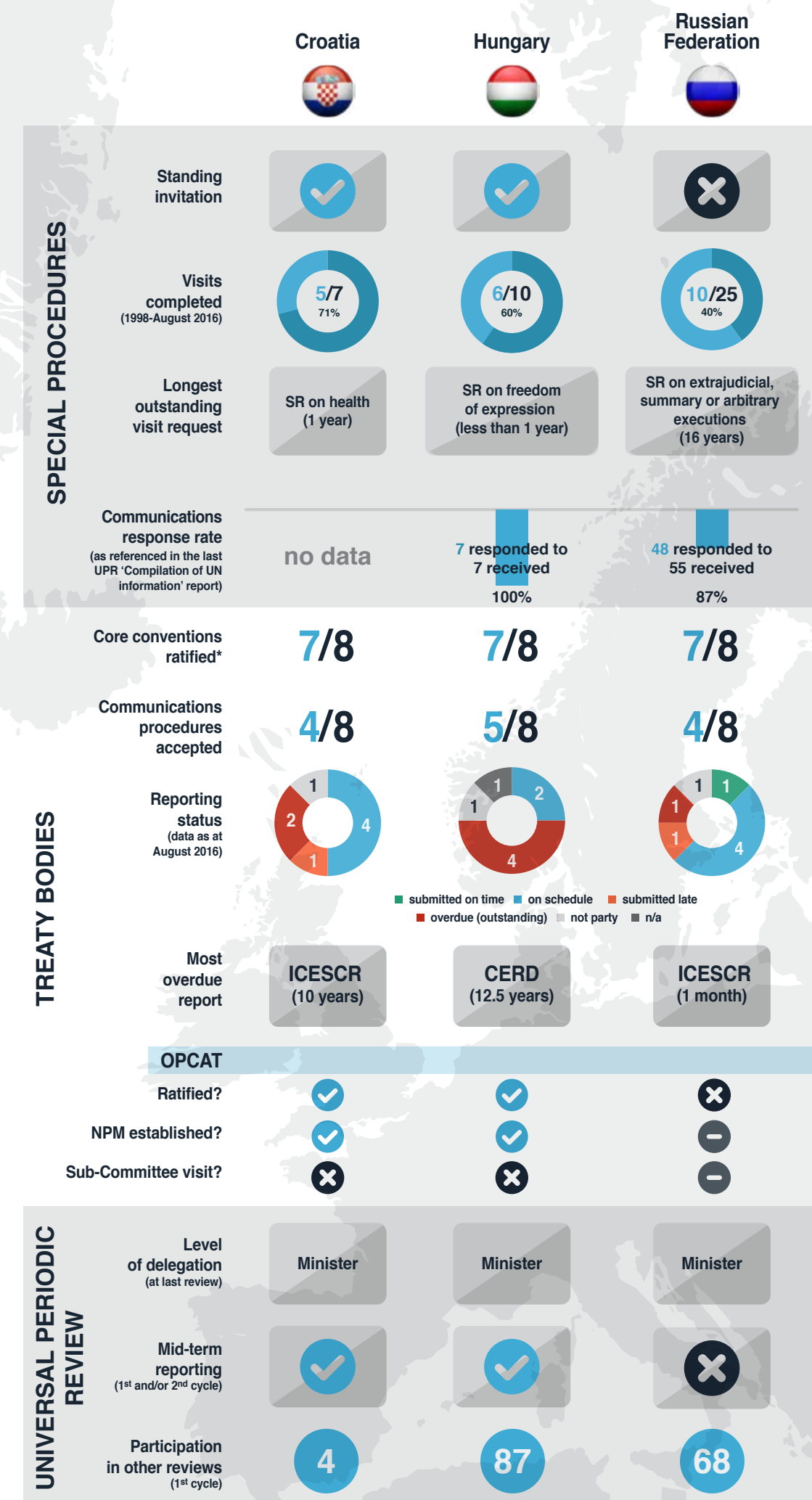
74%

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

* 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 Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED); the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).




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

** The Secretary-General's reports are entitled: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.' In his most recent such report, the Secretary-General notes that it has been 'submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (A/HRC/27/38, para 1).



Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of Candidates

| | | Membership of HRC bureau | Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015) | NHRI accreditation status | Previous membership terms | OHCHR presence |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Brazil |  | — | ✗ | — | 3 | — |
| Cuba |  | Vice-President (2010-2011) | ✗ | — | 3 | — |
| Guatemala |  | — | ✗ | A | 2 | Country office |

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Brazil tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015 in October 2012.

