
yourHRC.org

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



GUIDE TO THE 2020 UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A photograph showing a long row of national flags on tall, silver poles. The flags are of various colors and designs, including the Malaysian flag, the flag of the United Kingdom, and the flag of the United States. They are positioned in front of a light-colored stone building with a classical architectural style. The flags are slightly blurred, suggesting a shallow depth of field.

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

The yourHRC.org portal, together with a number of related reports and periodic emailers, are designed to provide country-specific information on: State cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, State 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) by establishing 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 a number of mechanisms at its disposal (e.g., Special Procedures, UPR) to promote the full implementation of the human rights obligations undertaken by States, and/or to respond to violations of those rights.

To pursue and realise the mandate of the Council and thereby to 'promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,' the GA decided that the new body would consist of 47 member States, elected by a majority of members of the GA. In making their choice, members of the GA would take into account the contribution of the candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments.

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

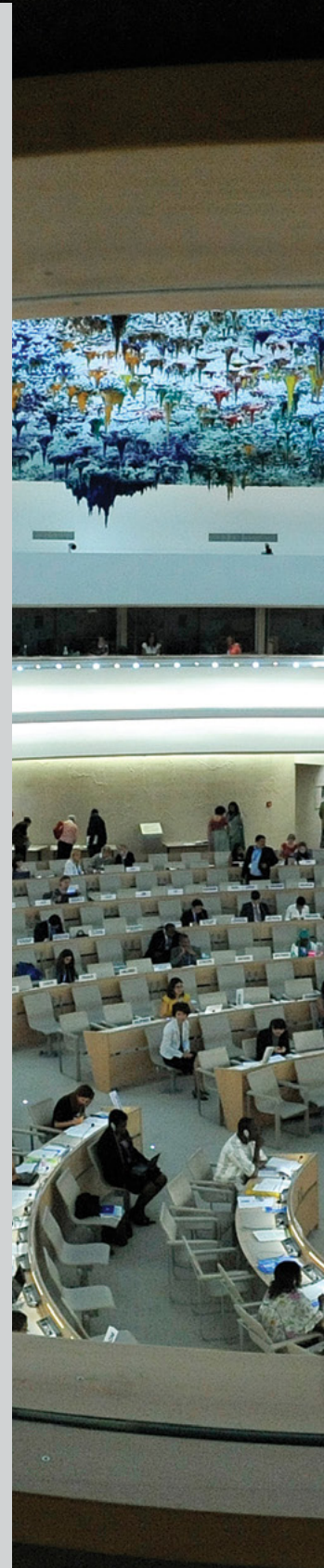
yourHRC.org was created with a view to promoting transparency around the degree to which the Council and its members are delivering on the crucial mandate, passed to them by the GA and, ultimately, entrusted to them by 'the Peoples of the United Nations' described in the UN Charter.

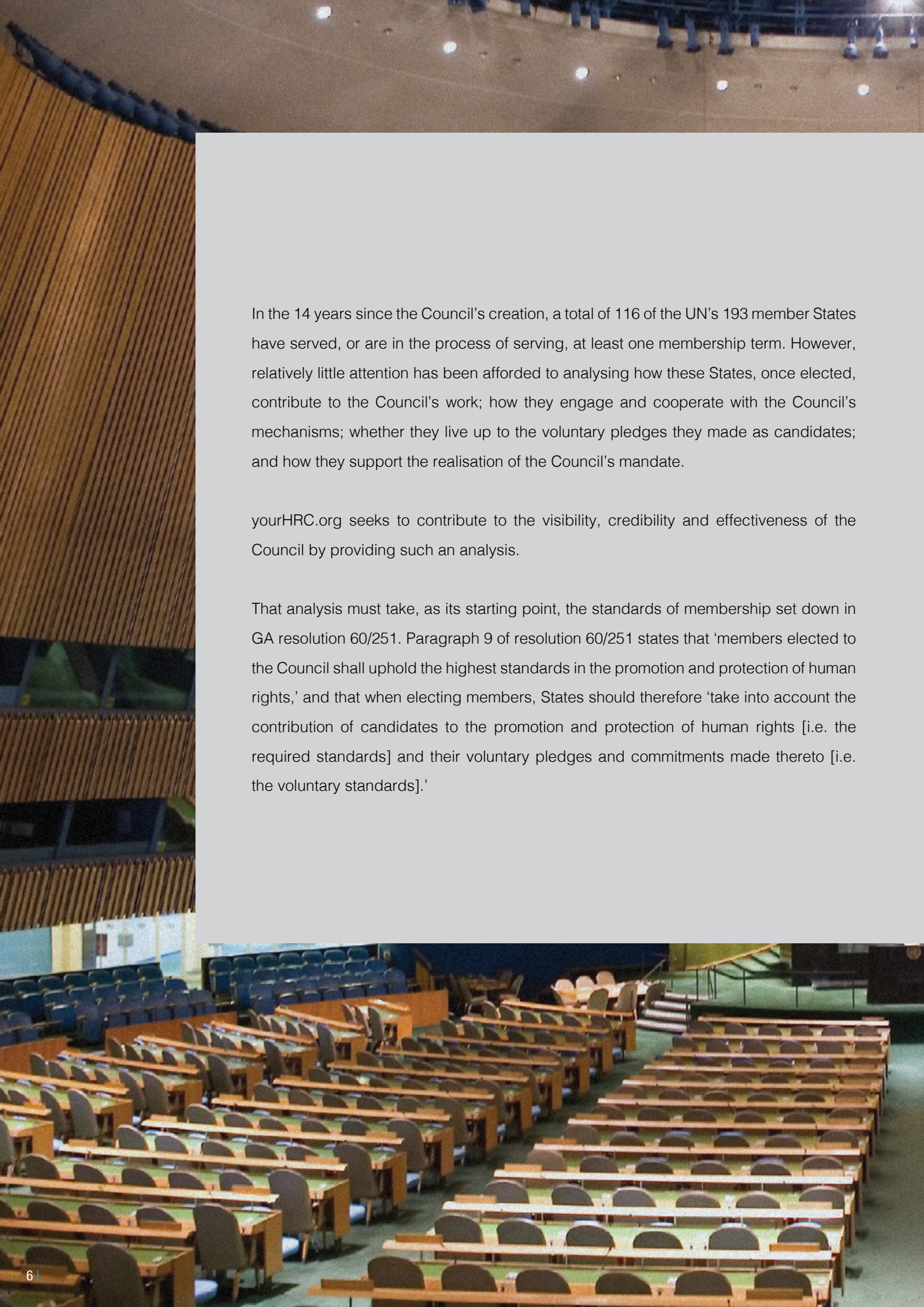
Membership of the Council

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 14 years since the Council's creation, a total of 116 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 2020 UN Human Rights Council Elections

The present document is the fifth annual 'yourHRC.org Election Guide.' It provides general information on the 2020 Human Rights Council elections (tentatively scheduled for 13 October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2021-2023).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2020 elections, the number of seats available, and the candidates in each UN regional group vying for those seats. The next five parts of the report then present more detailed comparative information on the candidates for each of the five UN regional groups. This includes objective information on each candidate's historic engagement and cooperation with the Council and the wider UN human rights system, its voting record (where the State concerned has previously been a Council member), an analysis of its new voluntary pledges and commitments (for the 2020 elections), and an analysis of the extent to which it has fulfilled its previous voluntary pledges and commitments (again, where the country concerned has previously been a member).





2020 HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

13 October 2020 (tentative),
UN General Assembly, New York

FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2021-2023

CANDIDATE ANALYSIS BY REGIONAL GROUP

2020 elections (for membership period 2021-2023): the candidates

Latin America and Caribbean Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections 7/14

8 seats at HRC

seats available: 3

candidates: 3

		Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
Bolivia		✓	2
Cuba		—	4
Mexico		✓	4

African Group




INCOMPLETE SLATE

Historic clean slate elections 12/14

13 seats at HRC

seats available: 4

confirmed candidates: 2

		Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
Cote d'Ivoire		✓	2
Malawi		—	0
Senegal		✓	3

 state standing for election

Western European and Others Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **10/14**

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

		Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
France		✓	3
United Kingdom		✓	4

Eastern European Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **7/14**

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

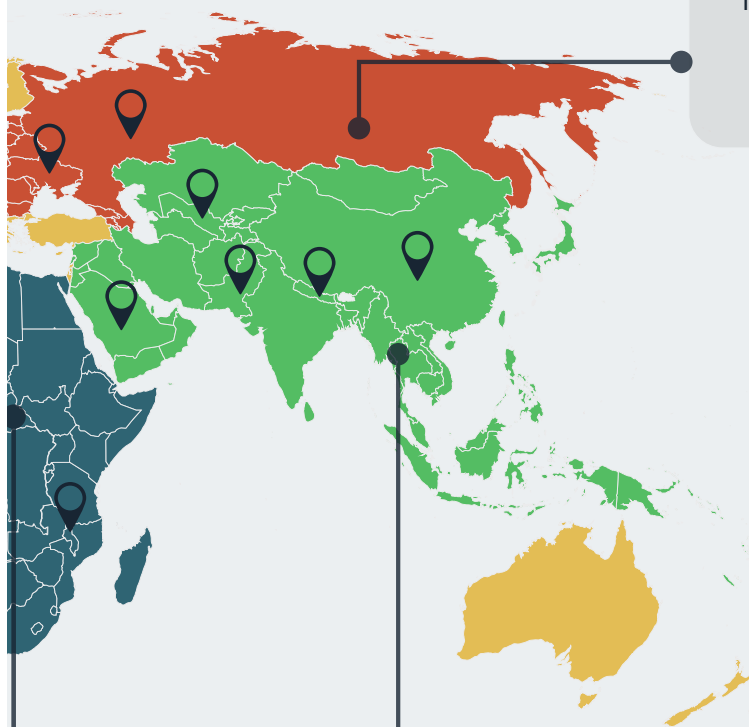
		Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
Russian Federation		✓	3
Ukraine		✓	3

Asia-Pacific Group

Historic clean slate elections **8/14**




13 seats at HRC seats available: **4** candidates: **5**

		Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
China		—	4
Nepal		✓	1
Pakistan		✓	4
Saudi Arabia		—	4
Uzbekistan		✓	0



African Group (AG)

Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2019)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR field presence
Cote d'Ivoire		—	✕	B	2	—
Malawi		—	✕	A	0	Human Rights Advisers
Senegal		President (2019)	✕	B	3	Regional Office

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Cote d'Ivoire circulated a note verbale informing other UN member States about its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2016-2018 in June 2015. In the document, *Cote d'Ivoire* made a number of commitments.

At national level, *Cote d'Ivoire* committed to 'promoting the establishment of an agency to monitor and protect human rights'; 'strengthening human rights teaching modules in the education system;' organising human rights training seminars for the judiciary, security forces, local officials and parliamentarians; and bringing the national human rights commission 'into line with the Paris Principles.'

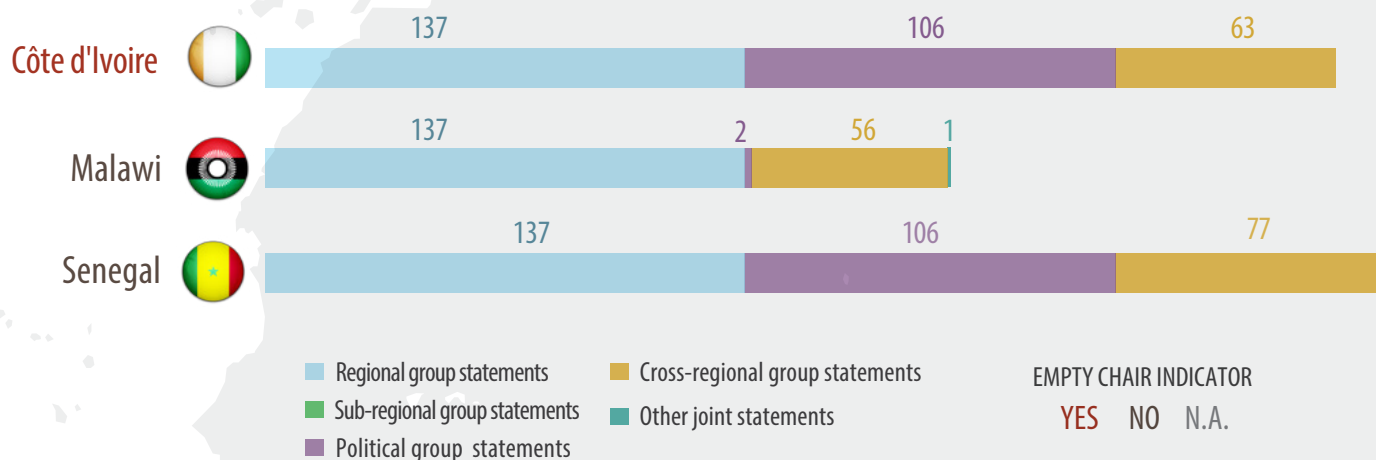
At the international level, it promised to improve reporting to the Treaty Bodies; begin consultations with parliament on the future ratification of CED, CMW, CRPD, OP-ICESCR and OP-CAT; accept the communications procedures under the ICERD and CAT; and harmonise national legislation with the provisions of the international instruments, including by adopting new laws and regulations.

An analysis of steps taken by *Cote d'Ivoire* in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it did indeed move to ratify the CRPD. However, it has not yet ratified the other conventions or accepted the communications procedures listed in its 2015 voluntary pledges and commitments. Regarding treaty reporting, five of its periodic reports are overdue (including the ICESCR report by more than 20 years). *Cote d'Ivoire's* NHRI is accredited with a 'B' Status by GANHRI.

Malawi has not previously held a seat on the Council.

Senegal's pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2018-2020 were not made available.

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last three years (June 2017 - June 2020). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

Key pledges and commitments for 2020 election

Côte d'Ivoire presented an *aide memoire* in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on July 2020. In the document, *Côte d'Ivoire* pledges to, *inter alia*:

At national level:

- ☒ Promote a culture of human rights by raising awareness of respect for the universal values of life and human dignity;
- ☒ Build the capacities of public and private, governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the field of human rights;
- ☒ Strengthen human rights education and training, including for children, parliamentarians, judges and security forces;
- ☒ Develop human rights awareness-raising activities;

- ☒ Strengthen the operational capacities of the Ministry responsible for the promotion of human rights.

At international level:

- ☒ Continue to submit its periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies;
- ☒ Continue to consult with the Parliament on the ratification of the CED, CMW and OP-ICESCR;
- ☒ Continue to defend and promote human rights to consolidate the peace process at the national level, and share with the international community its experience in managing human rights in a crisis context;
- ☒ Continue to make human rights one of the Government's main priorities.

Malawi's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 were not available at the time of publication.

Senegal presented its voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on June 2020. In the document, Senegal summarises its key human rights achievements during the last years and pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Consolidate human rights achievements;
- ☑ Make a decisive contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights;
- ☑ Attend its periodic review before the CEDAW Committee, scheduled for 19 October to 6 November 2020;
- ☑ Contribute to deepening the discussions initiated in Dakar in the context of the 2019 Council's retreat on: environment, climate change and human rights; mass migration and human rights; human rights in the face of growing inequality; corporate social responsibility; and human rights in the digital age.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, **Cote d'Ivoire** has either voted in favour of, or has joined consensus on, most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as all country-specific resolutions under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). Notwithstanding, **Cote d'Ivoire** has abstained during item 4 votes on the situations in Burundi, Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran and, under item 2, on the text on cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (resolution tabled by Iran and Russia). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), **Cote d'Ivoire** has usually voted in favour (except for two abstentions in 2013 and 2016). **Cote d'Ivoire** voted in favour of all item 10 (capacity-

building) resolutions, except a 2017 text on cooperation with Georgia (it abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, **Cote d'Ivoire** has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. However, **Cote d'Ivoire** voted against the 2014 and 2016 resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and abstained on the resolutions on drones, integrity of the judicial system, and countering the world drug problem. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, **Cote d'Ivoire** has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Hazardous substances and wastes; protection of the family; truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; and youth and human rights.

Malawi has not yet been a member of the Council.

Principal sponsor: Malawi has not yet been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution.




Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Senegal** has (in the absence of consensus), tended to abstain during the voting on, or voted against, most item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) resolutions; however, it voted in favour of two item 2 resolutions on Myanmar (2018 and 2019), two item 2 texts on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2019 and 2020), and some item 4 texts on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Senegal has always voted in favour of item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories). Senegal has joined consensus on all item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions, except for four that were voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009, Senegal voted in favour) and the texts on cooperation with Georgia and Ukraine (2018, 2019 and 2020 – it abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Senegal has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Senegal abstained during voting on religious intolerance (2007), religious discrimination (2009), torture (2009), integrity of the judicial system (2018), death penalty (2019), and the world drug problem (2018). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Senegal has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Extreme poverty; human rights education and training; human rights in Myanmar; regional arrangements; rights of minorities; access to medicines; Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of SIDS and LDCs in the work of the Council, and World Programme for Human Rights Education.

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’ (covering the years 2015-2019)?

Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Senegal
		
N	N	N
-	-	-



Cited in the report 2015-2019?



Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The ‘2020 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN’ was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2020 Election Guide went to press.

Inclusivity / Access

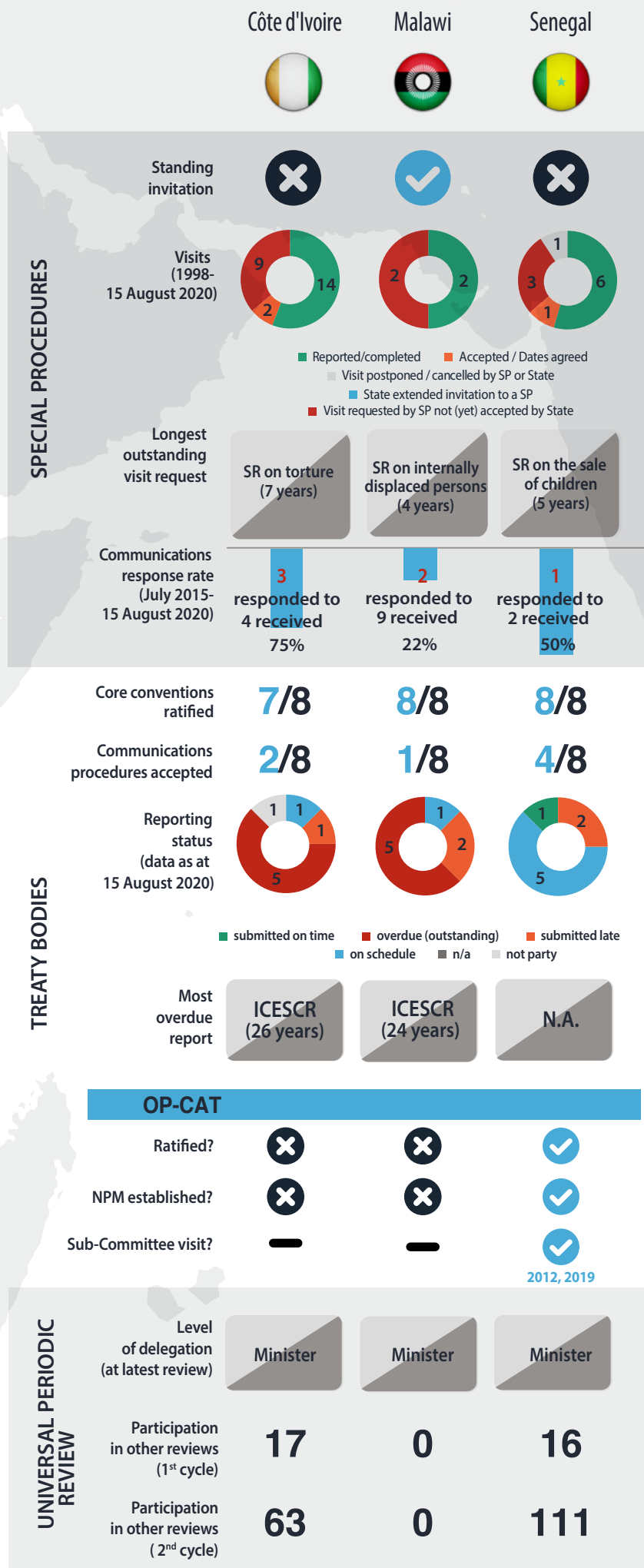
Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

65%

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms















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

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



Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2019)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR field presence
China		—			4	—
Nepal		—		A	1	Human rights advisers
Pakistan		—			4	—
Saudi Arabia		—			4	Other type of field presence
Uzbekistan		—			0	—

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

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

China tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2017-2019 on 4 August 2016.

The document presented a summary of China's achievements and fulfilment of the pledges and commitments it presented for its previous membership term (2014-2016). It also includes some concrete pledges and commitments for China's 2017-2019 membership term, including, *inter alia*, to: continue to promote economic, social and cultural rights; improve its democratic system; fully protect the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities including by adhering to and improving the system of regional autonomy for ethnic minorities; continue its active participation in the Council and cooperate with the Special Procedures.

An analysis of steps taken by China in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that China is an active participant in the Council's work. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, China only accepted 9 out of 25 visit requests but did respond to 80% of communications. China has continued to promote economic, social and cultural rights by consistently leading on resolutions on the right to health, the Olympic ideal, and international and regional cooperation.

Nepal presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2018- 2020 on July 2016. Key pledges included:

At national level: Further implement the human rights instruments to which it is Party; continue to pursue the goal of graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, and achieve the status of a middle-income country by 2030; deliver on an inclusive development agenda, with due consideration to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; remain committed to addressing the cases of human rights violations that occurred during the Nepal's civil conflict and provide justice to victims, while promoting sustainable peace; ensure the independence and competence of the judiciary; foster the growth and diversification of a free and competent media; create an enabling environment for human rights defenders and civil society organisations; strengthen the role of its National Human Rights Commission; cooperate with the Council mechanisms and implement their recommendations; implement national action plans and programmes to further comply with its human rights obligations; and roll out national capacity-building and training programmes in the field of the human rights.

At international level, Nepal pledged, *inter alia*, to: Contribute to the work of the Council; continue to support OHCHR; adopt a collaborative approach premised on building partnerships; continue to support the UN agencies, programmes, and funds that facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights; and participate actively in global initiatives on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

An analysis of steps taken by Nepal in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that its contribution to the work of the Council, in terms of participation in debates and panels, has been rather limited: Nepal participated in around 35% of all Council debates and panels and joined 69 group statements (the average for all members was 264). Regarding cooperation with

the Council mechanisms, Nepal has ratified seven core international human rights treaties and has submitted most of its periodic reports. Notwithstanding, it is yet to submit its reports under the CAT, ICCPR and ICESCR. Turning to cooperation with Special Procedures, Nepal facilitated 43% of all Special Procedures visit requests and responded to 40% of the received communications. Regarding its own UPR, Nepal participated at a high political level (Prime Minister).

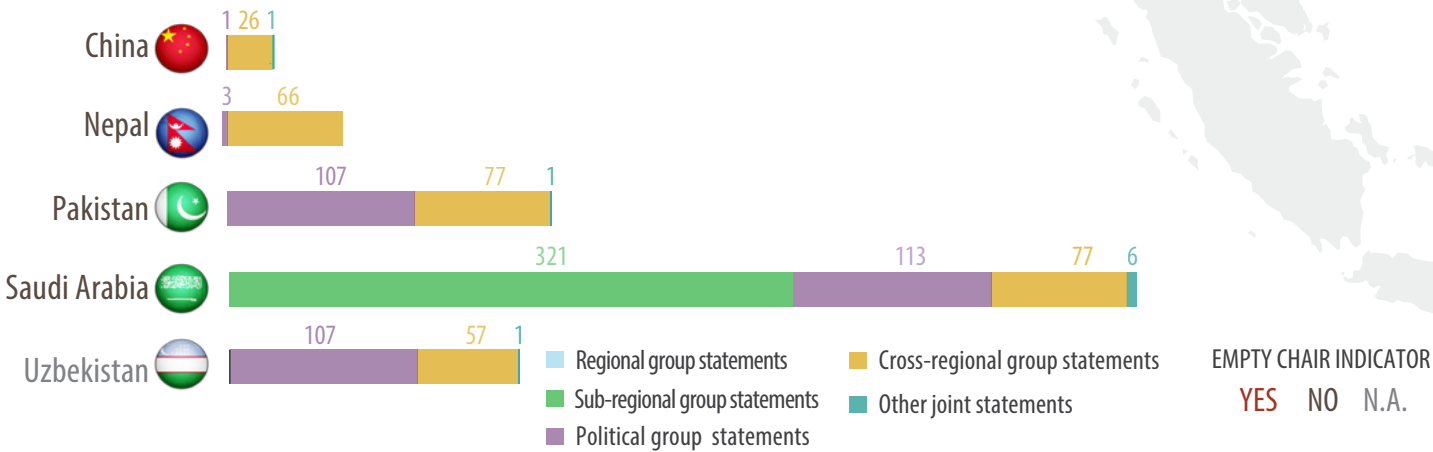
Pakistan presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2018-2020 in August 2017. Key pledges include:

At national level: implement a National Action Plan that considers national and international human rights obligations; review, in consultation with all stakeholders, existing human rights legislation to adapt and better enforce it; further enhance the operational effectiveness of its NHRIs, providing them with adequate human and financial resources; build the human rights capacity of government officials and other relevant stakeholders; continue to ensure speedy justice for victims of human rights violations, including by strengthening law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.

At international level: continue to strive to make the Council a forum for genuine dialogue and cooperation; continue to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of methods of work of the Council; continue to play an active role in the Council with a view to strengthening the Council to promote dialogue, cooperation, capacity-building and technical assistance for the protection and promotion of human rights; continue to promote constructive engagement, dialogue and cooperation with the concerned states in addressing 'situations of concern'; continue to engage with the UPR; continue to work with all member States to maintain and strengthen consensus around Resolution 16/18; continue to support the UN Alliance of Civilizations; further support OHCHR; continue to cooperate with the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.

An analysis of steps taken by Pakistan in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that Pakistan has now ratified nearly all the core international human rights treaties. In terms of cooperation with the Treaty Bodies, Pakistan tends to submit its periodic reports - it has only one overdue report. Regarding Pakistan's participation at the Council, it has spoken in around 42% of panel discussions and general debates (though it speaks in many more as coordinator of the OIC). Turning to cooperation with Special Procedures, Pakistan has responded to only

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the last three years (June 2017 - June 2020). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

24% of all communications received and has facilitated only 17% of all visit requests. Regarding its own UPR, Pakistan participated at ministerial level. Pakistan also participated in the reviews of 75 other States during the first UPR cycle and 111 during the second cycle.

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.

At international level, Saudi Arabia pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to implement its commitments under the regional and international human rights instruments to which it is Party; continue to consider accession to the human rights instruments to which it is not yet Party; cooperate with the Council by taking an active role in its work, respecting its working procedures, implementing and complying with its resolutions and 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 received 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.

At domestic level, Saudi Arabia committed, *inter alia*, to: strengthen Saudi Arabia's domestic legal framework for the protection of human rights by adopting pertinent laws; review existing domestic laws to ensure compliance with the country's international and regional human rights obligations; continue to implement programmes to foster a culture of human rights and provide human rights education; empower women to protect and promote their rights under the Islamic Sharia and international laws and standards; support civil society; involve civil society in preparing Saudi Arabia's Treaty Bodies and UPR reports.

An analysis of steps taken by Saudi Arabia in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has participated in around a quarter of panel discussions and dialogues. Regarding cooperation with the Special Procedures mechanism, Saudi Arabia has not extended a standing invitation and has accepted only 29% of visit requests. It has, however, replied to 84% of communications received. Saudi Arabia continues to make a yearly voluntary contribution to OHCHR. Concerning its pledge to support civil society space, Saudi Arabia joined consensus on the Council's 2014 resolution on civil society space, but in 2016 and 2018, when a vote was called, it abstained. Saudi Arabia joined consensus on all Council resolutions related to the rights of women.

Uzbekistan has not previously held a seat on the Council.

Key pledges and commitments for 2020 election

China's pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2021-2023 had not been made available at the time of publication.

Nepal presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 20 June 2020. In the document, Nepal pledges, *inter alia*, to:

At national level:

- ☒ Make meaningful efforts towards the effective realisation of constitutional rights and strengthen the State's capacity to implement international and regional human rights instruments;

- ☑ Pursue the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 'leaving no one behind';
- ☑ Address, through transitional justice mechanisms, the human rights violations that occurred during Nepal's internal conflict;
- ☑ Ensure the independence of the judiciary;
- ☑ Foster the growth and development of a free media;
- ☑ Continue to maintain an open space for human rights defenders and civil society organisations;
- ☑ Strengthen institutional capacity to ensure good governance;
- ☑ Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission;
- ☑ Take steps to effectively end discrimination and create an inclusive, just and prosperous society;
- ☑ Provide human rights capacity-building and training for law enforcement officials and public prosecutors;
- ☑ Continue to increase the State's investment in education, health, sanitation and antenatal and neonatal care and to reduce child and maternal mortality rates;
- ☑ Continue to fulfil its reporting obligations under the international human rights instruments to which Nepal is party, and implement the recommendations presented to it during the reviews;
- ☑ Implement accepted UPR recommendations.

At the international level :

- ☑ Continue to work on the promotion and protection of human rights, including by cooperating and collaborating with all relevant stakeholders;
- ☑ Cooperate and constructively engage with the Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, UPR and other mechanisms of the Council, and offer full support to OHCHR;
- ☑ Extend its support to the UN agencies, programmes and funds that facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights;

- ☑ Participate in the global initiatives on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the interest of those who are most in need;
- ☑ Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
- ☑ Promote an inclusive, transparent, rules-based and equitable multilateral system.

Pakistan presented a note verbale in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 18 June 2020. In the document, Pakistan pledges to, *inter alia*:

At national level:

- ☑ Continue to consolidate progress and strive for the full realisation, enjoyment, advancement and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;
- ☑ Continue to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan;
- ☑ Continue to consider and implement UPR and Treaty Bodies recommendations, and strengthen treaty implementation;
- ☑ Continue to strengthen and empower its NHRIs;
- ☑ Strengthen parliamentary oversight;
- ☑ Continue to provide free legal aid to the victims of human rights violations;
- ☑ Preserve and strengthen civil society space, with an emphasis on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- ☑ Continue to provide capacity-building and human rights education and training to parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, civil servants and the media;
- ☑ Continue to foster a pro-people development agenda, with a focus on women, children,

the youth, minorities, persons with disabilities, transgender persons, and other vulnerable sections of the population;

- ☑ Continue to protect the rights of minorities and promote further interfaith harmony;
- ☑ Strengthen efforts to: promote and protect the rights of workers, inclusive and universal education, gender equality and women empowerment; counter violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups in society; and prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children;
- ☑ Continue countering hate speech.

At international level:

- ☑ Continue working to turn the Council into a genuine global platform for dialogue and cooperation, based on the principles of non-discrimination, impartiality and universality;
- ☑ Engage in debates to promote efficiency, reform and effectiveness in the work of the Council;
- ☑ Continue to support the work of OHCHR through advocacy, financial contributions and political support;
- ☑ Continue to participate in the UPR and follow-up on the UPR recommendations received during previous cycles;
- ☑ Continue to strengthen cooperation with the Special Procedures, including by arranging visits;
- ☑ Continue to promote engagement, dialogue and cooperation with States and civil society when addressing 'situations of concern' at the Council;
- ☑ Promote the realisation of the right to development and support ongoing efforts to develop this concept and its operationalisation;
- ☑ Support efforts to fight climate change and mitigate its impact on climate-vulnerable communities;
- ☑ Raise awareness on the links between corruption, lack of development and human rights;

- ☑ Continue to work towards strengthening international cooperation on the return of stolen assets to the countries of origin, and combating illicit financial flows;
- ☑ Take collective measures against racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, and protect victims from such crimes;
- ☑ Continue to participate in the international discourse towards better implementation of global compacts on migration and refugees;
- ☑ As the coordinator of the OIC, continue to build bridges and overcome divergences in matters related to the work of the Council;
- ☑ Continue to play an active and constructive role in maintaining consensus around Council resolution 16/18, 'Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatisation of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief'; work with relevant States and other stakeholders for enhanced implementation of resolution 16/18 and its action plan (via the Istanbul Process), and host the next meeting of the Istanbul Process in Pakistan;
- ☑ Continue to support the activities of the UN Alliance of Civilizations for promoting a culture of dialogue, tolerance and peaceful cooperation among the nations of the world;
- ☑ Continue to share best practices, lessons learned and challenges faced in implementing the human rights agenda at the national level.

Saudi Arabia's pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2021-2023 were not available at the time of publication.

Uzbekistan presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on July 2020. In the document Uzbekistan pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Mainstream human rights' promotion and protection within the UN system;
- ☑ Continue to support the international community's efforts to effectively prevent and respond to human rights violations;
- ☑ Promote constructive engagement, dialogue and cooperation with concerned States when addressing 'situations of concern' at the Council;
- ☑ Encourage a spirit of cooperation within the Council, based on the principles of mutual respect and dialogue, and non-politicisation and double standards;
- ☑ Promote cooperation between the Council and NHRIs, non-governmental organisations, civil society, parliaments, the private sector and other international organisations;
- ☑ Actively participate in global initiatives and discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ☑ Intensify the process of developing and approving guidelines for the implementation of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs);
- ☑ Further cooperate with international and regional human rights mechanisms, processes and initiatives, including the Council and its mechanisms, as well as with members of the international community, UN agencies and civil society representatives.

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 most country-specific resolutions under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), although it voted in favour of item 2 resolutions on cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (resolution tabled

by Iran and Russia - 2019), the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2019) and Burundi (2017). 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 during voting on the texts on cooperation with Georgia and Ukraine (voted against), and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, in the absence of consensus China has tended to abstain or vote against. The exceptions to this rule are China's votes on texts on: the right to freedom of opinion or expression, integrity of the judicial system, firearms, effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, use of drones, and arbitrary detention and mercenaries (China tends to vote in favour of these initiatives). 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 (2016-2020): Access to medicines; contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights; enhancement of international cooperation; mutually beneficial cooperation; protection of the family; rights to health; the Olympic ideal; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2018 **Nepal** has, in absence of consensus, abstained during votes on all item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) texts, except for an item 2 resolution on cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (resolution tabled by Iran and Russia in 2019 – voted in favour). Nepal consistently voted in favour of all item 7 (situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) texts, and tended to abstain during voting on all item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions. Turning to

thematic resolutions, Nepal consistently voted in favour of all texts on civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Nepal has not yet been principal sponsor of a Council resolution.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, where a vote has been called, **Pakistan** has either abstained or voted against of all item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention); although it did vote in favour of two texts on the Syrian Arab Republic (both in 2013) and two on Myanmar (2018, 2020). In the absence of consensus, Pakistan has voted against country-specific resolutions under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Pakistan has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Pakistan has tended to abstain.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Pakistan has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. Notwithstanding, Pakistan has tended to vote against resolutions on the question of the death penalty, sexual orientation, the world drug problem, and peaceful protests; and abstained during voting on a text on countering violent extremism (2009), and two texts on discrimination based on religion or belief (2007, 2009). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Pakistan has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): The need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the central role of the State in responding to pandemics; drones; foreign debt; right to health; Violations of international law in the

context of large-scale civilian protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

After it 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 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic, but against resolutions on the situations in Sudan, Burundi and the situation of human rights in Venezuela (resolution tabled by the Lima Group). Saudi Arabia has abstained during the votes on the situations in Belarus, Islamic Republic of Iran and Burundi. Saudi Arabia has voted against most country-specific item 2 resolutions (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) but has joined consensus on item 2 resolutions on the situation in Myanmar and a 2019 text on cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (resolution tabled by Iran and Russia). 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 the following that were voted on during its time as a member: on cooperation with Ukraine (Saudi Arabia voted against once and abstained four times), on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Saudi Arabia voted in favour twice), and cooperation with Georgia (abstained twice).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Saudi Arabia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Saudi Arabia has: tended to vote against resolutions on sexual orientation, the death penalty, promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests and the world drug

problem; abstained during voting on: torture (2009), peaceful protests (2014, 2016), integrity of the judicial system (2014), human rights, democracy and rule of law (2015), human rights defenders (2016), civil society space (2016), transitional justice (2016), integrity of the judicial system (2018), and others; and voted in favour of texts on arbitrary detention, use of drones, firearms, preventing and countering violent extremism, mercenaries, effects of terrorism, right to peace, and preventing human rights in multicultural contexts, among others. 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 (2016-2020): Effects of terrorism on human rights; human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar; protection of the family; and technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen.

Uzbekistan has not been a member of the Council before.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Uzbekistan has not acted as main sponsor of any Council resolution.

Inclusivity / Access

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

50%

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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

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’ (2015-2019)?

China	Nepal	Pakistan	Saudi Arabia	Uzbekistan
				
Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Y	-	Y	Y	Y



Cited in the report 2014-2018?













Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2020 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN' was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2020 Election Guide went to press.



Eastern European Group (EEG)

Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2019)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR field presence
Russian Federation						Other type of field presence
Ukraine						Country / stand alone office / human rights mission

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

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

The **Russian Federation** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 15 July 2013. In the document, the Russian Federation made a number of concrete pledges and commitments – mainly at international level.

International level pledges included, *inter alia*, to: cooperate constructively with the Treaty Bodies and thematic Special Procedures; support OHCHR, including financially; actively participate in the UPR mechanism, in particular through the implementation of accepted recommendations; give priority to the fight against racism; and 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 cooperated with the Special Procedures by responding 84% of communications, and has somewhat cooperated with visit requests (52% fulfilled). The Russian Federation has ratified most of

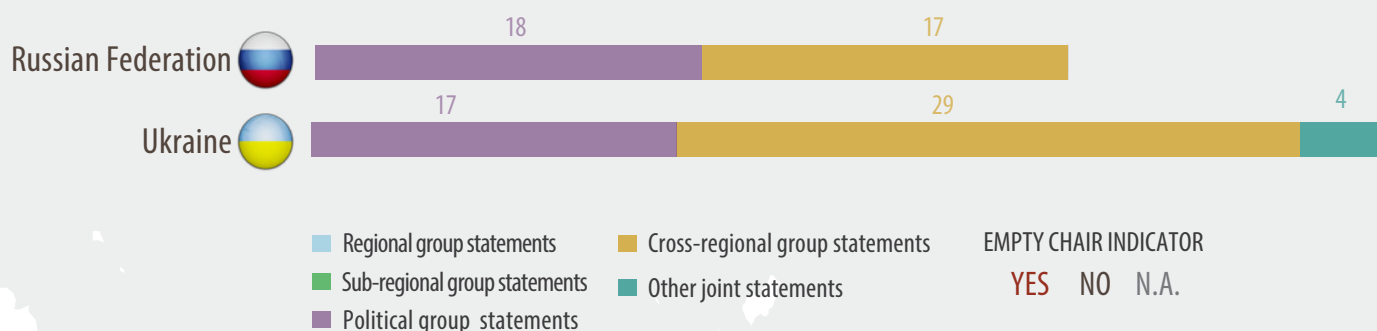
the core international human rights conventions, and at present none of its periodic reports are overdue. The Russian Federation makes important voluntary contributions to OHCHR, and tends to be represented by high-level delegations during its UPR.

Ukraine presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2018-2020 early in 2017.

The document presents few concrete pledges. These include playing an active role on the international stage; cooperate with the Council, and adopting the human rights norms and standards existent in Europe, in light of Ukraine's course for European integration.

An analysis of steps taken by Ukraine in fulfilment of its international pledges shows it cooperates with the Council Special Procedures by maintaining a standing invitation and accepting 86% of visit requests. Ukraine has responded to 50% of the communications received. For those instruments to which Ukraine is party, it has submitted most of its periodic reports (it has two overdue reports, CED and CRPD).

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last three years (June 2017 - June 2020). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

Key pledges and commitments for 2020 election

The **Russian Federation** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 29 January 2020. In the document, the Russian Federation pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Ensure respect for human rights and freedoms throughout the world through constructive, equitable international dialogue with due account for national, cultural and historical specificities and values of each State;
- ☑ Counter attempts to use human rights concepts as an instrument of political pressure and interference in the internal affairs of States;
- ☑ Ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms under international law and in compliance, by States, of their international human rights obligations;
- ☑ Develop cultural and humanitarian ties between peoples at the inter-State level;
- ☑ Strongly oppose any manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, neo-Nazism, aggressive nationalism, anti-Semitism, and religious and ethnic intolerance;
- ☑ Engage with civil society institutions in international issues;
- ☑ Develop international, cultural and humanitarian cooperation to, *inter alia*, achieve mutual understanding and respect among peoples, with a special focus on inter-religious dialogue;
- ☑ Enhance cooperation with international and non-governmental human rights organisations;
- ☑ Focus on individual responsibility for human rights violations, especially those related to religion-based discrimination;
- ☑ Strengthen moral principles in the human rights dialogue and eradicate double standards;
- ☑ Transform the Council into an efficient and effective tool for promoting and protecting

human rights throughout the world, based on the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity, equal treatment of all, and respect for cultural and civilizational diversity.

Ukraine presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 5 June 2020. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ☑ Strive to promote objectivity and non-selectivity in the work of the Council;
- ☑ Engage in a constructive and transparent human rights dialogue with States and NGOs;
- ☑ Continue to support OHCHR;
- ☑ Further contribute to strengthening Council institutions and the UPR;
- ☑ Continue to cooperate with the Special Procedures;
- ☑ Cooperate constructively with UN member States in reforming the Treaty Body system;
- ☑ Further promote the initiative on 'the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights';
- ☑ Continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure the effective protection and promotion of human rights in armed conflict situations;
- ☑ Seek to increase support for initiatives and resolutions aimed at protecting children's rights;
- ☑ Further support activities that promote gender equality, and that combat violence against women and international trafficking in human beings;
- ☑ Cooperate with UN member States to ensure that the Council is actively engaged in multilateral efforts to design human rights-sensitive responses to public emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic;
- ☑ Ensure that all measures taken to address the negative impact of public emergencies are in

full compliance with States' international human rights obligations and commitments.

At bilateral level:

- ☑ Actively cooperate with member and non-member States in order to reflect their views in Council deliberations, and facilitate their interaction with the Council;
- ☑ Ensure that the Council provides advisory services, technical assistance, and capacity-building in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned.

At national level:

- ☑ Continue to promote a human-rights-based approach in public policy decision-making and implementation;
- ☑ Continue to strengthen engagement and partnership between the Government and civil society in promoting and protecting human rights;
- ☑ Aim at establishing an efficient mechanism for the protection of human rights and freedoms, including through a National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan;
- ☑ Further facilitate transparent dialogue between the Government, civil society and the media;
- ☑ Ensure the effective protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples;
- ☑ Further strengthen activities that protect children's rights and advance women's rights and gender equality;
- ☑ Implement reforms to reinforce the protection of human rights and the democratic functioning of the country's institutions in line with international standards;
- ☑ Continue to promote the equal and full participation of women in decision-making, in particular in the areas of national security, conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, as well as on the protection of the rights of women

and the most vulnerable groups, including children, girls, persons with disabilities, older persons, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants;

- ☑ Implement relevant laws and develop policies to combat violence against women and girls in all its forms;
- ☑ Uphold the independence of the National Human Rights Institution, including as an effective National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

Voting history during previous membership terms

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 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). Where there have been votes on item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Russian Federation has always voted in favour. The Russian Federation voted against most texts voted under item 10 (capacity-building), except a 2009 resolution on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (it voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Russian Federation has generally joined consensus or voted in favour. Exceptions to this rule include votes against the texts on peaceful protests (2014 and 2016), sexual orientation (2016), civil society space (2016), violent extremism (2015, 2016) and human rights defenders (2016); as well as the abstentions during voting on the 2014 and 2015 texts on the question of the death penalty, the 2015 resolution on democracy, and 2016 text on transitional justice. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, the Russian Federation has either joined consensus or has voted in favour. The only exception was a 2016 text on the right to water and sanitation.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Arbitrary deprivation of nationality; business and human rights; cooperation and technical assistance in Venezuela; foreign debt; anniversaries of the adoption and the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration; integrity of the judicial system; enhancement of international cooperation; methods of work of the Consultative Group of the Council; protection of Roma; protection of the family; the Olympic ideal; transnational corporations.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Ukraine** has voted in favour or has joined consensus on all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), except for the 2011 resolution on the situation in Belarus (Ukraine did not vote). It has also tended to vote in favour of item 2 country-specific texts (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), except during voting on the item 2 texts on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2019, 2020 – it twice voted against), cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (resolution tabled by Iran and Russia in 2019 - voted against) and Myanmar (2019 - abstained). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Ukraine usually votes in favour or abstains. However, it voted against the 2011 resolution on the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), in the absence of consensus, Ukraine has voted in favour of most texts, but it abstained during the voting on a 2009 resolution on the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Ukraine has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of most resolutions but it voted against the texts on mercenaries (2018, 2019) and the right to peace (2011); and abstained during voting on the resolutions on the integrity of the judicial system (2018), and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion or expression (2008). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Ukraine has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has voted against include: resolutions on the effects of foreign debt; unilateral coercive measures; international solidarity; and the effects of globalisation. In 2009, it abstained in the vote on the resolution on the right to development. But in 2010 and 2011, it voted in favour.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine and the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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

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' (2015-2019)?

Russian Federation	Ukraine
	
Y	N
N	-

 **Cited in the report 2015-2019?**  **Response provided to allegations?**

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2020 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2020 Election Guide went to press.

Inclusivity / Access

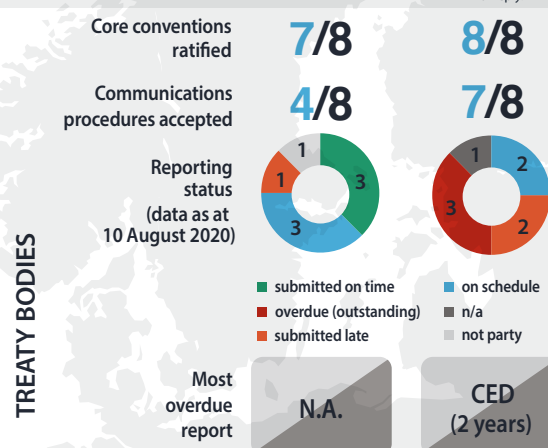
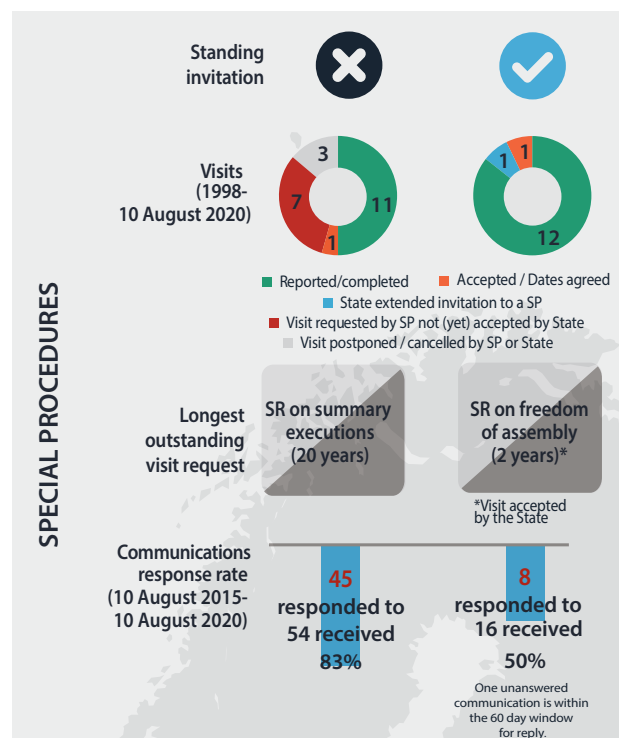
Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

83%







Russian Federation



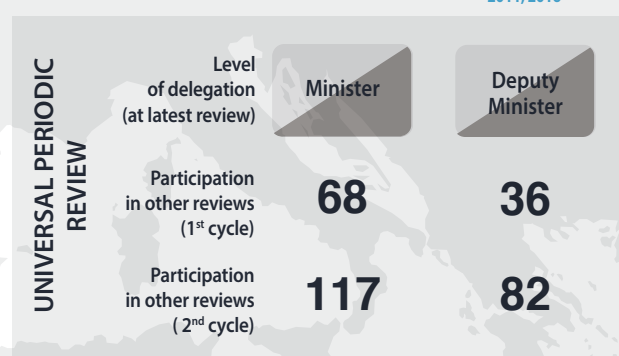
Ukraine



OP-CAT




Ratified?		
NPM established?		
Sub-Committee visit?		

2011, 2016



Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2019)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR field presence
Bolivia		—	✗	A	2	Human rights adviser
Cuba		Vice-President (2010-2011)	✓	✗	4	—
Mexico		President (2006-2007) Vice-President (2020)	✓	A	4	Country / stand alone office / human rights mission

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

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Bolivia tabled “voluntary pledges and commitments” in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 1 July 2014.

The majority of the document presented Bolivia’s existing legislation, practices and institutions to promote and protect human rights. Where it does offer concrete commitments, Bolivia pledged (at international level) to: strengthen multilateralism as a diplomatic tool to promote and defend human rights; encourage the participation of civil society and indigenous peoples in the decision-making

processes of the Council; promote recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples within the UN; participate actively in the UPR; and maintain an open dialogue with OHCHR.

Domestically, Bolivia made commitments to encourage efforts to combat racism and all forms of discrimination. It also pledged to promote food security.

An analysis of steps taken by Bolivia in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it participated in around 22% of all Council discussions, interactive dialogues and general debates. Bolivia cooperates with Special Procedures, responding to 60% of communications received and facilitating 60% of visits requests. For those international instruments to which Bolivia is party, it has submitted all of its reports, although it tends to report late (seven out of eight

periodic reports were submitted after the due date).

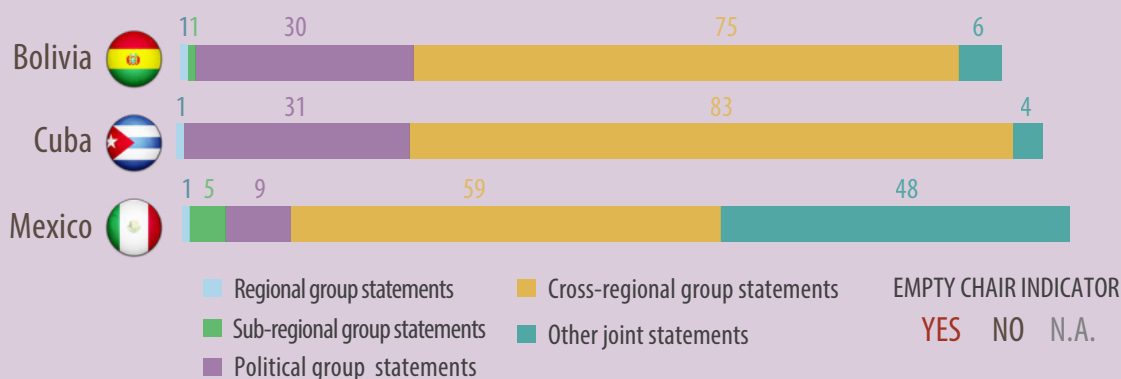
Cuba presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 on 11 March 2016.

Key pledges included: continue to submit and defend its periodic reports before the 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 on the right to food, the promotion of cultural rights, and the promotion of peace; and continue to work on the progressive development of third-generation rights,

in particular with regard to international solidarity.

An analysis of steps taken by Cuba in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it participated in around 50% of panel discussions, interactive dialogues and general debates. Regarding cooperation with the Council's mechanisms, Cuba does not maintain a standing invitation but has accepted 40% of visit requests. It has responded to 89% of the communications received. Cuba has also engaged strongly with the UPR. For example, it participated in the UPR reviews of 125 States over the course of the first cycle and 172 during the second cycle. Cuba continued to lead on, or support, all the thematic initiatives mentioned in its 2016 pledges.

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last three years (June 2017 - June 2020). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

Mexico presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2018-2020 in September 2017.

Key pledges included: consolidate and strengthen the work of the Council; strengthen the international human rights protection system by promoting the objective and effective treatment of human rights situations in all parts of the world; promote initiatives that positively influence the enjoyment of human rights at national level; preserve its proactive and constructive norm-setting role at the Council; contribute to mainstreaming human rights across the UN system; encourage cooperation and dialogue at the Council; support the strengthening of the prevention and early warning functions of the Council; maintain its openness to scrutiny by international bodies and mechanisms, and cooperate with them to follow-up on recommendations.

An analysis of the steps taken by Mexico in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that, as a member, it participated in around 25% of Council panels and interactive dialogues, and has led on a number of norm-setting thematic initiatives on civil and political rights, as well as on economic, social and cultural rights (see below for the detailed list of resolutions sponsored by Mexico). In terms of cooperation with Special Procedures, Mexico maintains a standing invitation, has facilitated around 65% of the country missions requested, and has responded to 63% of communications received during the period under review. Its UPR report was presented by a ministerial-level delegation, and Mexico participated in the review of 172 other UN member States during the first cycle and all 192 States during the second cycle. Mexico is party to all the core human rights conventions and, although it tends to report late (five reports were submitted late), none of its periodic reports are overdue. Mexico made a voluntary contribution to OHCHR in 2019 and hosts an OHCHR country office.

Key pledges and commitments for 2020 election

Bolivia presented its voluntary pledges for election to the Council for the term 2021-2023 on 1 June 2020. In the document, Bolivia summarises its key human rights achievements over recent years and presents a number of concrete pledges.

At national level, Bolivia pledges to address four key concerns by taking the following actions:

- Discrimination

- ☒ Continue to promote the full enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination;
- ☒ Promote efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and intolerance;

- Freedom of expression

- ☒ Strengthen measures to guarantee the enjoyment of and respect for freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of the press;
- ☒ Continue to guarantee the independence of the media;

- Political rights

- ☒ Promote the strengthening of political rights;
- ☒ Strengthen electoral processes, including by ensuring free, fair and transparent electoral processes, increasing transparency and guaranteeing the independence of the electoral authorities;
- ☒ Promote full and equal participation of everyone in political and public affairs, without any discrimination or exclusion;

- Impartial justice and meritocracy

- ☒ Strengthen the resources and independence of the judiciary;

- ☑ Strengthen institutional capacity to ensure access to justice and the effective and impartial administration of justice;
- ☑ Strengthen mechanisms for the transparent selection of judges based on merit and performance, through competency-based examinations.

At the international level, Bolivia pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Promote respect for and the protection and enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, in accordance with the principles of universality, interdependence and indivisibility;
- ☑ Continue to strengthen multilateralism as the most effective diplomatic tool for promoting and defending human rights;
- ☑ Continue to participate in the UPR - one of the most important mechanisms created by the Council;
- ☑ Continue to engage in dialogue and coordinate action with OHCHR.

Cuba's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 had not been made available at the time of publication.

Mexico presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on June 2020. In the document, Mexico pledges, *inter alia*, to:

At international level:

- ☑ Actively participate in the UPR, making precise, objective and action-oriented recommendations to States;
- ☑ Work on the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations;

- ☑ Continue to promote the protection of human rights as an essential part of global governance of international migration;
- ☑ Continue to present the resolutions on the protection of the human rights of migrants;
- ☑ Continue working to promote the highest human rights standards for women and girls to guarantee their empowerment and eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women;
- ☑ Continue to work on a universal moratorium on the death penalty and its abolition worldwide;
- ☑ Continue to endorse initiatives to promote, respect, protect and guarantee the human rights of groups in vulnerable situations, including indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, migrants, LGBTI people, among others;
- ☑ Continue to work towards eliminating discrimination, racism, hate speech and xenophobia;
- ☑ Seek to strengthen the Council's approach to prevention, early warning and early response to human rights violations;
- ☑ Mainstream human rights at the UN;
- ☑ Continue to collaborate and contribute to strengthening the international human rights system, based on the following objectives:
 - Promote the capacity of the Special Procedures mechanism to raise the visibility of human rights violations and to contribute to overcoming those situations through recommendations, joint action and technical assistance;
 - Review human rights situations in an objective and impartial way;
 - Press for all UPR recommendations to be action-oriented;
 - Promote the interdependence of the work of the Council and other UN and regional bodies;
 - Strengthen the Council's preventative approach;
 - Strengthen civil society space within the Council and its mechanisms.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Bolivia** has tended to vote against resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) of the Council's agenda, the only exceptions being texts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: it voted in favour once (2008) and abstained twice (2009, 2010). Bolivia has voted in favour of all item 2 country-specific texts (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Bolivia has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Bolivia has joined consensus, except during voting of the following initiatives: cooperation with Ukraine and Georgia (Bolivia voted against), and the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Bolivia voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Bolivia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Bolivia nearly always votes in favour. Exceptions include abstentions during voting on texts on transitional justice, civil society space, peaceful protests, democracy, and defamation of religion. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Bolivia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Foreign debt and rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

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 most country-specific texts under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). Exceptions include: Cuba's votes in

favour of item 2 resolutions on cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (tabled by Iran and Russia in 2019), the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2019) and Burundi (2017), and resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (did not vote twice and joined consensus once). 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), in the absence of consensus, Cuba voted against all texts except for two on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009, 2017 - 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 tended to abstain during the voting on the resolutions on civil society space (2018), death penalty (2017), transitional justice (2016), violent extremism (2015), democracy, (2012, 2015) and defamation of religion (2009); voted against the resolutions on good governance (2008), civil society space (2016) and peaceful protests (2014, 2016); and in favour of the texts on mercenaries, integrity of the judicial system, right to peace, effects of terrorism in the enjoyment of human rights, protection of human rights while countering terrorism, arbitrary detention, firearms, drones, arms transfers and protection of human rights in multicultural contexts. 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 (2016-2018): The need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; cultural rights; composition of OHCHR; democratic and equitable international order; foreign debt; integrity of the judicial system; international solidarity; mercenaries; private military and security companies; right to food; right to peace; Social Forum; and the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Mexico** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). The exception is Mexico's position on item 4 resolution dealing with the situation in Belarus (abstained). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Mexico has generally voted in favour (although on six occasions it abstained – mostly regarding resolutions dealing with the 'follow-up to the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.'). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Mexico has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the following that were voted on during the period of its membership: cooperation with Ukraine (voted in favour) and the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Mexico has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in

favour. The exceptions to this rule are the 2015 and 2016 resolutions on the effects of terrorism on human rights (voted against); and the 2018 and 2019 texts on mercenaries (abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Mexico has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. However, Mexico tends to abstain during voting on resolutions on: foreign debt, the right to development, unilateral coercive measures, international solidarity, and the protection of the family.

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; birth registration; countering terrorism; the death penalty; elimination of discrimination against women and girls; independence of judges and lawyers; regional arrangements; right to a nationality; right to privacy; right to work; rights of indigenous peoples; rights of migrants; rights of minorities; rights of persons with disabilities; rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; sexual orientation and gender identity; terrorism and human rights; upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; the world drug problem; and Promotion and protection of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

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' (2015-2019)?

Bolivia	Cuba	Mexico
		
N	Y	Y
-	Y	N



**Cited in the
report 2015-
2019?**



**Response
provided to
allegations?**

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2020 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN' was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2020 Election Guide went to press.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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

Inclusivity / Access

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

50%

Bolivia



Cuba



Mexico

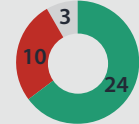


SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing invitation



Visits
(1998-
10 August 2020)



Reported/completed

Accepted / Dates agreed

Visit postponed / cancelled by SP or State

State extended invitation to a SP

Visit requested by SP not (yet) accepted by State

Longest
outstanding
visit request

SR on slavery
(5 years)

SR on freedom
of religion
(14 years)

SR on racism
(12 years)

Communications
response rate
(10 August 2015-
10 August 2020)

3
responded to
5 received
60%

17
responded to
19 received
89%

39
responded to
62 received
63%

TREATY BODIES

Core conventions
ratified

8/8

6/8

8/8

Communications
procedures accepted

7/8

0/8

5/8

Reporting
status
(data as at
10 August 2020)



submitted on time

on schedule

submitted late

overdue (outstanding)

not party

n/a

Most
overdue
report

N.A.

CEDAW
(3 years)

N.A.

OP-CAT

Ratified?



NPM established?



Sub-Committee visit?



2010, 2017

2008, 2016

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Level
of delegation
(at latest review)

Attorney
General

Minister

Minister

Participation
in other reviews
(1st cycle)

26

125

172

Participation
in other reviews
(2nd cycle)













45

172

192

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2019)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR field presence
France						
United Kingdom						

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

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

France tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 28 October 2013. France made a number of concrete pledges and commitments at both international and national levels.

At international level, France pledged to encourage States to oppose arbitrary detention, torture and enforced

disappearances. It also undertook to end impunity and promote the right to truth and justice, particularly through support for international criminal justice. France also committed to supporting the rights to education, health, food, water and sanitation, and the promotion of human rights in the context of extreme poverty. In terms of engagement with the Council and human rights mechanisms, France pledged to cooperate with all human rights organs and mechanisms, including Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and fact-finding missions.

At domestic level, France pledged to promote freedom of opinion and expression, particularly in the context of peaceful demonstrations.

An analysis of steps taken by France in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it participated in around half of panel discussions and general debates. Regarding Special Procedures, it has accepted 65% of the visit requests and responded to 68% of communications received. France is Party to all the core conventions and has accepted all communications procedures. It is an active participant in the UPR, speaking during the reviews of 184 States during the first cycle and all 192 States during the second cycle. It also submitted a mid-term report on the implementation of recommendations received during the UPR first and second cycles. France leads Council initiatives on many of the issues mentioned in its voluntary pledges and commitments, including on enforced disappearances, the right to truth, and human rights and extreme poverty. France has also demonstrated a strong commitment towards women's rights, the rights of journalists, and ending arbitrary detention and the death penalty, by consistently supporting and leading on initiatives to promote and protect these rights.

The **United Kingdom (UK)** presented voluntary pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 in December 2015.

Key pledges included: 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 the 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; and promote open societies and challenge threats to civil society.

An analysis of steps taken by the UK in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has remarkably high-levels of cooperation with Special Procedures, having accepted almost all visit requests (two visits not yet completed are on hold due to COVID-19 related restrictions and another has been accepted but the mandate-holders are yet to suggest dates), and responded to almost all received communications (the two communications that have not yet been responded to are still within the 60 day window for reply). Regarding the UPR, the UK's report was presented by a high-level delegation, and it submitted a detailed mid-term report on implementation. The UK has participated actively in the reviews of other States, presenting recommendations to all 192 States during the first and second cycles. The UK continues to support OHCHR by, *inter alia*, making yearly voluntary financial contributions.

Key pledges and commitments for 2020 election

France presented its voluntary pledges for election to the Council for the term 2021-2023 early in 2020. In the document, France structures its pledges and commitments around three major priorities:

- Combatting all forms of inequality. For this purpose, France pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Strengthen international efforts to end violence and discrimination against women, and make gender equality a universal reality;
- ☑ Promote economic, social and cultural rights to fight inequality by leading new projects on corporate social responsibility, human rights and the environment, the right to water and sanitation, the fight against climate change, and the Global Pact for the Environment;
- ☑ Combat all forms of discrimination by fighting racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia; countering hate speech; defending and promoting the rights of LGBTI persons and supporting resolutions and mandates on SOGI; and
- ☑ Continue to work on the promotion and protection of the rights of children and on combatting the use of children in armed conflict.

- Protecting fundamental freedoms. To this end, France commits, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Ensure the safety of journalists and the right to reliable information, including by combating the manipulation of information;
- ☑ Fight enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention; and
- ☑ Promote the universal abolition of the death penalty.

- Helping people who promote human rights. To achieve this, France pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Support human rights defenders and civil society; and
- ☑ Fight impunity.

The **United Kingdom** presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2021-2023 on 3 March 2020. In the document, the United Kingdom pledges to, *inter alia*:

- ☑ Promote 12 years of quality education for all girls, and work to end violence against women and girls. To this end, the United Kingdom pledges to continue to work on: ending violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation; child, early and forced marriage; and conflict-related sexual violence through the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI);
- ☑ Stand up for freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief by, *inter alia*, continuing to be a global leader and a strong voice internationally defending freedom of religion or belief (FORB), raising awareness of the scale and severity of FORB violations, and calling out States which target and persecute people on the grounds of their religion or belief; and making full use of mechanisms and procedures to defend FORB, including international meetings, the UPR, and other international fora;
- ☑ Support democratic values by, *inter alia*, supporting the participation of human rights defenders and civil society at the UN wherever appropriate, and working to counter instances of reprisals as part of a wider effort to create a safe environment for human rights defenders and civil society representatives;
- ☑ Be at the forefront of global efforts to protect media freedom. To this end, the UK pledges to, *inter alia*, continue to work with other governments

to promote a free media and create a safe and enabling environment that protects journalists and media workers from harm (SDG16.10).

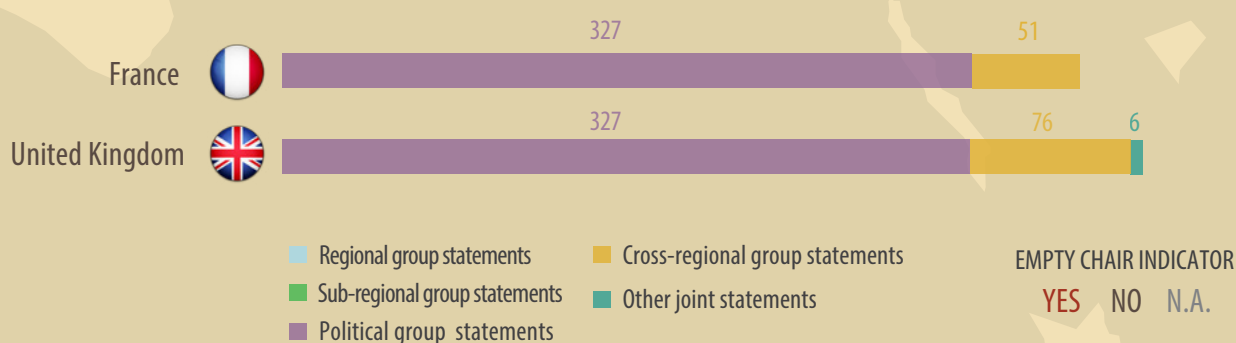
Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **France** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as country-specific resolutions under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), France generally either votes in favour or abstains (almost equally). Notwithstanding, it voted against two item 7 texts, in 2008 and 2010, on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), France has joined consensus on all resolutions except for three dealing with cooperation with Ukraine (with France voting in favour), and one dealing with technical cooperation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (France abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, France has mainly either voted in favour or joined consensus. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include resolutions on: the right to peace, the effects of terrorism on human rights, and drones. France abstained on a 2014 resolution on the integrity of the judicial system, a 2015 resolution on the regulation of firearms, and a 2008 text on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, where there have been votes on such texts, France has tended to abstain or vote against. Exceptions include France's votes in favour of resolutions on the right to development (dates) and the right to water and sanitation (dates).

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Arbitrary detention; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; death penalty; enforced or involuntary disappearances; extreme poverty; human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups; human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; preventing and countering violent extremism; promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; safety of journalists; situation of human rights in Eritrea; and youth and human rights.

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last three years (June 2017 - June 2020). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.



in South Sudan; human rights in Sri Lanka; human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **United Kingdom (UK)** 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 most country-specific resolutions under item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). Exceptions include item 2 texts on: Burundi (voted against in 2017), the Occupied Palestinian Territories (abstained in 2019), and cooperation and technical assistance with Venezuela (abstained – resolution tabled by Iran and Russia in 2019). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the UK tends to either vote in favour or abstain. However, it usually votes against item 7 resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, the follow-up to the report of the UN fact-finding mission on the Gaza conflict, and the texts concerning violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the UK has voted in favour of all resolutions except for a text that focused on the Democratic Republic of Congo (2009, the UK abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the United Kingdom has mainly either voted in favour or joined consensus. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include: the right to peace; effects of terrorism on human rights; drones; and mercenaries. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, in the absence of consensus, the United Kingdom has tended to vote against most texts. Exceptions include votes in favour of the resolutions on water and sanitation (2016), the right to development (2010, 2011), and the right to food (2017, 2018).

Principal sponsor (2016-2020): Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; child, early and forced marriage; contemporary forms of slavery; corruption; human rights

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' (2015-2019)

France	United Kingdom
	
N	N
-	-



Cited in the report 2015-2019?



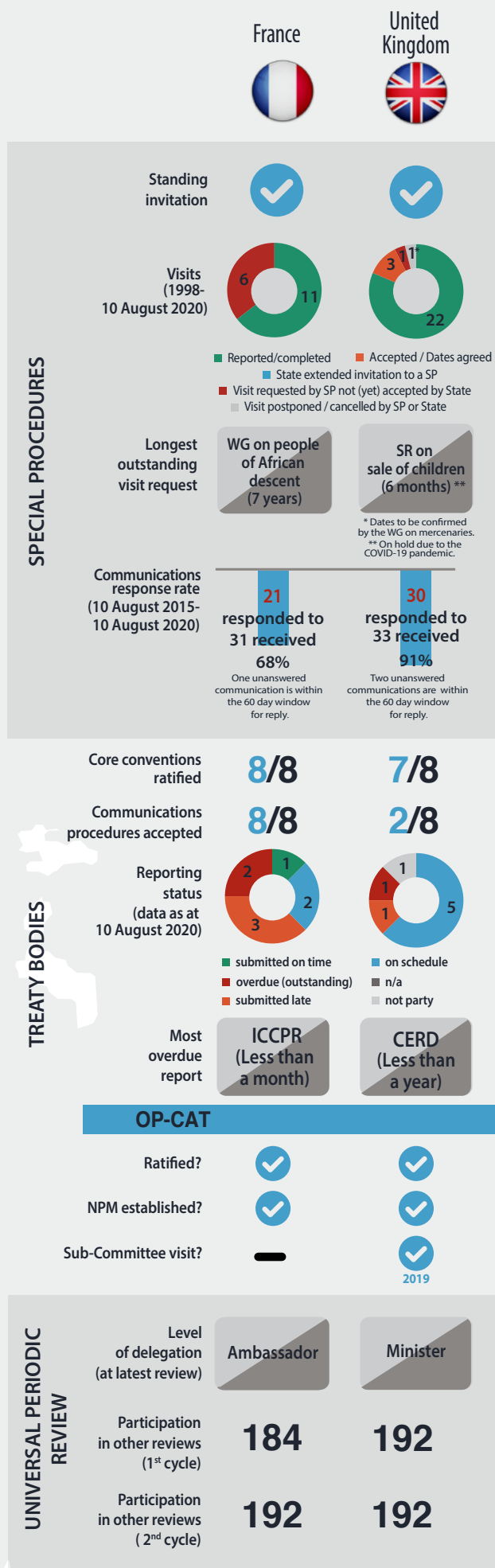
Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2020 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN' was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2020 Election Guide went to press.

Inclusivity / Access

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

62%



Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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

Methodology Notes

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

Overview of membership

Membership of Council Bureau

Source: OHCHR website. Presidency and bureau.

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

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)

Source: OHCHR website. Our donors. Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2018.

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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%20%2826%20May%202017.pdf>

Data as at: 8 August 2017.

Previous membership terms

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

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

OHCHR Presence

Source: OHCHR website. Human Rights Report 2018.

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Source: UN General Assembly website; OHCHR website.

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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, commitments, and statements. Notwithstanding, OHCHR has published a helpful document on 'suggested elements for voluntary pledges and commitments by candidates for election to the Human Rights Council' which states that voluntary pledges and commitments should be 'specific, measurable, and verifiable.' The paper then provides a general framework for assessing pledges and commitments against this benchmark. yourHRC.org uses this framework to identify the number of specific pledges presented by candidates. yourHRC.org also presents a short analysis of the degree to which members of the Council have 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 Council debates and dialogues

Source: Council Extranet.

Data as at: 23 August 2020.

Note: The participation of the members of the Council in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from June 2017 until June 2020. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Statements not listed on the Extranet were not counted, nor were we able to count joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed.

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

Regional Groups	AG
	APG
	EEG
	GRULAC
	WEOG
Subregional Groups	Arab Group
	ASEAN
	Benelux
	CARICOM
	Nordic
	Nordic-Baltic Others
Political Groups	ALBA
	CELAC
	Council of Europe
	European Union
	Gulf Cooperation Council
	Mercosur
	OIC
	Others
Cross-regional	Beneficiaries of LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund
	BRICS
	Climate Vulnerable Forum

Other

Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Community of Portuguese Language Countries
Core-group on National policies and human rights
Core-Group on the right to Privacy
Geneva Support Group Western Sahara
Group of Friends of the International Criminal Court in Geneva
Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect
Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict
Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking
Groupe Francophone
Like-Minded Group
MIKTA
Non-Aligned Movement
Platform for Human Rights Education and Training
Safe Schools Declaration
Territorial integrity of Kingdom of Morocco
The Group of Friends of Economic Social and Cultural Rights
Others

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

Key pledges and commitments for 2020 election

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

Data as at: 2 September 2020.

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

Voting history during previous membership terms

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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

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

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' (2014-2018)

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

Data as at: August 2020.

Inclusivity/Access

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

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing invitation

Source: OHCHR website. Special Procedures: Standing invitations.

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

Visits Completed and longest outstanding visit

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

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

Note: The number of visits completed includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on the OHCHR website (i.e., visits reported as completed or with report forthcoming).

The dates for the most overdue visit are calculated according to the initial request date of the corresponding visit (regardless of subsequent reminders, when initial request date is not available, the date taken to calculate the time a visit is overdue was the earliest reminder published in the OHCHR website); only visits requested by the Special Procedures that have not yet been accepted by the State are considered in this calculation.

Communications response rate

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

Data as at: 105 August 2020. More recent information is not yet available.

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

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website. Country Pages. Ratification Status.

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

Note: Ratification and reporting is recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);

the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

Explanation of Options:

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

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

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website. Country pages. Ratification Status.

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

NPM Established:

Source: OHCHR website. National Preventive Mechanisms

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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

Sub-Committee visit:

Source: OHCHR website. Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (CAT-OP). Country Visits.

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/CountryVisits.aspx?SortOrder=Alphabetical

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR Website

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

Data as at: 10 August 2020.

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: 10 August 2020.

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

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

About 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 116 States that have stood for and won election to the Council, and of the candidates for the 2020 election that have never been members of the Council before. An interactive world map provides information on the Council's membership in any given year, and on the number of membership terms held by each country. Country-specific pages then provide up-to-date information on: the voting record of the State; its sponsorship of important Council initiatives; its level of participation in Council debates, interactive dialogues and panels; its engagement and cooperation with the Council's mechanisms (UPR and Special Procedures) and with the §Treaty Bodies; and the degree to which it 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.



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yourHRC.org

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



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations