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**yourHRC.org**

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

**GUIDE TO THE**  
**2024**  
**UN HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**COUNCIL ELECTIONS**





## yourHRC.org

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

The **yourHRC.org** portal, together with a number of related reports 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.



## Acronyms

<b>AG</b>	African Group
<b>APG</b>	Asia-Pacific Group
<b>CAT</b>	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<b>CED</b>	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
<b>CMW</b>	Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
<b>Council</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>EEG</b>	Eastern European Group
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>GRULAC</b>	Latin America and Caribbean Group
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>ICESCR-OP</b>	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organisations
<b>NPM</b>	National Preventive Mechanisms established under the OP-CAT
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OP-CAT</b>	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<b>OPT</b>	Occupied Palestinian Territories
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>WEOG</b>	Western European and Others Group

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

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

The Council seeks to influence the on-the-ground enjoyment of human rights in 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](https://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 53 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 97 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 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 18 years since the Council's creation, a total of 125 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].'

The present document is the ninth annual '**yourHRC.org Election Guide.**' It provides general information on the 2024 Human Rights Council elections (scheduled for 9th October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2025-2027).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2024 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 2024 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).





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**2024 HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
NEW YORK

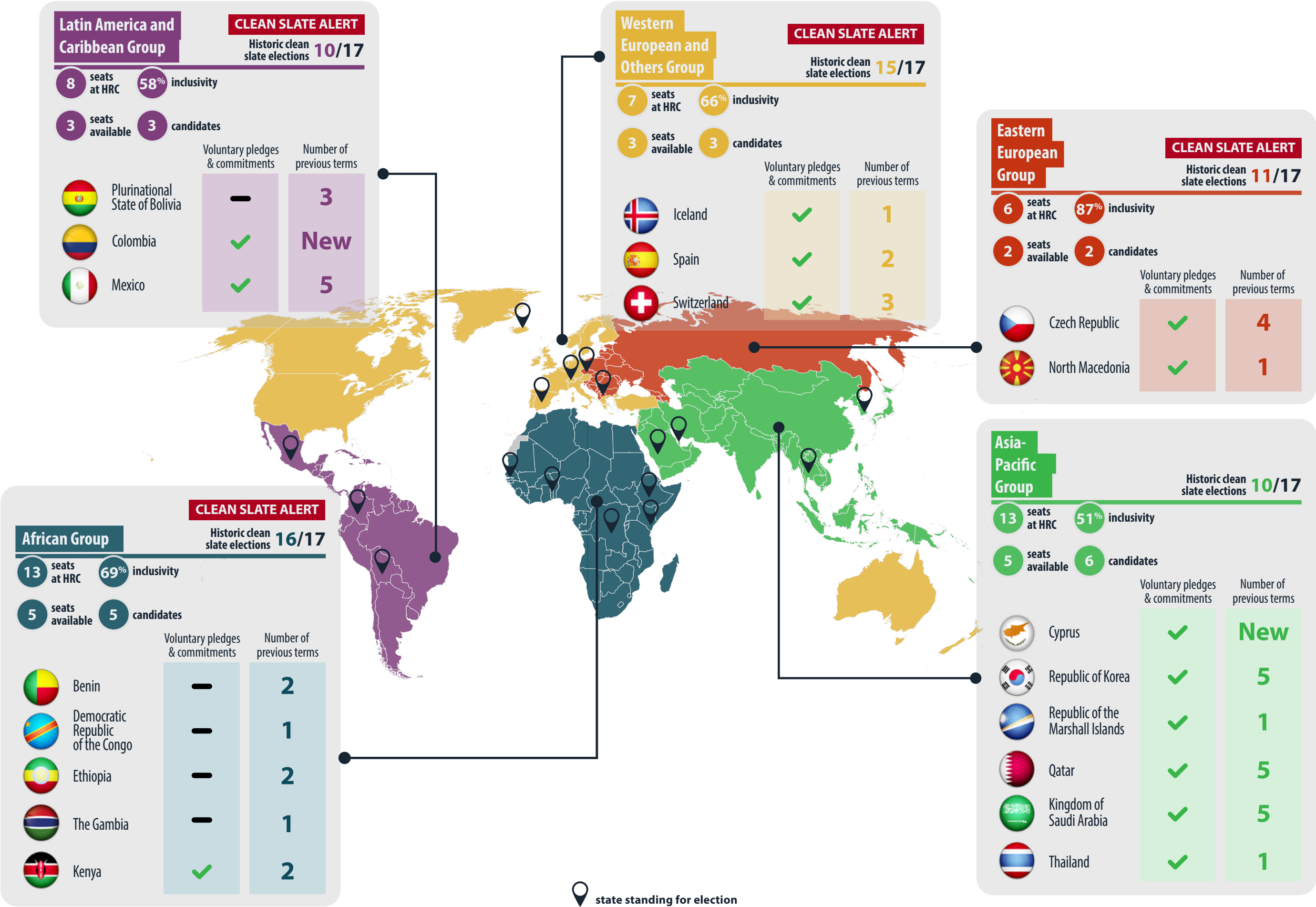
FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2025-2027

**CANDIDATE ANALYSIS  
BY REGIONAL GROUP**

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2024 ELECTIONS (FOR MEMBERSHIP PERIOD 2025-2027): THE CANDIDATES





# AFRICAN GROUP (AG)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2024)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Benin		—	✗	A	2	—
Democratic Republic of the Congo		—	✗	A	1	Human Rights Component of a Peace Mission and Human Rights Adviser
Ethiopia		Vice-president (2016)	✗	A	2	Regional Office
The Gambia		Vice-president (2023)	✗	A	1	Technical Mission
Kenya		—	✗	A	2	Human Rights Adviser

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

## FULFILLMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

**Benin** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014, on 13 May 2011.

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

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

An analysis of steps taken by Benin in fulfilment of its pledges made at international level shows that Benin has indeed ratified the CED (2017), CRPD (2012), and the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (2012). Moreover, the State has successfully established a NPM under the OP-CAT. Lastly, it joined consensus during voting on GA resolutions concerning the international year of human rights learning.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo did not issue voluntary pledges and commitments ahead of its previous election.

**Ethiopia** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015 on 18 October 2012.

Ethiopia's previous pledges and commitments tended to describe existing contributions and practices, rather than pledge further steps. Out of 18 paragraphs titled 'international contributions, pledges, and commitments,' only 9 included concrete commitments to take further steps.

Where Ethiopia did offer concrete pledges, they tended to be 'specific, measurable and verifiable.' For example, the country pledged to: expedite ratification of two Optional Protocols to the CRC, and the CRMW; report to the Council on the implementation of UPR recommendations; incorporate UN and regional human rights recommendations into its national human rights action plan; cooperate with OHCHR; submit proposals and organise side events at the Council; and engage with NGOs in the preparation of national reports. On Treaty Body reporting, Ethiopia did not commit to improving its performance, rather it promised to continue its efforts.

An analysis of steps taken by Ethiopia in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has ratified both Optional Protocols to the CRC - as pledged. However, it has not yet taken action to become Party to the CRMW. Concerning the pledge to report to the Council on the implementation of UPR recommendations, Ethiopia has submitted its national report under the third cycle of the UPR.

### The Gambia

The Gambia did not issue voluntary pledges and commitments ahead of its previous election.



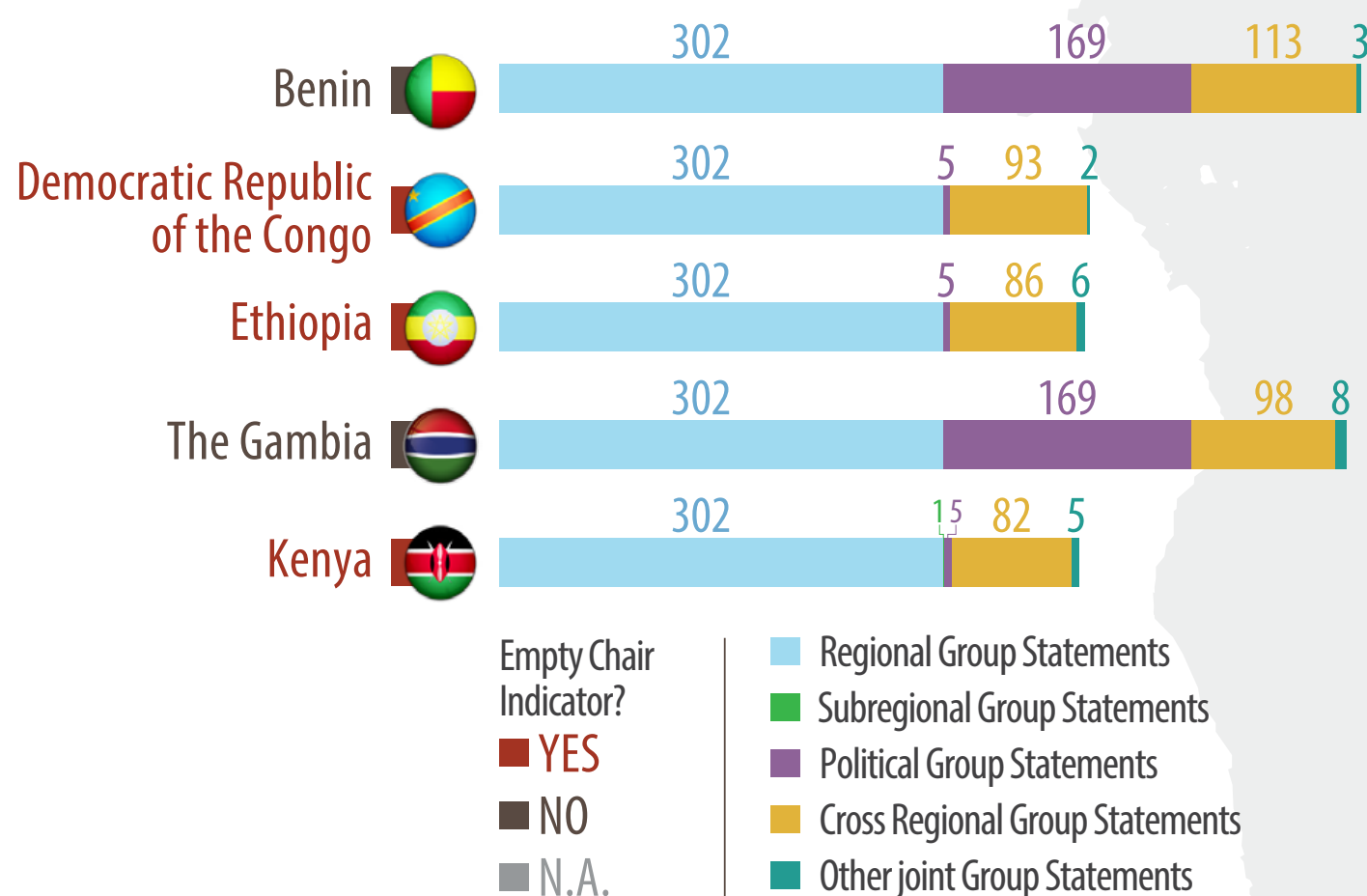
**Kenya** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015, on 12 October 2012.

The first part of the document presented Kenya's general legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, and a description of its commitment to universal norms (e.g. which instruments it has ratified). The main part of the document set out concrete pledges and commitments 'to further advance

human rights at the regional and international levels, and further enhance human rights at the national level.'

Kenya made only 8 concrete pledges for further action to contribute to the fuller enjoyment of human rights domestically or internationally. Of those, only 2 are somewhat 'specific, measurable and verifiable:' a pledge to play an active role in mediating and helping resolve regional conflicts with a view to protecting human rights; and taking steps to reform and strengthen the country's judiciary.

## 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 six years (from the 42nd session to the 56th). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see the endnote.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2024 ELECTION

### Benin

Benin had not published voluntary pledges and commitments at the time of publication of this Guide.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo had not published voluntary pledges and commitments at the time of publication of this Guide.

### Ethiopia

Ethiopia had not published voluntary pledges and commitments at the time of publication of this Guide.

### The Gambia

The Gambia had not published voluntary pledges and commitments at the time of publication of this Guide.

**Kenya** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 13 September 2024. In the document, Kenya pledges to:

- Review the 2014 National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights in accordance with new challenges.
- Promote the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights on the African continent in 2020, to ensure businesses are operating in compliance with human rights standards.
- Promote Kenya's Children's Act of 2022, which seeks to protect children from *inter alia* cyber security threats, and corporal punishment.
- Promote the National Police Service Response (POLICARE) to coordinate national networks to curb sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Alleviate poverty through a multi-pronged approach of social protection programmes such as *Inwa Jamii*, which protects populations that are elderly, orphans, or disabled.
- Commit to providing educational equity for all through targeted projects such as the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project and school meal programmes.

## VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2011, **Benin** has either joined consensus on or voted in favour of nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) with the exception of the resolution on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Burundi (Benin abstained). During its current

term, Benin has abstained from most resolutions under item 2 (country-specific resolutions). However, in the past, Benin either joined consensus, or voted in favour of item 2 resolutions. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Benin has consistently voted in favour. Moreover, on item 10 resolutions (technical



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

#### Principal sponsorship

The question of the death penalty.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2018, **DRC** has mostly abstained from all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exception is a resolution on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar (DRC voted in favour), and two item 4 resolutions: situation of human rights in Burundi (DRC voted against) and situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (DRC voted against). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), DRC has consistently abstained. On item 10 resolutions (technical assistance and capacity-building), DRC has joined consensus, except on two resolutions on which votes were called: on the cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights (DRC abstained) and cooperation with

Georgia (DRC voted in favour). DRC has generally joined consensus for thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights. Where there has been a vote, DRC has nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions are its abstentions on the following resolutions: implementation of the joint commitment to countering drugs; the integrity of the judicial system; death penalty; and the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, DRC has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**DRC** has not been the principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, **Ethiopia** has (in the absence of consensus) almost always abstained on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as on country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are the item 4 resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (Ethiopia voted in favour) and five item 5 resolutions (Ethiopia voted in favour). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Ethiopia usually votes in favour, though on seven occasions it has abstained. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Ethiopia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. Ethiopia voted against resolutions in 2013 and 2014 on the question of the death penalty, and against a 2014 resolution on sexual orientation. It has abstained on resolutions dealing with: peaceful protests; human rights, democracy and rule of law; and drones. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Ethiopia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage; The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; and High-level panel discussion on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2022, **The Gambia** has (in the absence of consensus) almost always voted in favour on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are item 4 resolutions on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iran, and Burundi (Gambia abstained), and five item 2 resolutions (Gambia abstained). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), The Gambia has usually joined consensus or voted in favour. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, The Gambia has generally joined consensus or voted in favour. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. Notwithstanding, The Gambia abstained during voting on the question of the death penalty. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, The Gambia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, relevant resolutions.

#### Principal sponsorship

High-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council.

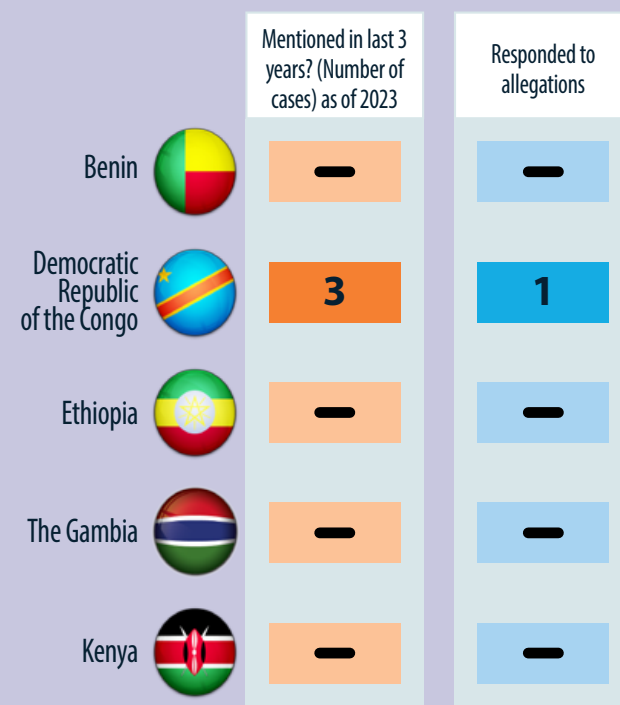
Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, **Kenya** has (in the absence of consensus) almost always abstained on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). It voted in favour of two resolutions on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2013 and abstained for the same in 2014. Kenya has voted against or abstained on country-specific resolutions tabled under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Kenya has generally voted in favour, though on four occasions it abstained. On item 10 resolutions (technical assistance and capacity-building), Kenya has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Kenya abstained in 2014 and voted in favour in 2015). Kenya has generally joined consensus for thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. However, it voted against a 2013 resolution on the question of the death penalty, a 2014 text on gender orientation, and a 2014 text on peaceful protests. Kenya abstained during voting on a 2014 resolution on the death penalty, and during voting on a 2014 resolution on the integrity of the judicial system. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Kenya has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of all resolutions.

#### Principal sponsorship

Promoting human rights and Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable, and efficient public services delivery; Marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.



**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' (2022-2024)?**



Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

## COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

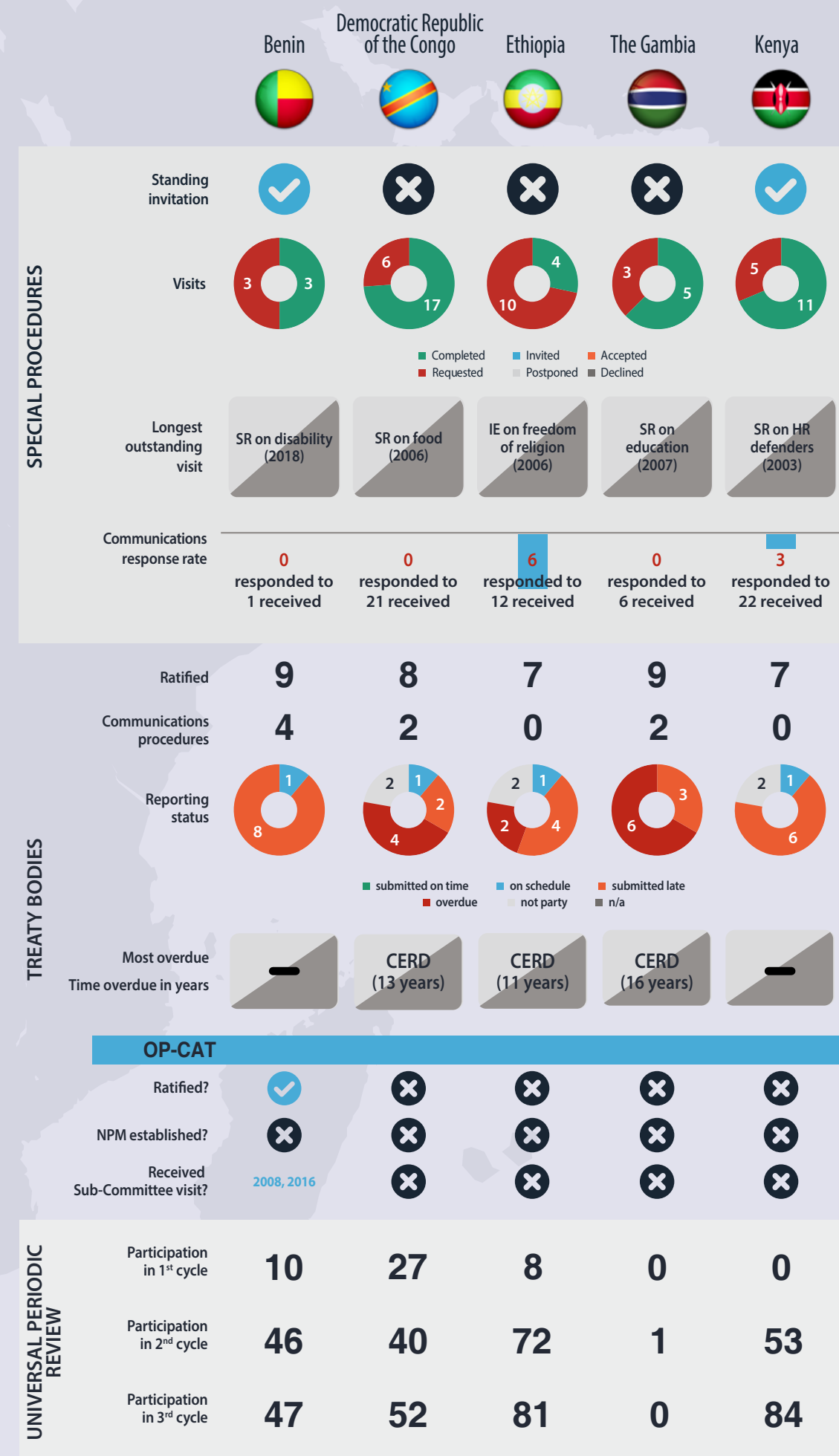
\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' meaning: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading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

### Inclusivity/Access

Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council







**69%**





# ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (APG)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2024)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Cyprus		—	✗	A	—	—
Republic of Korea		President (2016)	✓	A	5	Country Office
Republic of the Marshall Islands		—	✗	✗	1	—
Qatar		—	✓	A	5	Regional Office
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia		—	✓	✗	5	Technical Mission
Thailand		President (2010-2011)	✓	A	1	Regional Office

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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

**Cyprus** has not previously been a member of the Human Rights Council.

**The Republic of Korea** presented [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on July 2019.

**Key international-level pledges included:** cooperating with the international community to address human rights violations around the world; cooperating with other States on the implementation of their obligations through technical assistance; incorporating human rights perspectives into development cooperation; helping make the Council more effective and efficient, so that it can respond to urgent situations in a prompt manner; cooperate fully with the Special Procedures, UPR and Treaty Bodies; and support the work of OHCHR;

**Key national-level pledges included:** implement the provisions of the international human rights instruments at the national level; consider withdrawing the reservations made to article 25e of the CRPD, and to article 21a of the CRC; consider ratifying the CED and CAT-OP, the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (The Palermo Protocol); strengthen the implementation of the 'Second National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights' for 2012-2016; and enhance cooperation and partnership with civil society.

An analysis of steps taken by the Republic of Korea in fulfilment of its pledges shows that it has supported the work of OHCHR, *inter alia*, by making voluntary financial contributions. The Republic of Korea indeed ratified the

UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Palermo Protocol in 2015 and the CED; although it is yet to ratify the CAT-OP. The Republic of Korea fulfilled its pledges to withdraw its reservations to the CRC and CRPD.

Moreover, the country has a strong record of cooperation with Special Procedures. It maintains a standing invitation to visit, has completed or accepted 70% of all visit requests, and has responded to more than 50% of communications received.

**Republic of the Marshall Islands** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 12 April 2019. The document presented the Marshall Islands' national, regional, and international level commitments and pledges.

At the national level, the Marshall Islands pledged *inter alia*, to: strengthen the existing National Human Rights Committee, to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles, and to gain A status classification from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions; consolidate the rights of persons with disabilities across all sectoral laws, and to address gender- and disability-based discrimination and inequality; coordinate efforts for the National Nuclear Commission to provide a prioritised plan of action to address issues raised by the recommendations in the 2012 report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; increase efforts to investigate and prosecute traffickers under the new law; and undertake a rights-based approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation.



At the international level, the Marshall Islands committed, *inter alia*, to: undertake cabinet and parliamentary consideration on treaty instruments, including article 22 (on individual complaints) of the CCPR, CCPR-OP1, and the CCPR-OP2 aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, article 31 (on individual complaints), and the entirety of the CED and others; and work towards improving the delivery of the Human Rights Council under item 10 of its agenda, on technical assistance and capacity-building.

An analysis of steps taken by the Marshall Islands in fulfilment of its pledges shows its National Human Rights Committee does not fully comply with the Paris Principles. Regarding the consideration of several treaty instruments, the Marshall Islands has not yet ratified the mentioned treaties.

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

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

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

At international level, Qatar pledged, *inter alia*, to: press for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly by strengthening international efforts to report on progress made in implementing SDG16; continue cooperating fully with international organisations and UN human rights entities, particularly the Council and its mechanisms; continue supporting the work of international organisations and UN human rights entities; work to implement the recommendations accepted by the Government during the UPR; maintain its standing invitation to Special Procedures; and consider acceding to the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party.

An analysis of steps taken by Qatar in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has submitted its periodic reports under all treaties to which it is party. It is yet, however, to ratify the communications procedures under most of these conventions (it has only accepted the complaints procedure under the CAT). Regarding the Special Procedures, Qatar has responded to 50% of all received communications, and has maintained its standing invitation as pledged. However, it has completed less than 50% of all visit requests.

**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 the international level, Saudi Arabia pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to implement its commitments under regional and international human rights instruments to which it is a Party; continue to consider accession to human rights instruments to which it is not yet Party; 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: continue 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; continue to empower women in order to protect and promote their rights under the Islamic Sharia and international laws and standards; support civil society, strengthening its role and enabling it to play a vital part in promoting and protecting human rights; involve civil society in preparing 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 Saudi Arabia has not extended a Standing Invitation to Special Procedures and has accepted only 25% of visit requests. However, it has replied to 85% 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 with the rights of women.

**Thailand** tabled its commitments, [voluntary pledges and contributions](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2010-2013 on 22 February 2010.

At the national level, Thailand pledged to: support the work of the National Human Rights Commission; strengthen the implementation of human-rights-related legislation and policies; strengthen law enforcement in line with international human rights standards and norms; promote human rights education; strengthen interfaith dialogue; protect the rights of the poor; and engage with civil society.

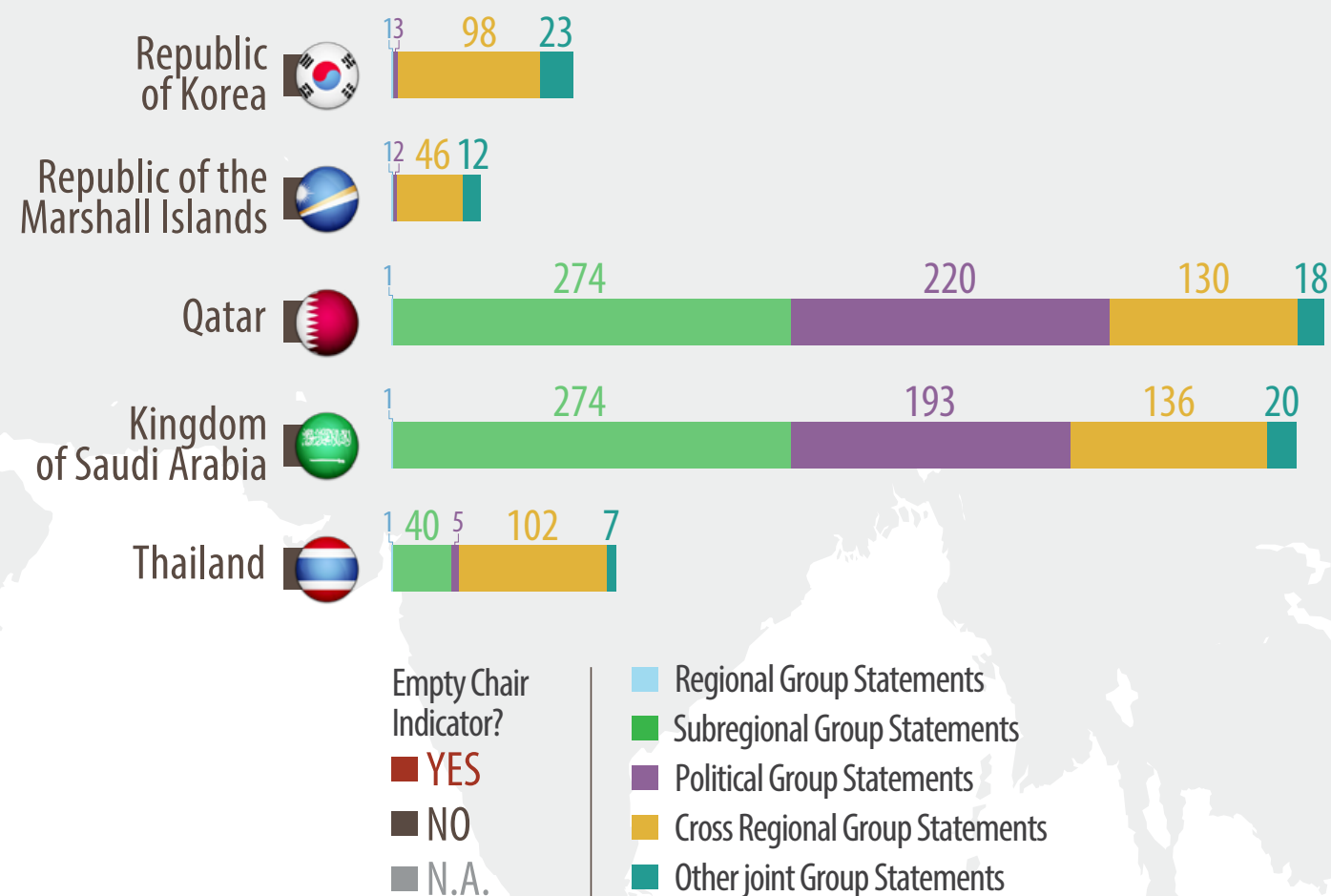
Regionally, Thailand committed to: strengthen its contribution to ASEAN; promote regional dialogue; and combat human trafficking and smuggling.

Internationally, Thailand undertook to: participate fully in the work of the Council and cooperate with its Special Procedures; expedite withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW and ICCPR; consider becoming Party to the CED; cooperate closely with Treaty Bodies, including by submitting periodic reports in a timely manner; protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities; promote gender equality; and support dialogue on democracy, human security, and religion.

Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Thailand has only facilitated 43% of visit requests, but replied to over 80% of the communications received during the period under review. Thailand is Party to nearly all the core conventions, but currently has 2 overdue reports. Thailand has indeed withdrawn its reservations to articles 6 and 9 of the ICCPR, and its reservations to article 16 of CEDAW. However, it retains other reservations to those treaties.



## 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 six years (from the 42nd session to the 56th). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see the endnote.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2024 ELECTION

**Cyprus** tabled [pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 18 June 2024. In the document, Cyprus pledges to:

- Maintain a standing invitations to all Special Procedure mandate-holders.
- Promote a human rights-based approach in addressing technological advancements, in the fields of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and misinformation.
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights with regards to complaints from individuals in cases of violations of the Covenant.
- Continue mainstreaming gender in all State programmes and policies, through the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2024–2026, and adopt a national strategy specifically on the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons.
- Continue to implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and promote rights of women.
- Promote the rights of the child without discrimination, especially to the welfare of victimised children.
- Provide a child-friendly justice system and implement alternative measures on detention.
- Tackle discrimination against migrants by advancing respect and tolerance through education and social integration.
- Protect the right to health by ensuring equal access to healthcare services for all.

- Continue to promote a human rights-based approach to climate change, as a way of addressing climate impacts.

**Republic of Korea** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 28 June 2024. In the document, South Korea pledges to:

- Ratify additional human right instruments and withdraw reservation to human right treaties for the following: withdrawal of reservations to article 16, paragraph (g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption; accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- Continue to place local governments in the international human rights framework, and promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Promote a human rights-based approach towards new and emerging digital technologies.
- Implement the pledges on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
- Ratify the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in regard to Intercountry Adoption.
- Promote the women and peace and security agenda by implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) at the national level by reviewing its third national action plan (2021–2023), and developing the fourth national action plan (2024–2027).



**Republic of the Marshall Island** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 29 April 2024. In the document, Republic of the Marshall Island pledges to:

- Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, to achieve A status accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.
- Establish a national mechanism to facilitate periodic reporting to treaty bodies and seek technical assistance from the regional office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Human Rights and Social Development Division of the Pacific Community.
- Seek technical assistance to address the impacts of the nuclear legacy by building the capacity of the National Nuclear Commission through dialogue and engagement with the Human Rights Council and other stakeholders.
- Prevent discrimination, particularly by giving consideration to an anti-discrimination legislation in the Nitijela (Parliament).
- Commit to improving prison conditions in compliance with international standards, particularly the completion of a new prison facility.
- Undertake cabinet and parliamentary consideration of the following treaties: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime; the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption; and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED).

- Extend a standing invitation to Special Procedures mandate-holders, particularly the Special Rapporteur on promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence.
- Enhance cooperation with OHCHR, particularly providing support to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- Promote and strengthen the OHCHR regional office in Fiji to focus on the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility of the Pacific Islands Forum, and work taken up under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Engage with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Economic and Social Council on displacement and cultural rights, particularly on issues related to the impacts of sea level rise.

**Qatar** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 20 October 2023. In the document, Qatar pledges to:

- Implement the Qatar National Vision 2030 and examine the State's accession to international human rights instruments to which it is not yet party.
- Mainstream a human rights perspective in implementing the Qatar National Vision 2030, and the national strategies established accordingly.
- Continue hosting human rights-related conferences, workshops, training courses, and education for various sectors of society to promote and develop the effectiveness of the work of human rights national institutions and civil society organisations.

- Advocate for the creation of a regional security system that maintains the security and stability for the Middle East and Gulf region.
- Continue support to the activities of the Doha-based UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region.
- Renew open invitations to the Human Rights Council's Special Procedure mandate-holders.

**Saudi Arabia** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 in September 2024. In the document, the Saudi Arabia pledges to:

- Exchange best practices in the promotion and protection of human rights with member States and international organisations.
- Work on building national indicators that enable the measurement of progress in the field of human rights, the detection of obstacles and challenges, the identification of priorities, and their linkage to relevant national initiatives.
- Promote and protect the rights of the most vulnerable, in particular children, persons with disabilities, and older persons.
- Support the contribution of civil society organisations to the promotion and protection of human rights in various fields.

**Thailand** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 10 May 2024. In the document, Thailand pledges to:

- Expedite the ratification process of remaining international human rights treaties, and work towards revising legislation, policies, and regulations in accordance with international human rights treaties to which Thailand is party.
- Promote transparency around the work of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- Continue working towards the promotion of gender equality, and empowerment of women and girls.
- Develop policies and legislation to promote and protect human rights in digital and online spaces, to curb issues of misinformation and ensure the right to privacy while addressing the digital divide in society.
- Engage with local communities to promote human rights in relation to climate action and disaster risk reduction.
- Promote the advancement of the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.
- Accelerate the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025 to address the rights of persons with disabilities across the ASEAN community.
- Use of international frameworks to combat transnational crimes, especially human trafficking, people smuggling, and online child exploitation and abuse.
- Advocate for non-politicisation of human rights to promote a progressive role of the Council in protecting human rights.

## VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

**Cyprus** has not been previously elected to be a member of the Human Rights Council.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **Republic of Korea** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and item 2 (country-specific resolutions), except for voting against texts on Burundi (2017) and abstentions on texts concerning Venezuela (2020), and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2020). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Republic of Korea has tended to either vote in favour or abstain (almost equally). It has only voted against an item 7 text one time (2020). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the Republic of Korea has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the following texts that were voted on during its time as a member: five occasions on cooperation with Ukraine (voted in favour), on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (twice abstained), and on cooperation with Georgia (abstained three times). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Republic of Korea has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on issues including: sexual orientation; torture; implementation of the Durban Declaration; arms transfers; peaceful protests; and human rights, democracy and rule of law. The Republic of Korea has voted against resolutions on, *inter alia*: defamation of religions; drones; a global call for concrete action against racism; complementary standards to CERD; the right to peace; and the effects of terrorism. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, it has, in the absence of consensus, tended to vote against or (somewhat less frequently) abstain on draft texts. The Republic of Korea has voted against resolutions on, *inter alia*: foreign debt; the impacts of globalisation;

international solidarity; and unilateral coercive measures. It has voted in favour of resolutions on, *inter alia*: HIV and AIDS, the right to food, and WASH. The Republic of Korea tends to abstain or (somewhat less frequently) vote in favour during votes on resolutions on the right to development.

### Principal sponsorship

Human rights, democracy, and the rule of law; New and emerging digital technologies; Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; Local government and human rights; The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights.

During its one term as a member of the Council (2020-2023), **Republic of the Marshall Islands** has either joined consensus on or voted in favour of nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. There is one exception under item 2, when it voted against a resolution to strengthen cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Marshall Islands has generally voted against. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the Marshall Islands has joined consensus on all resolutions. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Marshall Islands has generally joined consensus except on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (Marshall Islands voted against), and on a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance (Marshall Islands abstained). For thematic resolutions

dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, the Marshall Islands (in absence of consensus) has abstained during votes on texts dealing with: foreign debt (2020, 2021), and inequality (2020), and has voted against texts on international solidarity (2021).

### Principal sponsorship

Strengthening the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council; Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; Technical assistance and capacity building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Qatar** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, but against resolutions on the situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2012), and Sudan (2010). Qatar has abstained during votes on resolutions on Ukraine, Burundi, Venezuela, Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Concerning country-specific resolutions under item 2, Qatar (in the absence of consensus) has voted against texts concerning: Sri Lanka (2012, 2013), Philippines (2019), and Sudan (2023). It abstained during voting on texts regarding Nicaragua (2019, 2023), Eritrea (2019, 2020, 2023), South Sudan (2024, 2023), and Venezuela (2013).

For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Qatar has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Qatar has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two that were voted on during its time as member - texts concerning Ukraine (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019), and Georgia (207, 2018, 2023). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Qatar has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has generally voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Qatar voted against a 2011 resolution on sexual orientation, and a 2013 resolution on the question of the death penalty. Qatar has abstained during votes on texts dealing with: religious discrimination (2009); torture (2009); arms transfers (2013); and the effects of terrorism (2015). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Qatar has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

### Principal sponsorship

Fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the World Summit Outcome of 2005; Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; Human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; Human rights, democracy and the rule of law; Protection of the family; Situation of human rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; The role of freedom of opinion and expression in women's empowerment; The safety of journalists.



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 voted against item 4 resolutions on the situations in Sudan (2010), Burundi (2017, 2018, 2019) and Venezuela (2019). Saudi Arabia has abstained during votes on the situations in Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Burundi. Saudi Arabia joined consensus and voted in favour of some item 2 country-specific resolutions, with the exception of texts regarding Sri Lanka (2012, 2014), Yemen (2018, 2019), Philippines (2019), and Eritrea (2019), when it voted against, and on Venezuela (2018, 2019), and Nicaragua (2019), when it abstained. 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 member: on cooperation with Ukraine (Saudi Arabia voted against once and abstained four times), 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 usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Saudi Arabia tends 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. It has 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), and integrity of the judicial system (2018). 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 sponsorship

Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; Human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; Protection of the family; Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights; Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar; Protection of the family: Role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2010, **Thailand** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2011), and the Syrian Arab Republic. It has abstained during voting on resolutions on the situations Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Sudan. Thailand voted against two resolutions, tabled under item 2, on the situation in Sri Lanka (2012, 2013). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Thailand has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Thailand has joined consensus on all resolutions. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Thailand has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. The exception was a 2013 vote on a resolution on the question of the death penalty (Thailand abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Thailand has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

Promoting human rights and SDGs through transparent, accountable, and efficient public services delivery; Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; World Programme for Human Rights Education; Access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the high level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016; Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; Establishment of the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council; High-level panel discussion to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; High-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; Human rights education and training; Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers; Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; National policies and human rights; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; Regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific Region.

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' (2022-2024)?

	Mentioned in last 3 years? (Number of cases) as of 2023	Responded to allegations
Cyprus	1	1
Republic of Korea	—	—
Republic of the Marshall Islands	—	—
Qatar	1	1
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	3	3
Thailand	1	1

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

### Inclusivity/Access

Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council.

**51%**

## COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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

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

	Cyprus	Republic of Korea	Republic of the Marshall Islands	Qatar	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Thailand
SPECIAL PROCEDURES	Standing invitation	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Visits	2 Completed, 3 Invited, 1 Requested	10 Completed, 22 Invited, 1 Requested	3 Completed, 1 Invited, 1 Requested	9 Completed, 8 Invited, 4 Requested	12 Completed, 8 Invited, 1 Requested
	Longest outstanding visit	WG on business and human rights (2014)	SR on slavery (2015)	NA	SR on housing (2014)	SR on freedom of expression (2004)
	Communications response rate	5 responded to 7 received	28 responded to 51 received	NA	7 responded to 7 received	50 responded to 59 received
TREATY BODIES	Ratified	7	8	7	7	5
	Communications procedures	6	6	2	1	1
	Reporting status	2 submitted on time, 2 overdue, 2 on schedule, 1 not party	1 submitted on time, 1 overdue, 4 on schedule, 3 not party	2 submitted on time, 2 overdue, 2 on schedule, 4 not party	2 submitted on time, 2 overdue, 2 on schedule, 5 not party	4 submitted on time, 1 overdue, 1 on schedule, 1 not party
	Most overdue	—	CAT (5 years)	—	—	CAT (4 years)
OP-CAT						
	Ratified?	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
	NPM established?	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Received Sub-Committee visit?	2016	✗	✗	✗	✗
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW	Participation in 1 <sup>st</sup> cycle	6	69	1	40	45
	Participation in 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle	61	111	1	58	56
	Participation in 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle	86	126	33	91	61



# EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (EEG)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

	Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2024)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Czech Republic	Vice-president (2006-2007, 2014)			4	
North Macedonia			B	1	Human Rights Adviser

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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

The **Czech Republic** presented [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 27 April 2018. In the document, the Czech Republic pledged, *inter alia*, to:

At the international level: actively participate in the work of the Council; support preventative and timely responses to human rights violations and abuses; speak openly on both country-specific and thematic issues, in particular

those requiring the urgent action of the Council; promote freedom of expression and information as a gateway to the enjoyment of a wider range of human rights, including freedom of assembly and of association; cooperate closely with OHCHR, advocate for its independence and impartiality, and make voluntary financial contributions to it; continue to support the international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies; strongly support civil society participation

in political and public affairs, and speak out against any acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with, human rights mechanisms; build institutions that promote the rule of law, including through activities aimed at combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

At the national level: Submit a UPR midterm report in 2020, and implement those UPR recommendations received during the last review; ensure continuous dialogue about human rights issues with academia and civil society organisations; ratify the CRPD-OP and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention); promote equality, inclusion and non-discrimination vis-à-vis the Roma people; advance gender equality; strengthen the implementation of the CRPD, the CRC and the SDGs; sensitise Czech businesses, in particular State-owned businesses, on human rights concerns.

An analysis of steps taken by the Czech Republic in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it cooperates well with Special Procedures, maintaining a standing invitation and facilitating visit requests. The Czech Republic also participated in the review of 93 other states during the first cycle and 119 during the second cycle of the UPR. Moreover, the state continues to provide yearly voluntary contributions to OHCHR, since 2008.

**North Macedonia** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2014-2016 on 6 June 2013. North Macedonia

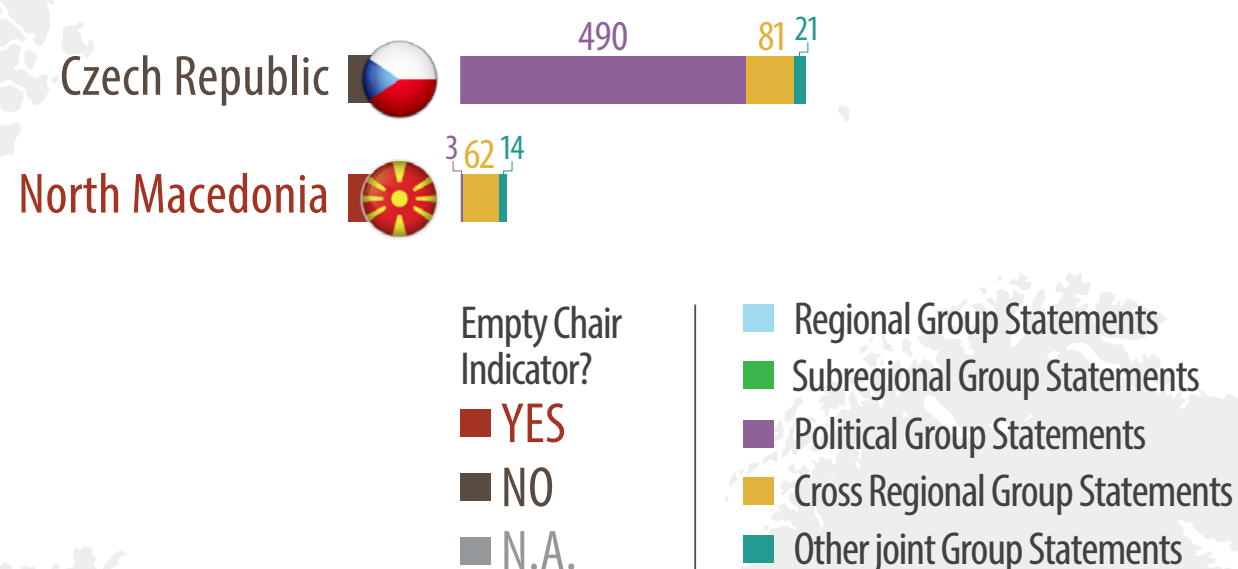
made a number of concrete pledges and commitments at both international and national levels.

At international level, North Macedonia pledged to: cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms; implement the Millennium Development Goals; actively engage in the work of the Third Committee of the General Assembly; consider signature and ratification of the CMW, ICESCR, CED and CRC-OP3; cooperate with subsidiary bodies and mechanisms of the Council; and support the UPR process including by effectively following-up on recommendations.

Nationally, Macedonia committed to: combat intolerance; implement judicial reforms; advance the rights of women and girls; combat violence against women; advance the rights of children and persons with disabilities; harmonise national legislation with international human rights standards; uphold the independence of national human rights institutions; and integrate a human rights-based approach into its policies and governance.

An analysis of steps taken by North Macedonia in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it maintains a standing invitation to Special Procedures, and has accepted 6 out of 7 visit requests. However, Macedonia has participated in the UPR reviews of few other UN member States. The country has ratified most core conventions, but has generally submitted its reports late (4 reports were submitted late, 1 overdue). As pledged, in 2013, Macedonia did sign the ICESCR-OP. But has yet to sign/ratify CMW, CED, or the CRC-OP3. Lastly, Macedonia's NHRI is not fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

## 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 six years (from the 42nd session to the 56th). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see the endnote.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2024 ELECTION

**Czech Republic** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 29 February 2024. In the document, Czech Republic pledges to:

- Support the Council's role in prevention, and uphold the role of its investigating mechanisms in ending impunity, and providing justice to survivors, such as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.

- Continue to promote a human rights-based approach to digital technologies, particularly the concept of digital humanism to end the use of digital surveillance tools to silence activists and protesters.
- Ensure the economic empowerment of women and protect their rights while working towards ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

- Cooperate to promote human rights in the environmental context to ensure people live in a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
- Work towards the accreditation of the Ombudsman's Office as a national human rights institution to promote and evaluate the effective implementation of international human rights standards, and cooperation with civil society organisations at the national level in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- Set up an independent institute of the Defender of the Rights of the Child to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Analyse the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights on communications from individuals.
- Implement the Czech Republic gender equality strategy for 2021–2030 by ensuring engagement with civil society to set up strategic priorities aiming for the protection of human rights by all LGBTI+ persons, and eliminate the condition of sterilisation for legal gender recognition.
- Continue to promote social integration, political participation, emancipation, fair treatment, and equal opportunities for the Roma population.
- Advocate for a coordinated UN-led approach in addressing the causes of human trafficking, including poverty, unemployment, the lack of educational opportunities, social exclusion, and marginalisation.
- Implement the main international anti-corruption instruments of the UN, the Council of Europe, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as relevant EU legislation and policies to fight corruption.
- Prevent and improve investigation of cybercrimes and strengthening capacities in law enforcement and the judiciary.
- Promote the independence of the judiciary in conformity with the National Strategy for Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest (2021–2025).
- Commit to the full implementation of the Roma Inclusion Strategy (2022–2030).
- Promote and protect gender equality and further support women's and girls' empowerment to achieve the goals of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2022–2027.
- Fulfil the second national action plan to implement the UN agenda on women and peace and security for the period 2020-2025, and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and related Council resolutions.

**North Macedonia** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 6 August 2024. In the document, North Macedonia pledges to:



## VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Czech Republic** has voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2 (with the exception of abstaining during voting on texts on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2021, 2023), and once voting against (2020). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Czech Republic has usually voted in favour, with the exception of voting against in 2023. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Czech Republic has joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Czech Republic has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: sexual orientation; the question of the death penalty; the regulation of firearms; arms transfers; peaceful protests; and human rights, democracy and rule of law.

It has voted against resolutions on: the right to peace; defamation of religions; and a number of texts dealing with racism. It abstained on a 2014 resolution on 'integrity of the judicial system,' and a 2014 resolution on drones. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Czech Republic has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has voted against are: resolutions on the effects of foreign debt, resolutions on international solidarity, resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, and a resolution on economic reform policies. It has consistently voted in favour of resolutions on the right to development. Czech Republic abstained on the resolution on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin.

### Principal sponsorship

The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Equal participation in political and public affairs; Moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

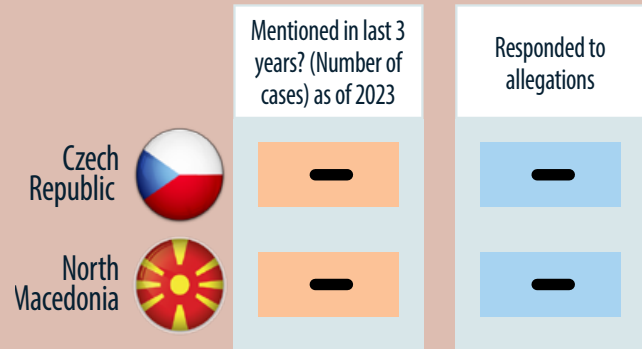
Since it first became a member of the Council in 2015, **North Macedonia** has voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), North Macedonia normally votes in favour with the exception of abstaining on texts related to Syrian Golan (2015), Palestine (2015, 2016) and Israel (2016), but it has never voted against an item 7 text. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, North Macedonia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: human rights, democracy and rule of law; sexual orientation; the question of the death penalty; and peaceful protests. It voted against a resolution on the effects of terrorism on human rights, and resolutions on drones.

North Macedonia abstained in the vote on the resolution on the integrity of the judicial system, and a resolution on the right to peace. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, North Macedonia has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has tended to vote against include: resolutions on the effects of foreign debt, resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, and resolutions on international solidarity. North Macedonia has abstained on resolutions on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and on the right to development.

### Principal sponsorship

Promoting reconciliation, accountability, and human rights in Sri Lanka; Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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’ (2022-2024)?



Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

Inclusivity/Access

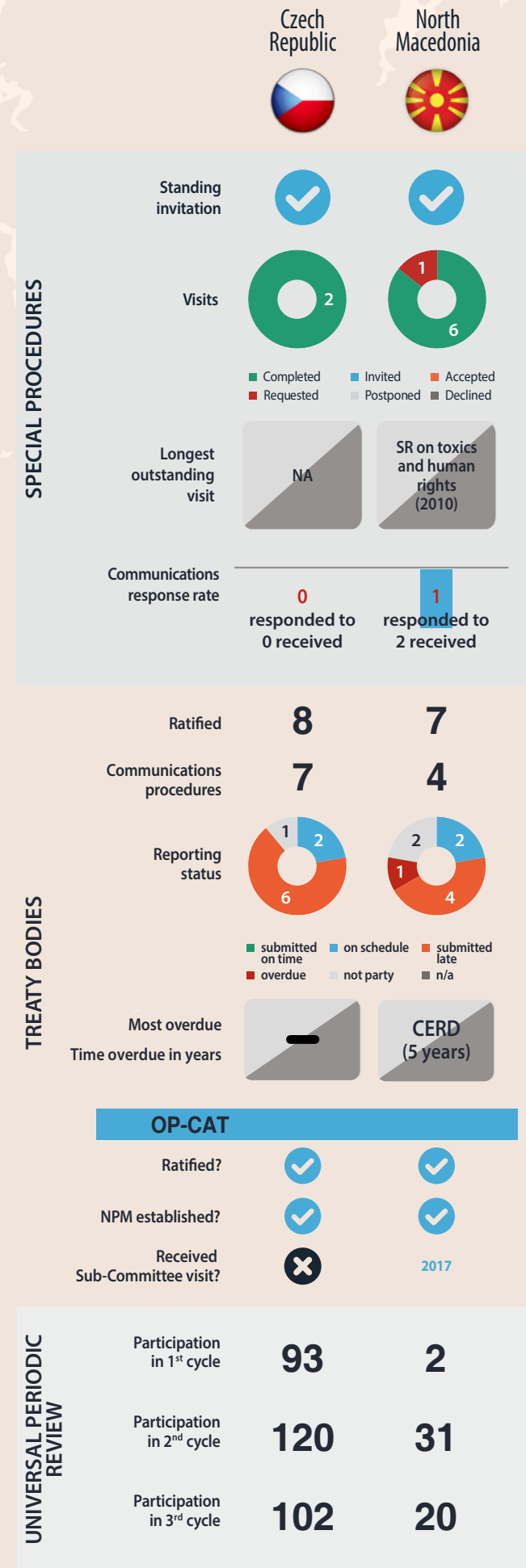
Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council

87%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the nine ‘core human rights conventions,’ which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, CMW, the CERD, and the CRPD.




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





# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GROUP (GRULAC)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2024)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Plurinational State of Bolivia		—	✗	A	3	Human Rights Component in Peace Mission
Colombia		—	✗	A	—	Country Office
Mexico		President (2006-2007); Vice-president (2020)	✓	A	5	Country Office

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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

### Bolivia

Bolivia tabled [‘voluntary pledges and commitments’](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2021–2023 on 1 June 2020.

The majority of the document presented Bolivia’s existing legislation, practices, and institutions for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights. Where it does offer concrete commitments, Bolivia pledged (at international level) to: ratify and incorporate into its laws the regional and universal international human rights treaties and the related protocols; and commit to multilateralism as a tool for facilitating international cooperation, peace and security.

Domestically, Bolivia pledged that international instruments would form part of the legal order since they have been incorporated into the legal and constitutional framework of the country, to enhance access to justice, to strengthen measures to combat violence against children and women, and to strengthen democratic values.

An analysis of the steps taken by Bolivia in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that they have, as pledged, ratified all core treaties and most optional protocols. It is yet to ratify the individual complaints procedure for CED and CMW. Moreover, the country has not yet ratified CESCOP.

### Colombia

Colombia has not been previously elected as a member of the Human Rights Council.

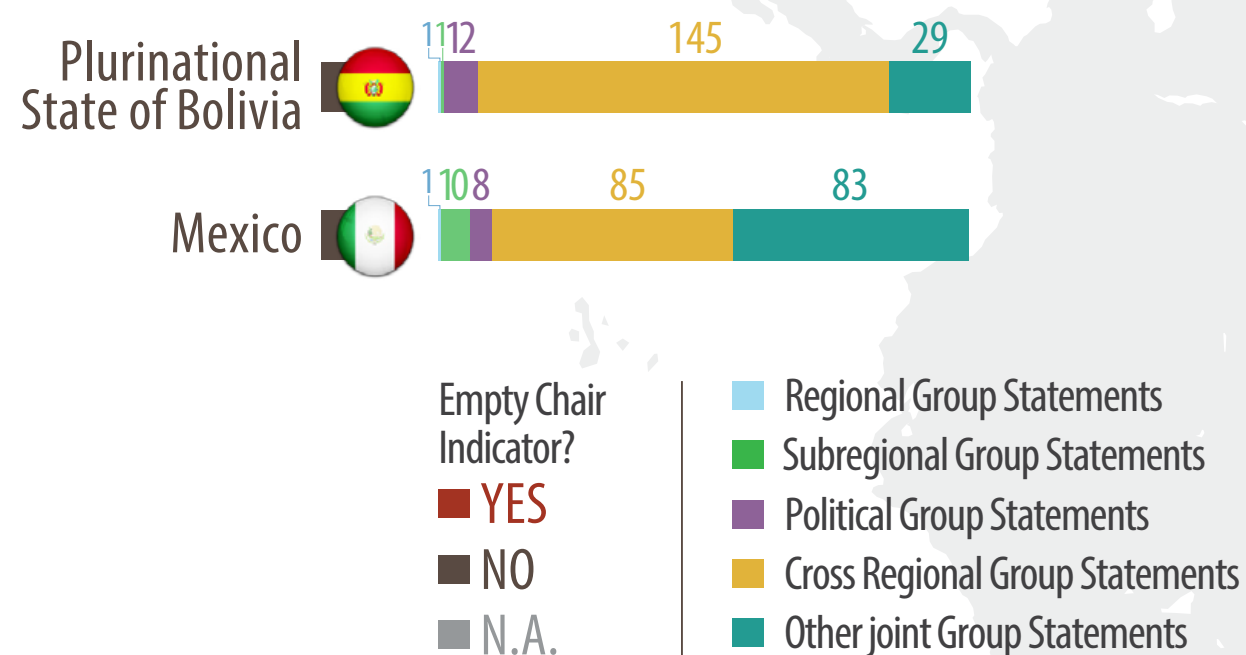
### Mexico

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 the 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 it leads 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 68% of the country missions requested, and responded to 70% of the communications it received during the period under review. Mexico participated in the review of 172 other UN member States during the first cycle, and all 192 States during the second cycle of the UPR. Mexico is party to all the core human rights conventions, although it generally tends to report late (7 reports were submitted late, 1 overdue). However, none of its periodic reports are overdue. Mexico made a voluntary contribution to OHCHR in 2024, and hosts an OHCHR country office.

## 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 six years (from the 42nd session to the 56th). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see the endnote.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2024 ELECTION

**Bolivia's** pledges and commitments were not available at the time of publication of this Guide.

**Colombia** tabled its [commitments and voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 29 July 2024.

- Achieve the full implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement.
- Continue with the identification and reparations to the victims of the Colombian armed conflict, through the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law.

- Work for the integral reparation of the historical debt to the Afro-descendant, black, Raizal and Palenquero peoples, victims of the slave-trade, slavery, and structural racism, as well as the indigenous peoples as a whole
  - Implement Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, to reaffirm the commitment to combat different forms of oppression, inequality and gender-based violence, including the adoption of a National Action Plan.
  - Implement mitigation measures and actions with a differential approach to reduce the vulnerability to climate change, especially for historically marginalised and vulnerable populations.
  - Maintain a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (in force since 2003), and to keep the doors open to visits by Rapporteurs to Colombia.
  - Promote the full implementation of resolutions related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and the promotion and guarantee of their rights.
  - Promote spaces, resolutions and other mechanisms that strengthen and enrich actions aimed at the consolidation of national transitional justice systems.
  - Defend and legitimise the work of human rights defenders.
  - Advocate for the implementation of policies in favour of migrants with a human rights perspective, which is in line with the objectives proposed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.
  - Defend the protection of the right to equality and non-discrimination of LGBTBIQ+ people by supporting the establishment of the mandate of the independent expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) at the Human Rights Council.
  - Protect and defend the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment, and to sustainable development.
- Mexico** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 17 May 2024. In the document, Mexico pledges to:
- Promote technical cooperation to help States comply with international obligations and human right standards.
  - Promote a human rights-based approach under the principles of good faith, mutual respect, co-responsibility and collaboration, the adoption of international human rights standards by member States, and defend multilateralism.
  - Promote gender perspectives and intersectionality in the Human Rights Council's structure and operations, a similar approach to that adopted in Mexico's feminist foreign policy.
  - Promote recommendations from the UPR that are action-oriented, particularly for groups in vulnerable situations and victims of historical discrimination.



## 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), the only exception are texts on the Democratic Republic of Korea – Bolivia voted in favour once (2008), and abstained twice (2009, 2010), and on Ukraine - abstained in 2023. Bolivia has voted against item 2 resolutions on Nicaragua (2021, 2023), Sri Lanka (2021), Tigray (2021), Eritrea (2021), South Sudan (2023), Sudan (2023), and Afghanistan (2021). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Bolivia has consistently voted in favour or joined consensus. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Bolivia has joined consensus on all resolutions except those on cooperation with Ukraine and Georgia (Bolivia voted against), and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and technical cooperation and capacity-building in Colombia (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 has nearly always voted in favour. Exceptions include abstentions during the voting on the 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 sponsorship

Effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social, and cultural rights; The activities of vulture funds; Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples; Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

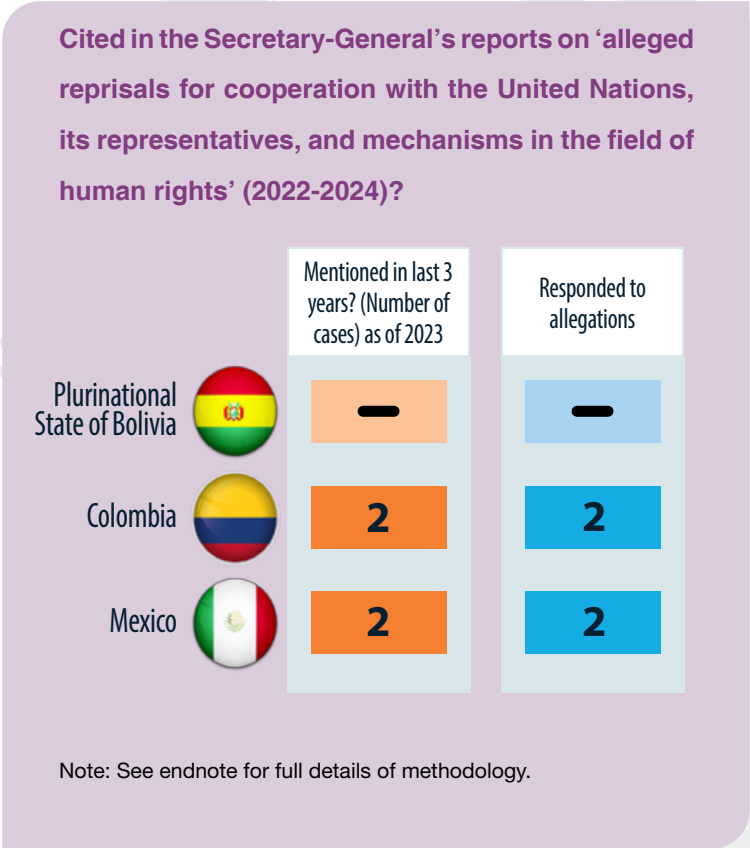
Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Mexico** has either voted in favour of or joined consensus on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exception is Mexico's position on the item 4 resolutions dealing with the situation in Belarus and Venezuela (Mexico abstains). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Mexico has generally voted in favour (although on three occasions it abstained on 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 four (during the period of its membership) on: cooperation with Ukraine, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and technical cooperation in Colombia (voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Mexico has generally

joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Mexico has nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions to this rule are 2015 and 2016 resolutions on the effects of terrorism on human rights (voted against); and the 2023 texts on unilateral coercive measures, and mercenaries, in 2018 and 2019 (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 the voting on the resolutions on foreign debt, right to development, unilateral coercive measures, international solidarity, and protection of the family.

### Principal sponsorship

Contribution of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights; Terrorism and human rights; Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the right of persons with disabilities to access to justice; Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; The rights of persons with disabilities; Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Independence

and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers; Protection of the human rights of migrants; Elimination of discrimination against women and girls; Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; The right to privacy in the digital age; Right to work; Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law; Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; Human rights and indigenous people; Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; The right to a nationality: Women's Equal Nationality Rights in Law and in Practice; The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; High-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; The question of the death penalty; Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016; Establishment of the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council; Protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict; Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy; Marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.



Inclusivity/Access

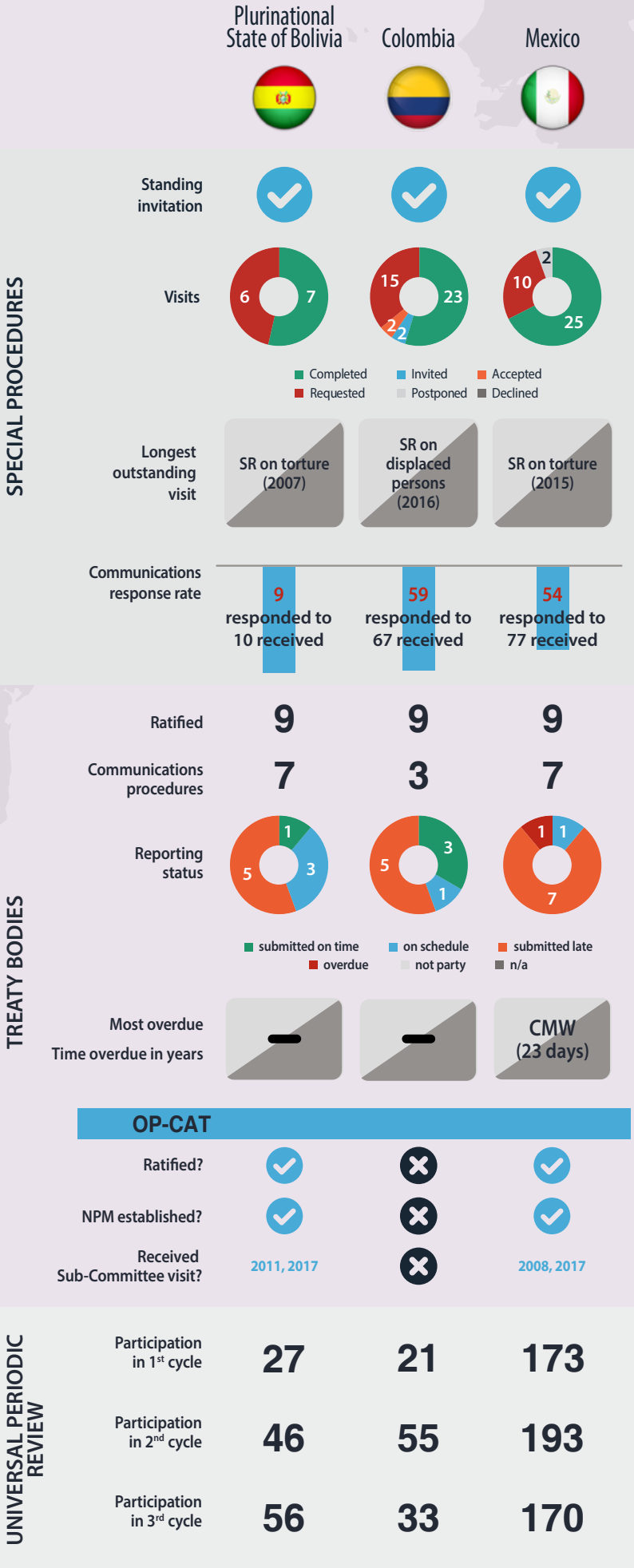
Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council

58%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the nine ‘core human rights conventions,’ which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, CMW, and the CRPD.











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





## WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP (WEOG)

### OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2024)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Iceland		Vice-president (2019)			1	
Spain		Vice-president (2018)		A	2	
Switzerland		Vice-president (2006-2007, 2013, 2017)			3	OHCHR Headquarters

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

### FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

#### Iceland

Iceland tabled [pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2019-2020 (in replacement of the United States) on 2 July 2018. The majority of the document describes Iceland's existing commitment to human rights and its engagement with the UN human rights system.

Some specific pledges included: promote the realisation of all human rights — civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights — on the basis of international human rights

law; work towards a more efficient and effective Human Rights Council with the primary objective of allowing the Council to fulfil its mandate to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and to address situations of human rights violations; safeguard the effective functioning of the UPR process and support efforts to strengthen national implementation and follow-up to its recommendations; enhance the engagement between the human rights Treaty Body system and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms; continue engaging with and promoting the work of national human

rights institutions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, including in the work of the Human Rights Council; promote understanding of the interdependence of development, peace and security, and human rights, including through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

An analysis of steps taken by Iceland in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has indeed cooperated effectively with the UN human rights mechanisms. In terms of engaging in the work of national human rights institutions, the country is yet to establish an NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles.

#### Spain

Spain presented [voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2018-2020 on 8 September 2017. Key pledges included, *inter alia*, to: conduct inclusive and transparent consultations on all issues; safeguard the role and contribution of civil society at the Council; promote equality and non-discrimination, especially gender discrimination, gender-based violence, and trafficking and sexual exploitation; defend the rights of persons with disabilities, including by promoting ratification of the CRPD and participating in relevant Council negotiations; promote and protect economic, social, and cultural rights, including by continuing the Council initiative on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation; promote democracy and rule of law; combat racism, xenophobia, and hate crime; contribute to reforms at the Council aimed at improving the body's effectiveness, and lastly, act as a bridge between North and South, East and West.

An analysis of steps taken by Spain in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has high levels of cooperation with Special Procedures, having accepted 78% of visit requests and responded to 74% of communications. Regarding UPR, the Spain's own

report was presented by a high-level delegation, and it submitted a detailed report on implementation. Spain actively participated in the UPR reviews of 192 other States during the second cycle. Spain has continued to support the initiatives it pledged to work on.

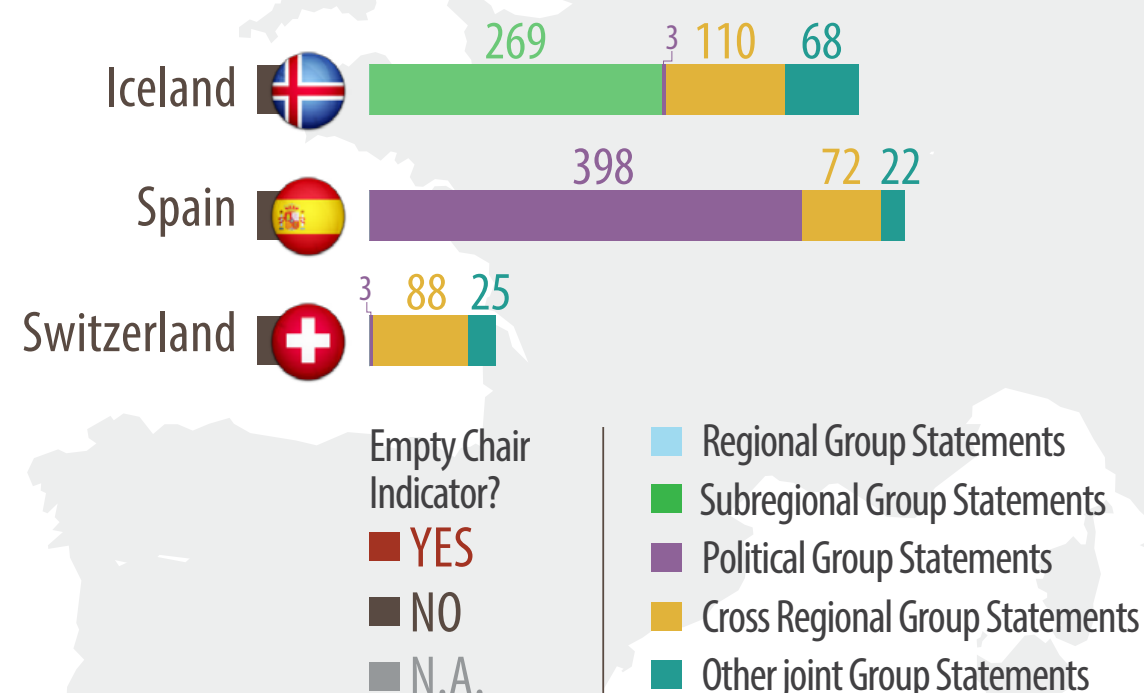
#### Switzerland

Switzerland presented [voluntary obligations and commitments](#) in support for its candidature for membership for the period 2016-2018 in February 2015.

Key pledges included: develop a national *ad hoc* mechanism to coordinate the preparation of periodic reports and to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations; implement, in good faith, accepted UPR recommendations; consider the establishment of a NHRI; elaborate a national strategy to implement the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights; keep under review the possibility of withdrawing Switzerland's reservations under certain conventions; step-up efforts to ratify CED and CRC-OP-IC; continue efforts towards the universal abolition of the death penalty; universal recognition of the right to water and sanitation; end discrimination, including of people based on their sexual orientation; maintain strong commitment to the prevention torture and to human rights in the context of peaceful protests; convene a high-level meeting in 2016 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Council; enhance the participation of NGOs and NHRIs in the work of the Council; and support the work of OHCHR, including financially.

An analysis of steps taken by Switzerland in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has maintained its financial support for OHCHR. Switzerland ratified the CED (2016) and the CRC-OP-IC, as pledged. Switzerland maintains a strong commitment to the prevention of torture, and received its first visit from the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture in 2019.

## 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 six years (from the 42nd session to the 56th). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see the endnote.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2024 ELECTION

### Iceland

Iceland tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 31 May 2024. In the document, Iceland pledges to:

- Participate in the UPR and issue a midterm report by the end of 2025, and support predictable contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Participation, and Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance.
- Maintain its standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Council, and respond to visit requests in a timely way.

- Promote implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, based on an updated national action plan to be adopted in 2024.
- Continue to use a human rights-based approach in protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls.
- Support the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the United Nations Free and Equal campaign.
- Advocate for the rights of the child, particularly the elimination of all forms of violence against children,

including female genital mutilation, and child, early, and forced marriage.

- Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- Incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into Icelandic law and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.
- Promote the Sustainable Development Goals by participating in the voluntary national review.

### Spain

Spain tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 29 August 2024. In the document, Spain pledges to:

- Promote dialogue and build trust between member and observers of the Human Rights Council.
- Promote a Feminist Foreign Policy to ensure the prevention and elimination of gender violence against women and girls, and uphold international conventions, particularly the Istanbul Convention and the Warsaw Convention.
- Promote the Disability Strategy 2022-2030 to protect the rights of persons with disabilities by engaging in the negotiation of resolutions on the rights of persons with disabilities in the framework of Human Rights Council sessions.
- Protect the work of human rights defenders by ensuring a safe and enabling environment.

- Promote the involvement of the private sector in promoting human rights, particularly with regard to drafting a law on the Protection of Human Rights, Sustainability and Due Diligence in Business Activities.
- Reach 0.7 per cent of GDP in development aid by adopting a human rights, gender, equality and diversity-based approach to ensure a new global social contract for sustainable and equitable development.

### Switzerland

Switzerland tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2025-2027 on 1 July 2024. In the document, Switzerland pledges to:

- Address new threats and challenges to human rights in relation to the environment and emerging technologies, such as digital, cyber, and neurotechnology.
- Promote democratic institutions through protection of election standards, and freedom of expression and protest.
- Strengthen the UN system by expanding and supporting space, diverse participation, and voices of civil society representatives, and supporting global monitoring and investigation of gross human rights violations.
- Improve its compliance with its human rights obligations and commitments at the national level by implementing recommendations made under the UPR.
- Improve coordination in the implementation of international human rights obligations, particularly through the recently established independent Swiss national human rights institution.



## VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

### Iceland

Since it became a member of the Council in June 2019, Iceland has broadly voted along the same lines as other WEOG members. Iceland has either joined consensus on or voted in favour of all texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country specific resolutions under item 2. This included resolutions on the situations in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iran, Myanmar, Belarus, and Burundi. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Iceland has mostly joined consensus, except for voting in favour of the resolution on the cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights. For item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Iceland voted against the resolution on the Occupied Syrian Golan (2019). For thematic resolutions dealing with Civil and Political Rights, Iceland abstained on the resolution on the rights of peasants, and voted against resolutions on the use of mercenaries and the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. The only case in which Iceland's vote differed from the position of the other WEOG members was its abstention during a vote on a text on the right to development. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Iceland joined consensus on most texts, with the exception of voting in favour of a resolution on water and sanitation in 2019, and voting against a resolution to the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights (also in 2019).

#### Principal sponsorship

Equal pay; Promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines; Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; The right to social security.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2010, **Spain** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Spain has either voted in favour or has abstained (almost equally). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Spain has either joined consensus or voted in favour. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote has been called, Spain has tended to vote in favour or abstain. Texts where Spain has voted in favour include: arms transfers; the question of the death penalty; human rights, democracy and rule of law: multiculturalism; and sexual orientation. Spain voted against resolutions on the right to peace (2011, 2013), and the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights (2018, 2019). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Spain has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it tends to vote against include: texts on the effects of foreign debt; texts on international solidarity; and texts on unilateral coercive measures. It has abstained on resolutions on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and a resolution on eliminating inequality within and among States for the realisation of human rights.

#### Principal sponsorship

Alliance of Civilizations; Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review; Human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation; Panel on the human rights of victims of terrorism; Promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Switzerland** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Switzerland has generally voted in favour, but has abstained on four occasions. It has never voted against an item 7 resolution. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Switzerland has either joined consensus or voted in favour, with the exception of its abstentions during voting on texts related to Georgia (2017, 2018), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (2009). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Switzerland has mainly joined consensus. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include those on: defamation of religions; the right to peace; some texts on racism and the Durban Review Conference; and complementary standards to CERD. It has abstained on certain item 9 resolutions (racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance), and on a text on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating

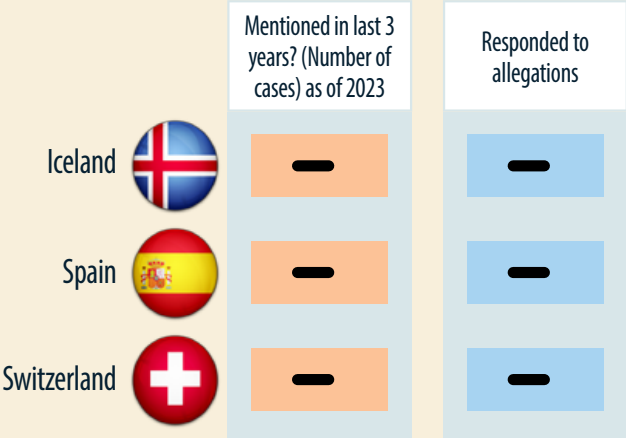
human rights. It has voted in favour of resolutions on: civil society; drug control; arms transfers; the question of the death penalty; human rights, democracy and rule of law; sexual orientation; torture; and religious discrimination. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Switzerland has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it tends to vote against include those on: the effects of foreign debt; international solidarity; and unilateral coercive measures. However, Switzerland has voted in favour of resolutions on the right to development.

#### Principal sponsorship

Fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the World Summit Outcome of 2005; Child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings; Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights; Promoting the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council; Terms of reference for the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council; The right to privacy in the digital age; Human rights and transitional justice; Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; Human rights education and training; The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests; The

question of the death penalty; Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage; Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; World Programme for Human Rights Education; Safety of journalists; United Nations declaration on human rights education and training; Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016; High-level panel discussion to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; Consequences of child, early and forced marriage; Equal pay; High-level panel discussion on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council; The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

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’ (2022-2024)



Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

Inclusivity/Access

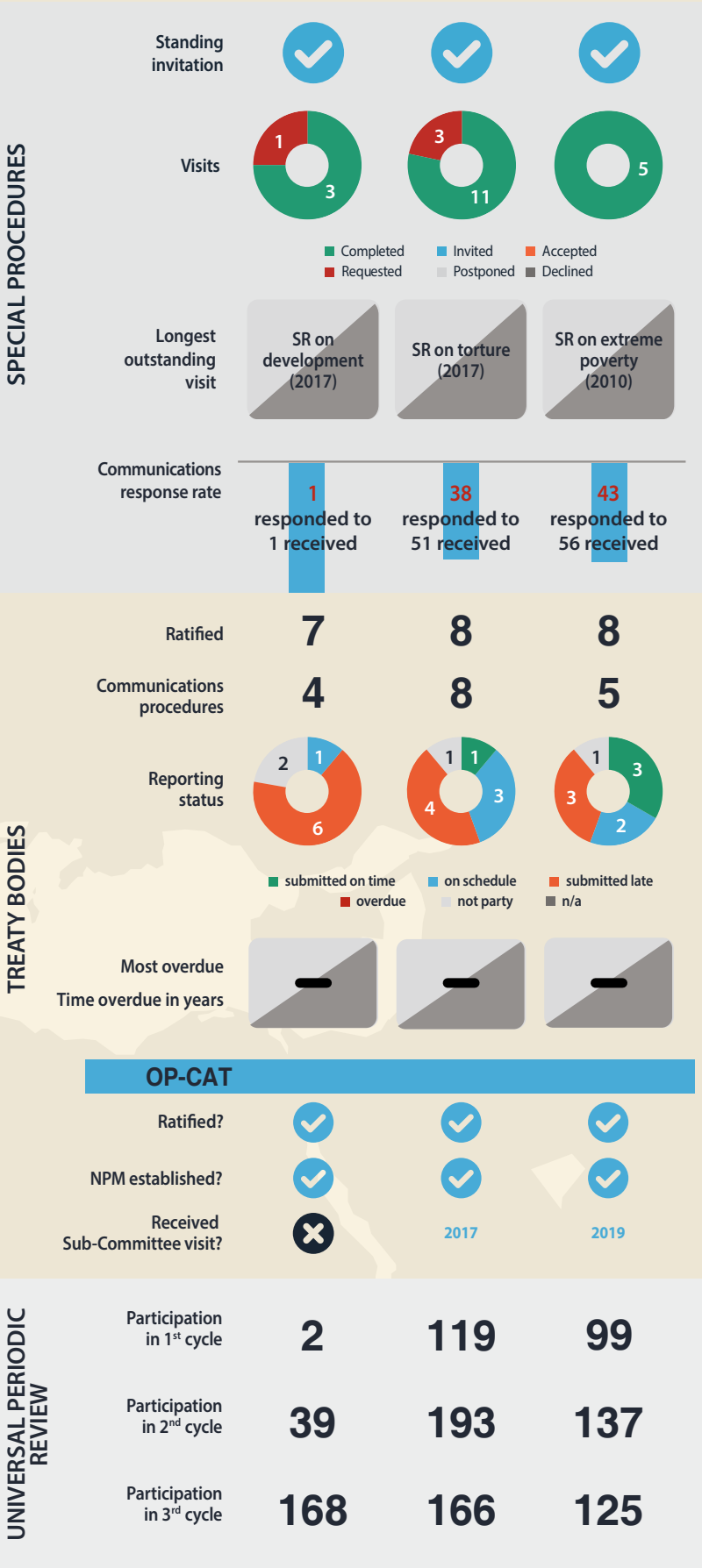
Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council

66%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the nine ‘core human rights conventions,’ which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, the CMW, 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 September 2024.

#### Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2024)

**Source:** Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2024.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/aboutus/fundingbudget/voluntarycontributions2024.pdf>  
**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

#### NHRI Accreditation Status

**Source:** Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).  
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/nhri/StatusAccreditationChartNHRIs.pdf>  
**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

#### 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 September 2024.

### OHCHR Presence

**Source:** OHCHR website. UN Human Rights Appeal 2024.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/annual-appeal/un-human-rights-appeal-2024>  
**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

### Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Source:** UN GA website; OHCHR website.  
**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.  
**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:** 10 September 2024.

**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 September 2019 until June 2024. 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
	Committee on Victim
	Assistance of the Anti-
	Personnel Mine Ban
	Convention
	Community of Portuguese
	Language Countries
	Core-group on National
	policies and human rights
	Core-Group on the right to
	Privacy
	Geneva Support Group
	Western Sahara
	Group of Friends of the
	International Criminal
	Court in Geneva
	Group of Friends of the
	Responsibility to Protect
	Group of Friends on
	Children and Armed
	Conflict
	Group of Friends United
	against Human Trafficking
	Groupe Francophone
	Like-Minded Group
	MIKTA
	Non-Aligned Movement
	Platform for Human Rights
	Education and Training

	Safe Schools Declaration
	Territorial integrity of Kingdom of Morocco
	The Group of Friends of Economic Social and Cultural Rights
	Others
Other	Any statement delivered by two or more countries of the same regional group (but not the whole regional group)

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

Key pledges and commitments for 2024 election

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

**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

**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 September 2024.

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

Cited in the Secretary General’s reports on ‘alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (2022-2024)

**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:** 10 September 2024.

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 September 2024.

**Note:** Self-calculated figures based on the past and current members, as reported by 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 September 2024.

Visits Completed and longest outstanding visit

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

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

**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

**Note:** The number of visits completed includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on OHCHR’s 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 OHCHR’s 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:** 10 September 2024.

**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 September 2022.

**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); the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW); 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 OHCHR’s 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 September 2024.

**NPM Established:**

**Source:** OHCHR website. National Preventive Mechanisms

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

**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

**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](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/CountryVisits.aspx?SortOrder=Alphabetical)

**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

**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 September 2024.

**Mid-term reporting**

**Source:** OHCHR Website

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

**Data as at:** 10 September 2024.

**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 September 2024.

**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](http://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 125 States that have stood for and won election to the Council, and of the candidates for the 2022 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  $\S$ 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

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



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