Internationally, Brazil pledged to: support capacity-building activities in countries evaluated under the UPR; actively participate in the UPR reviews of all countries; implement recommendations received under Brazil’s own UPR; establish a system for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations in partnership with the regional office of OHCHR and local civil society; continue to cooperate fully with the Special Procedures mechanism; submit all scheduled periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations; move towards the completion of negotiations on a new instrument on the rights of older persons; support OHCHR and provide resources; strengthen technical assistance and capacity-building under the scope of item 10; continue to move towards the ratification of the CRMW; and continue to fully engage and cooperate with the regional human rights system.

Domestically, Brazil committed to: bring national laws fully into line with the country’s international obligations; elaborate a national system of human rights indicators by 2015; continue to take steps to strengthen children’s rights; and implement the National Plan of Action on the improvement of the penitentiary system.

An analysis of steps taken by Brazil in fulfilment of international level pledges shows that it did indeed play a leadership role in the creation of a new Special Procedures mandate on the human rights of older persons (through resolution 24/20, of September 2013). In terms of cooperation with the UPR, Brazil has actively participated in the UPR reviews of a large number of other States (167 in the first cycle). Regarding its own review, Brazil has participated at a high political level, though it did not submit a mid-term report (first cycle). Brazil is yet to ratify CRMW. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Brazil maintains a standing invitation and has facilitated 20 out of 29 visit requests. It has, however, responded to only 8 out of 35 communications received.

Cuba tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 in September 2013. Cuba made a number of concrete pledges and commitments.

At international level, Cuba pledged to cooperate with all procedures established by the Council and with OHCHR, in particular by responding to requests for information in a timely manner.

Domestically, Cuba committed to fight against racism, combat poverty and strengthen the democratic nature of its institutions. Cuba also committed to promote the rights of women, children, young people, those with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, and minorities.

An analysis of steps taken by Cuba in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it participated in the UPR reviews of a large number of other States (125 in the first cycle). Regarding its own review, while Cuba

participated at a high political level (represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in its second cycle review), it has not submitted a mid-term report. Concerning cooperation with Special Procedures, Cuba concluded 4 visits out of 18 requests and responded to all of the 13 communications received. Cuba does not, however, maintain a standing invitation. Its longest outstanding Special Procedures visit request (from the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion) dates back 10 years.

Guatemala tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2010-2013 in March 2010.

At international level, Guatemala pledged to: participate in all Council deliberations and cooperate with its mechanisms; cooperate in the establishment of a follow-up mechanism for UPR recommendations; support the work and effectiveness of the Council; and maintain an open-door policy of cooperation with international human rights monitoring mechanisms.

Nationally, Guatemala undertook to: advance legislative reforms to incorporate international human rights standards into domestic law; promote the implementation and realisation of international instruments and other human rights initiatives; strengthen the participation of

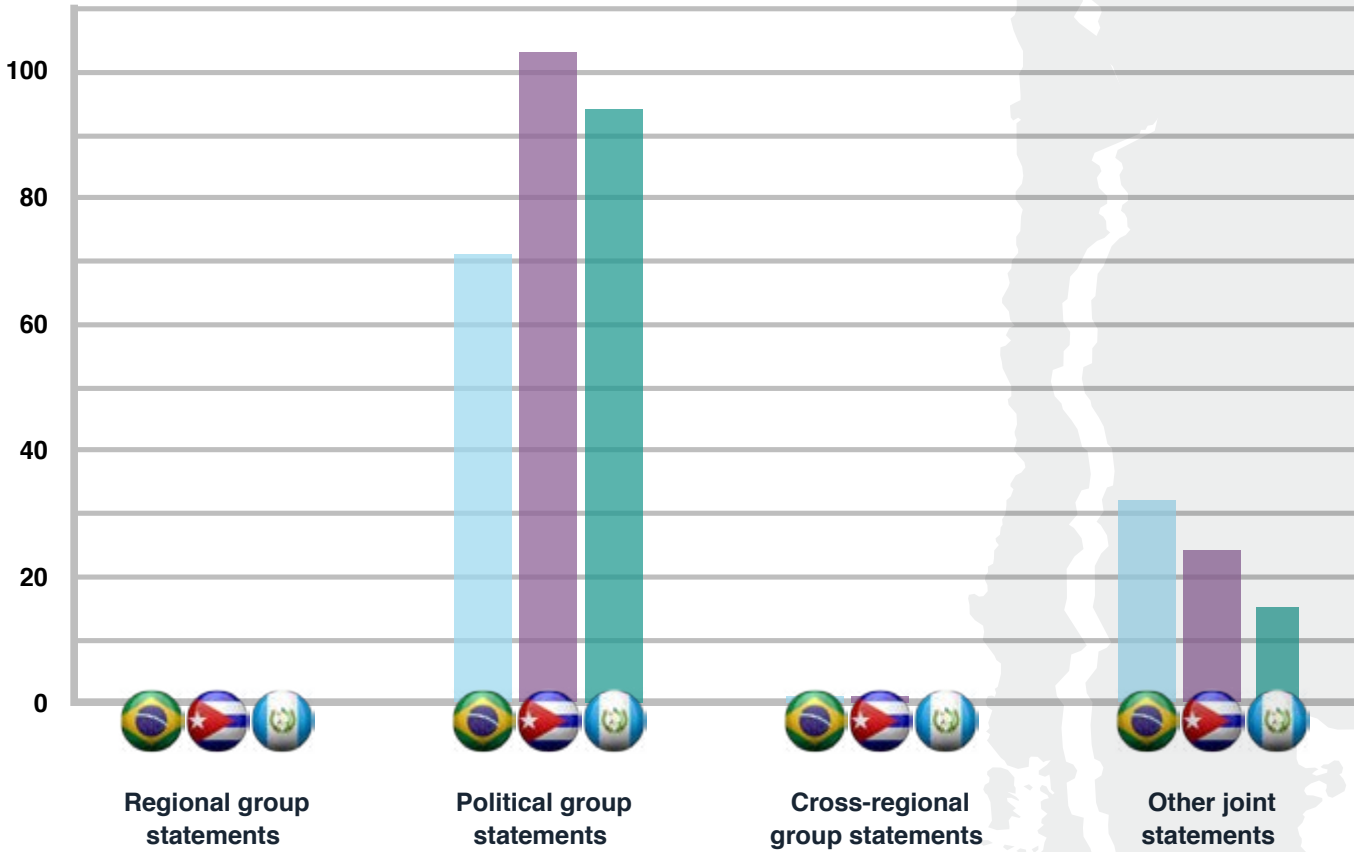
civil society; and follow-up on recommendations issued by the UN monitoring mechanisms.

An analysis of steps taken by Guatemala in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has maintained a strong level of cooperation with Special Procedures. It has a standing invitation, and has facilitated 19 out of 27 visit requests. It responded to around half of the 62 communications received. Regarding UPR, Guatemala has not, so far, presented a mid-term UPR report, and participated in the UPR reviews of just 22 other States. Guatemala has ratified most (seven) of the international human rights conventions.

and identify solutions. Place dialogue, cooperation and engagement as keystones of the Council's work.

- ☑️ Contribute to debate on further strengthening of the UPR ahead of the third cycle. Promote cooperation and the exchange of national experience in implementing UPR recommendations.
- ☑️ Maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures, and facilitate country visits.
- ☑️ Strengthen the Council's capacity to prevent violations through dialogue and cooperation (as per resolution 60/251). Engage States and NGOs in a debate on how to build an effective prevention strategy.
- ☑️ Support improvements to the Council's delivery of capacity-building and technical support, especially to facilitate the implementation of recommendations.
- ☑️ Continue to support OHCHR, including so that it can strengthen its technical assistance programmes.
- ☑️ Promote a rights-based approach to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ☑️ Remain engaged in debates on freedom of expression on the Internet, and continue to support the body's work on privacy.
- ☑️ Continue to work on the completion of a new legal instrument on the rights of older persons.

Participation in joint statements during Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during HRC general discussions, panel debates and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the past seven sessions (March 2014- June 2016). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

Key pledges and commitments for 2016 election

Brazil has presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- ☑️ Actively participate in the work of the Council and cooperate with its mechanisms.
- ☑️ Participate in institutional debates on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council, and on possible future reforms.
- ☑️ Work through the Council to help States bridge the 'implementation gap' and build national capacity for change. In so doing, uphold the Council's credibility and legitimacy, and demonstrate impact.
- ☑️ Work to implement Brazil's own recommendations accepted under the UPR.
- ☑️ Work cross-regionally to reduce politicization

Cuba presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2016-2018 in September 2015. Key pledges include:

- ☑️ Continue to submit and defend its periodic

- reports before the UN Treaty Bodies.
- Continue to work to comply with its international human rights obligations.
- Continue to cooperate with all thematic Special Procedures established by the Council.
- Promote cooperation and constructive dialogue at the Council.
- Continue to promote thematic initiatives including: right to food; promotion of cultural rights; and the promotion of peace.
- Continue to work on the progressive development of third generation rights, in particular with regard to international solidarity.

Guatemala presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 in March 2016. Helpfully, the document includes a review of the fulfilment of past pledges (from the country's previous candidature in May 2010). New pledges include:

- Participate actively and constructively in the work of the Council.
- Work to ensure that all States are treated equitably, irrespective of their size.
- Support and strengthen the Special Procedures system.
- Maintain its open door policy of cooperation with Special Procedures, taking into account requests, recommendations and urgent appeals.
- Continue to develop, and share experiences about, Guatemala's national system to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms.
- Continue to encourage State implementation and compliance with recommendations, and the national monitoring of progress.
- Continue to cooperate with OHCHR, including with the OHCHR office in Guatemala.

- Continue to submit periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies, and engage with them in a constructive manner.
- Address human rights situations in an objective and non-selective manner.
- Continue to table and support resolutions on important issues of concern, including unaccompanied children and human rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Strengthen domestic dialogue and cooperation with civil society.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Brazil** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are: a 2009 resolution on North Korea (when Brazil abstained); a 2015 resolution on the situation on Iran (abstained); and a 2015 resolution on the situation in Syria (abstained). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Brazil consistently votes in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Brazil has joined consensus on all resolutions except for three that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (with Brazil twice abstaining), and on the situation in the DRC (with Brazil voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Brazil has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Brazil has nearly always voted in favour. The exception to this rule is Brazil's abstention during votes (2007-2010) on annual resolutions on defamation of religion. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Brazil has either joined consensus on,

or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: technical assistance to Yemen; access to medicine; capacity building in the area of public health; alternative care for children; discrimination against persons with leprosy; education as a tool to prevent racism; effects of foreign debt; human rights and HIV/AIDS; human rights and the Internet; human rights of older persons; human rights and sport; negative impact of corruption on human rights; right to health; right to privacy in the digital age; right to play; safety of journalists; sexual orientation; technical assistance and capacity-building; trafficking in persons; human rights voluntary goals.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Cuba** has voted (in the absence of consensus) against every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. Notwithstanding, in June 2015, Cuba joined consensus on item 2 resolutions on the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar and on human rights in Sri Lanka. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Cuba has consistently voted in favour of all texts. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Cuba has joined consensus on all resolutions except for four that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Cuba voted against on three occasions), and on the situation in the DRC (Cuba voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Cuba has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Cuba has nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions are: a 2016 resolution on civil society space (Cuba voted against); two resolutions (2014,

2015) on peaceful protests (Cuba voted against); a 2009 resolution on religious discrimination (abstained); two (2012 and 2015) resolutions on human rights, democracy and rule of law (abstained); and a 2014 resolution on the question of the death penalty (abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Cuba has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: composition of staff of OHCHR; cultural rights and respect for cultural diversity; democratic and equitable international order; foreign debt; human rights of peasants; integrity of the judicial system; international solidarity; private military and security companies; right to food; right to peace; Social Forum; use of mercenaries.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Guatemala** has either voted in favour of, or has joined consensus, on the majority of resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are a 2008 vote on the situation in North Korea (abstained), and 2011 and 2012 votes on the situation in Belarus (also abstained). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Guatemala often abstains during votes, or (somewhat less often), votes in favour. It has never voted against an item 7 text. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Guatemala has joined consensus on all resolutions.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Guatemala has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has normally voted in favour. Exceptions include its vote on a 2007 resolution on 'def-

amation of religion’ (Guatemala voted against), a 2008 resolution on the same subject (Guatemala abstained), and a 2013 decision on ‘a high-level panel on the question of the death penalty’ (Guatemala abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Guatemala has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.




Principal sponsor: human rights and indigenous peoples; world drug problem.

Inclusivity / Access

Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

48%

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’ (2010-2015)? **

| Brazil | Cuba | Guatemala |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| N | Y | N |
| | Y | |

Cited in the report 2010-2015?

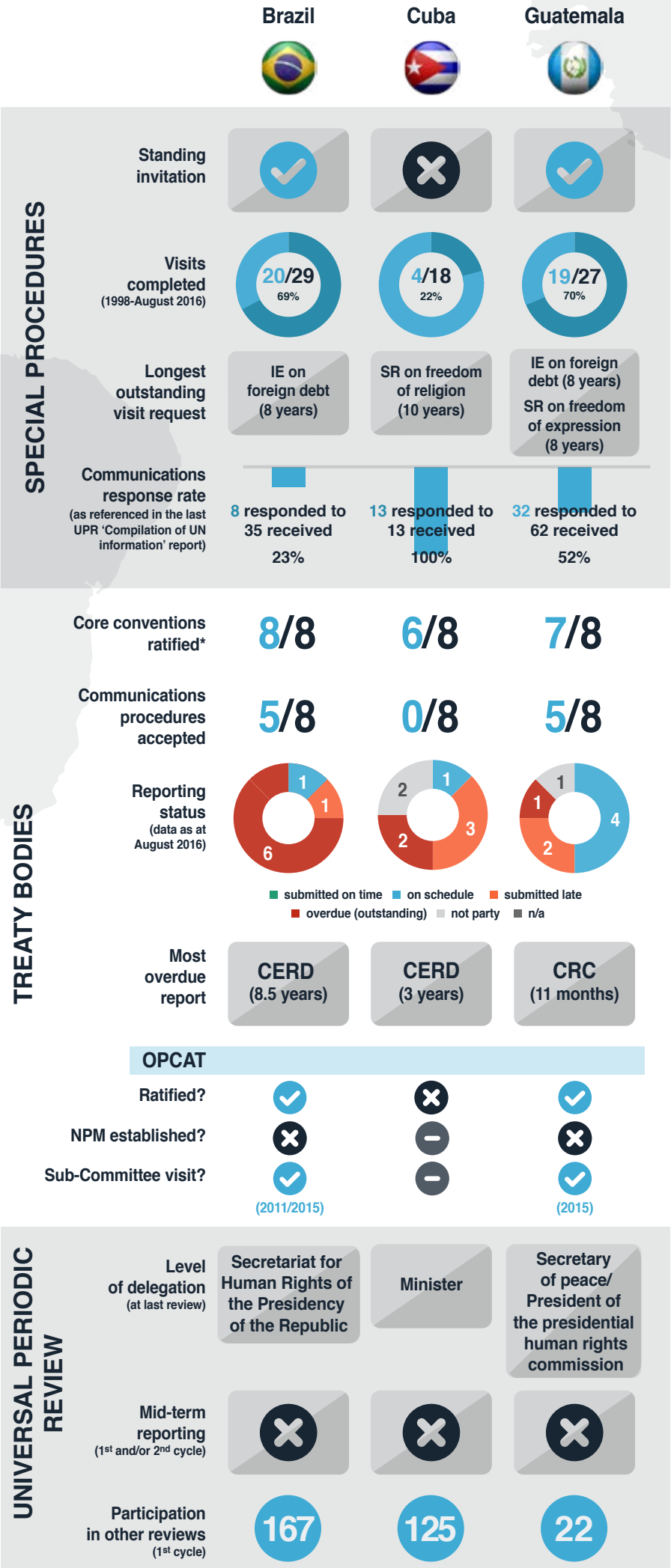
Response provided to allegations?

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

* 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 Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED); the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).













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

** The Secretary-General’s reports are entitled: ‘Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.’ In his most recent such report, the Secretary-General notes that it has been ‘submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (A/HRC/27/38, para 1).



Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of Candidates

| | | Membership of HRC bureau | Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015) | NHRI accreditation status | Previous membership terms | OHCHR presence |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United States of America |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

The **United Kingdom** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 in October 2013.

At national level, the UK pledged to: protect and promote children and women’s rights through various policy initiatives, and tackle discrimination against minorities.

Internationally, the UK made commitments to: encourage countries to uphold their international obligations with respect to freedom of expression; promote greater religious tolerance; promote the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights; tackle impunity and support the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict; stop modern day slavery; cooperate with Special Procedures and improve its response rate to communications; engage fully and effectively with the UPR; and promote the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the UN.

An analysis of steps taken by the UK in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it maintains a high-level of cooperation with Special Procedures, having completed 14 visits out of 17 visit requests, and having responded to 10 out of 15 communications. Regarding UPR, the UK’s own report was presented by a high-level delegation, and it submitted a detailed mid-term report on implementation. The UK also actively participates in the UPR reviews of other States (187 during the first cycle).

The **United States** tabled human rights commitments and pledges in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015 in July 2012.

Internationally, the US pledged to: support UN efforts to deal with violations of human rights and reaffirm that ‘expressions of concern about the human rights situation in any country, our own included, are appropriate matters for international discussion;’ take further steps to promote the credibility and effectiveness of the Council; support and cooperate with Special Procedures; promote the effective involvement of NGOs; continue to provide financial support to OHCHR; continue to support States in the implementation of their human rights obligations; strengthen international mechanisms to uphold women’s rights; support the rights of LGBT persons; advance measures to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities; continue to support initiatives against racial discrimination; uphold its legal obligations to prevent torture; promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol to prevent trafficking in persons; promote freedom of religion and the implementation of Council resolution 16/18; promote economic, social and cultural rights through support for assistance programmes; promote the global human rights and business initiative; support the work of the Inter-American Commission; champion freedom of expression worldwide; consider ratification of CEDAW and CRPD; meet its human rights treaty obligations; participate in meaningful dialogue with Treaty Bodies; and cooperate with the Council’s mechanisms.

Domestically, the US committed to: enforce national laws on racism; continue its work to combat hate crimes;

enforce domestic legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities; strengthen the enjoyment of the rights of indigenous people; and protect the welfare and rights of LGBT persons.

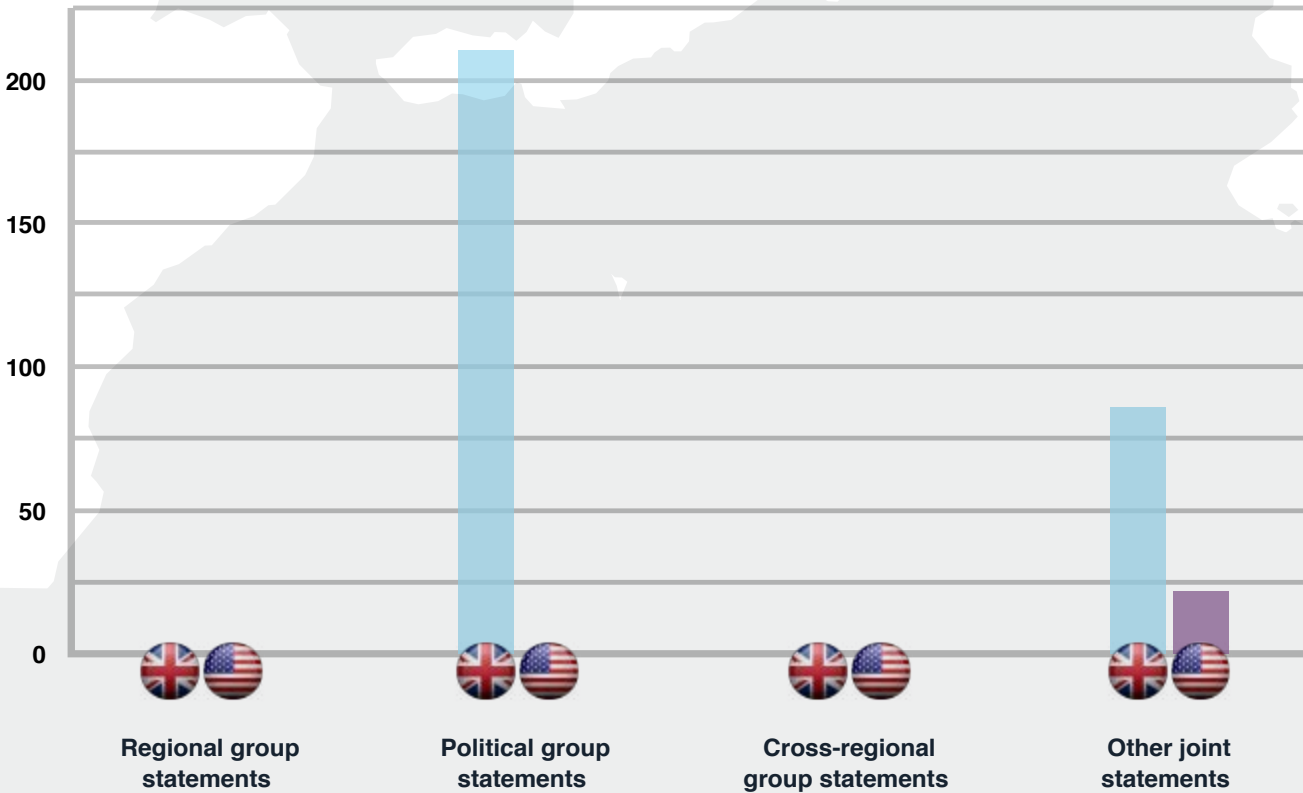
An analysis of steps taken by the US in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that the US has indeed continued to raise its voice about human rights violations around the world. Alongside EU States, it is one of the few countries that regularly tables item 4 resolutions at the Council. Regarding Special Procedures cooperation, it has facilitated 22 out of 33 visit requests. It has also responded to around 60% of the 95 communications received. The US continues

to make significant voluntary contributions to OHCHR (US\$ 16 million in 2015). The US has still not ratified CEDAW or CRPD. For those instruments to which the US is Party, it has fulfilled its pledge to comply with its reporting obligations.

Key pledges and commitments for 2016 election

The United Kingdom presented voluntary pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 in December 2015. Key pledges include:

Participation in joint statements during Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during HRC general discussions, panel debates and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the past seven sessions (March 2014- June 2016). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see endnote.

- Encourage fast international responses to severe human rights violations, including in support of conflict prevention.
- Support the successful mainstreaming of human rights across the UN system.
- Help States in transition to encourage domestic reform and provide relevant international support. Encourage full use of the Council's mechanisms.
- Support the independence and work of OHCHR.
- Promote cooperation across regional groups.
- Encourage dialogue and engagement with parliaments and civil society.
- Promote the implementation of international commitments and obligations.
- Maintain a standing invitation for Special Procedures and facilitate visits.
- Remain committed to the UPR.
- Translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action that leaves no one behind.
- Defend freedom of religion or belief, support persecuted minorities, and counter violent extremism (CVE).
- Work to end violence against women and girls, and promote women's full participation in political and economic life.
- Promote open societies and challenge threats to civil society.

The United States has presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019. Key pledges include:

- 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 to 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 ethnical discrimination, domestically and internationally.
- Promote the active involvement of NGOs in the work of the Council.
- Work in a spirit of consultation to address situations of concern.
- Continue to support OHCHR, including financially.
- Support implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action on CVE.
- 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 support the achievement of the 2030 SDGs.
- ✔ Continue to play a leadership role in promoting business and human rights.
- ✔ Continue to champion freedom of expression and the protection of journalists.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **United Kingdom** has either voted in favour of, or has joined consensus, on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council’s attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the UK tends to either vote in favour or abstain. It has voted against only three item 7 resolutions, including the follow-up to the report of the UN fact-finding mission on the Gaza conflict. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the UK has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the four that were voted on during its time as member: three of which dealt with cooperation with Ukraine (with the UK voting in favour), and one that focused on the Democratic Republic of Congo (the UK abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the UK has mainly either voted in favour or joined consensus. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include: defamation of religions; right to peace; some texts on racism; complementary standards to ICERD; the effects of terrorism on human rights; impact of arms transfers; and drones.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, the UK has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it tends to vote against include: protection of the family; the effects of foreign debt; international solidarity; unilateral coercive measures; and the effects of globalisation on the enjoyment of human rights. The UK voted against the most recent resolution on the right to development (2015). Previously it had voted in favour of two (2010, 2011) and had abstained on two others (2009, 2014).

Principal sponsor: situation in South Sudan; situation in Sri Lanka; situation in Syria; assistance to Somalia; early, child and forced marriage; corruption and human rights; contemporary forms of slavery.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2009, the **United States** has either voted in favour of, or has joined consensus, on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council’s attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the US has voted against every resolution. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the US has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the two that were voted on during its time as member: both of which dealt with cooperation with Ukraine (with the US voting in favour).

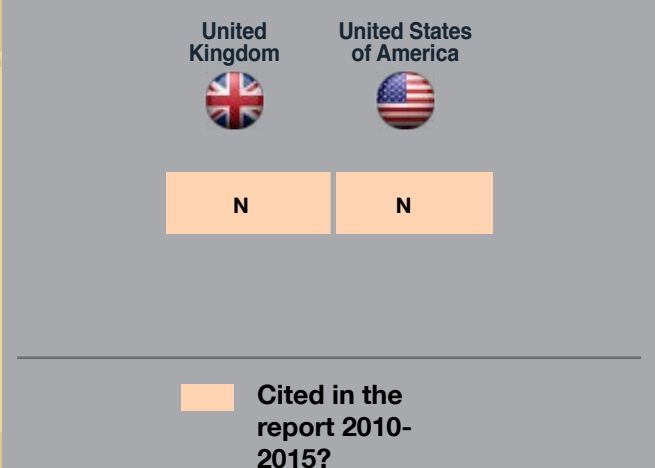
For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the US has mainly either voted in favour or joined consensus. Resolutions that it

usually (or always) votes against include: the question of the death penalty; defamation of religions; the right to peace; some resolutions on racism; integrity of the judicial system; the effects of terrorism on human rights; and drones.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, the US has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it tends to vote against include: protection of the family; the effects of foreign debt; international solidarity; unilateral coercive measures; right to development (though sometimes it abstains on these texts); and the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin.

Principal sponsor: attacks on schoolchildren in Afghanistan; situation in Iran; technical assistance for Kyrgyzstan; situation in South Sudan; situation in Sri Lanka; situation in Syria; cooperation between Tunisia and OHCHR; countering violent extremism; freedom of opinion and expression; human rights on the Internet; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the right to nationality.

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’ (2010-2015)? **

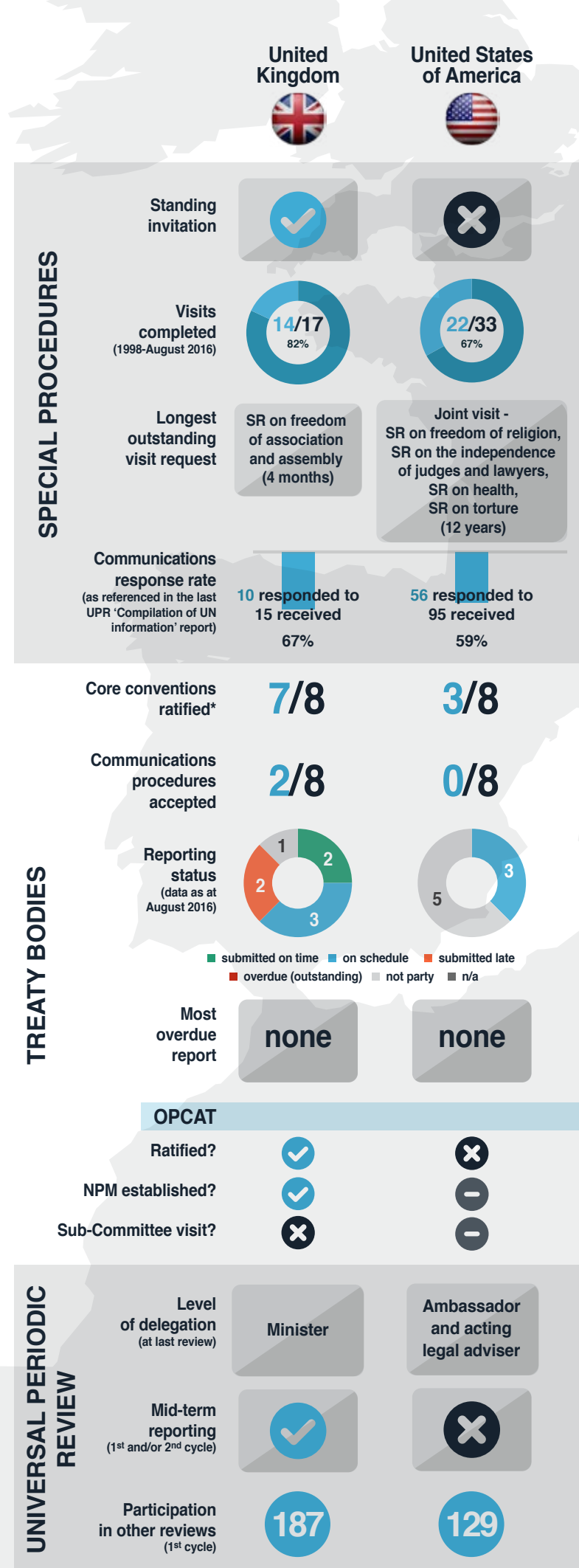


Inclusivity / Access

Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

52%

** The Secretary-General’s reports are entitled: ‘Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.’ In his most recent such report, the Secretary-General notes that it has been ‘submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (A/HRC/27/38, para 1).



Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

* 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 Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED); the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

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 HRC Bureau

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2015)

Source: OHCHR website

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

NHRI Accreditation Status

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

Data as at: 5 August 2016.

Previous Membership terms

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

OHCHR Presence

Source: OHCHR website

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Source: UN General Assembly website; OHCHR website [<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/Pledges.pdf>].

Data as at: 19th August 2016.

Note: yourHRC.org summarises the specific, forward-looking 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, commitment 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 fulfilled the international-level 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 debates, panel discussions, and dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Note: The participation of the candidates in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from March 2014 until June 2016 (i.e. during HRC sessions 25-32). Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time.

Key pledges and commitments for 2016 election

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

Data as at: 1st September 2016.

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/>).

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

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 looks 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’ (2010-2015)

Source: ‘Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ report by the Secretary General (UN Docs. A/HRC/18/19, A/HRC/21/18, A/HRC/24/29, A/

HRC/27/38, A/HRC/30/29).

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Inclusivity/Access

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing Invitation

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Visits Completed & longest outstanding visit

Source: OHCHR website

Data as at: 1st August 2016.

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

Communications response rate

Source: “Compilation of UN Information” report during the State’s latest UPR.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

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

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as at: 26th August 2016.

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;
- **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:** where data was not available.

The ‘most overdue’ report time is for the outstanding report that is the most overdue.

Reporting and ratification scores were calculated on the 26th August 2016

Communications procedures accepted

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as at: 26th August 2016.
Note: This figure relates to the acceptance of individual complaints procedures under each of the abovementioned core conventions.

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as at: 26th August 2016.
Note: An ‘NPM’ is a ‘National Preventative Mechanism,’

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

Source: the Head of a State’s delegation (for its last UPR) was determined using the “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.” Where the rank of the representative was not clear, the URG followed up with the relevant missions as far as possible.
Data as at: 26th August 2016.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR website. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>
Data as at: 26th August 2016.
Note: The ‘mid-term reporting’ score relates to whether the state has submitted a mid-term report for the first and/or the second cycles of UPR.

Participation in other reviews

Source: UPR Info “Statistics of UPR Recommendations.”
Data as at: 26th August 2016.
Note: Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other 1st cycle reviews (out of 192) during which the state concerned made its own recommendations.

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

About yourHRC.org

The yourHRC.org project has four component parts:

- 1

A universally accessible and free-to-use web portal - **yourHRC.org** – providing information on the performance of all 100 States that have stood for and won election to the Council. An interactive world map provides information on the Council’s membership in any given year, and on the number of membership terms held by each country. Country-specific pages then provide up-to-date information on: the voting record of the state; its 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 fulfilled the voluntary pledges and commitments made before its previous membership term.
- 2

An annual ‘**yourHRC.org Election Guide**,’ providing at-a-glance information on candidatures for upcoming Council elections.
- 3

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.
- 4

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.

yourHRC.org

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



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations