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

**GUIDE TO THE**  
**2025**  
**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://www.yourHRC.org) was created with a view to promoting transparency around the degree to which the Council and its members are delivering on the crucial mandate passed to them by the GA and, ultimately, entrusted to them by 'the Peoples of the United Nations,' described in the UN Charter.

## Membership of the Council

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

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

When the GA adopted resolution 60/251 on 15 March 2006, these new membership procedures and requirements were the most commonly discussed issue in States' explanations of 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 19 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 eleventh annual '**yourHRC.org Election Guide.**' It provides general information on the 2025 Human Rights Council elections (scheduled for 14th October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2026-2028).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2025 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 2025 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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**2025 HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

OCTOBER 2025

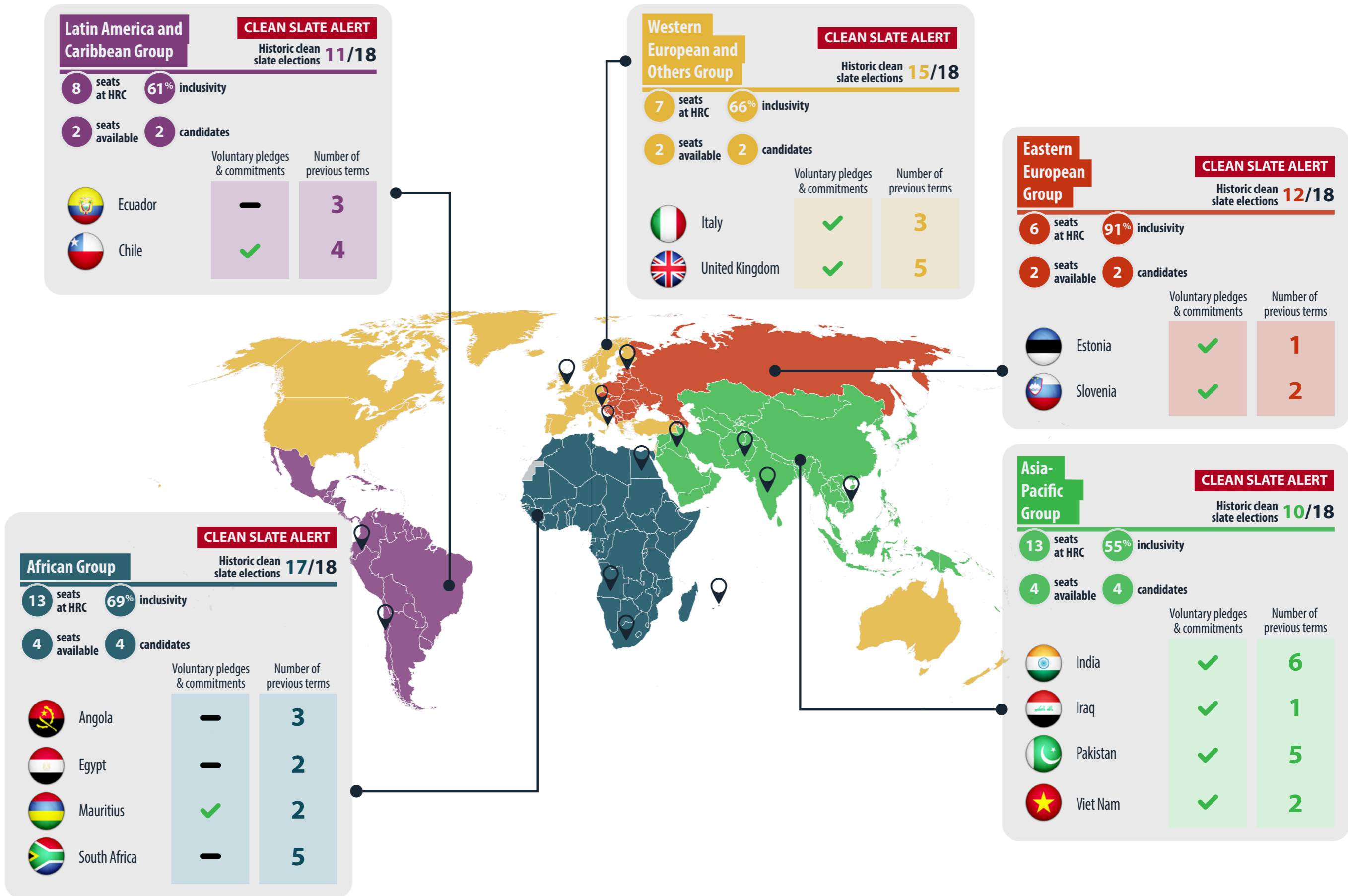
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
NEW YORK

FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2026-2028

**CANDIDATE ANALYSIS  
BY REGIONAL GROUP**

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## 2025 ELECTIONS (FOR MEMBERSHIP PERIOD 2026-2028): THE CANDIDATES



# AFRICAN GROUP (AG)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

	Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2025)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Angola	Vice-president (2010-2011)	X	X	3	—
Egypt	Vice-president (2009-2010, 2017)	X	A	2	—
Mauritius	—	X	A	2	—
South Africa	—	X	A	5	—

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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

**Angola** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2018-2020, on 26 April 2017.

In the document, Angola committed to, *inter alia*: continue to promote and protect human rights at the international level; strengthen constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Council's members and observers; improve cooperation with non-governmental organisations; implement the welcomed recommendations made at the universal periodic review mechanism; commit to the universality and indivisibility of all human rights; support regional and international processes that seek to increase compliance with human rights principles and fundamental

freedoms; ensure adequate and effective responses to human rights crises when they occur; maintain the cooperation of the Government with the OHCHR, the African Court on Human and People's Rights, the United Nations and regional special procedures mandate holders and the Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator; maintain interaction with civil society to better advocate for rights of migrants and contribute to practices and policies affecting human rights of migrants; adopt a national human rights plan.

Regarding the UN human rights treaties, Angola committed to, *inter alia*: ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading

Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol on the Convention against Torture; ratify the conventions of the International Labour Organisation, including those on migrants workers, freedom of association, the right to organise and to collective bargain, domestic workers and private employment agencies; seek technical assistance to ensure that the Angola legislation is in line with these conventions; ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; adhere to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; consider withdrawing its reservation to article 26 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

At domestic level, Angola committed to, *inter alia*: advance human rights and invest in human development; advance the right to education and support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal number 4; advance the right to health; advance the rights of people with disabilities; advance the rights of children; promote women's rights and combat gender-based violence.

An analysis of steps taken by Angola in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that Angola accepted 7 out of 11 visits requests, and responded to most (68%) communication received. Angola is Party to seven of the core conventions; Angola generally presents its periodic reports late and has two reports overdue. It has ratified the CAT and the ICERD (2019) but it has yet to ratify the OP-CAT (signed in 2013).

**Egypt** presented [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 on 10 August 2016.

At the regional and international levels, Egypt pledged, *inter alia*, to: support the work of the OHCHR; promote constructive dialogue and cooperation including through sharing good practices, technical cooperation and

capacity-building in addressing challenges faced by Member States; continue cooperating with Member States to strengthen the treaty body system; support initiatives and processes to advance the empowerment of women, equality between men and women and to provide adequate protections for the rights of the child and persons in vulnerable situations; promote the role of NGOs and civil society at large in the promotion of human rights at all levels; build cross-regional partnerships to support the economic, social and cultural rights of all, including through addressing the particular needs and challenges of developing countries; and lead the development of enhanced regional cooperation in the area of human rights protection, including by being an active player in key regional and political organisations.

At the national level, Egypt pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to strengthen its NHRIs and national human rights frameworks; review national laws to ensure their conformity with the Constitution and the full protection of human rights and freedoms; promote the role of registered NGOs and civil society in the promotion of human rights and develop necessary partnerships with civil society organisations; remain committed to submitting its periodic national reports to treaty bodies and to review reservations on and the status of ratification of different regional and international agreements; remain committed to submitting its periodic national reports to treaty bodies to which Egypt is party; and increase engagement and cooperation with the Special Procedures mandate-holders, including by increasing the frequency of their visits to Egypt.

An analysis of steps taken by Egypt in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it maintains an NHRI that has been accredited by GANHRI with A status. Egypt did not make a voluntary financial contribution to the OHCHR in 2018 and does not have OHCHR field presence. Although Egypt has not extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures, it has

facilitated approximately 31 per cent of visit requests and responding to 33 per cent of communications. In terms of treaty bodies, Egypt has yet to ratify the CED. Although Egypt joined consensus on the resolutions on civil society space, it was cited in the UN Secretary-General report on cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights concerning the alleged disappearance and detention of a human rights advocate that had been cooperating with the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances. It was cited in the Secretary-General's 2023 report, which referenced allegations of undue restrictions to and intimidation and surveillance of civil society actors and indigenous people's representatives participating at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which took place in Sharm el Sheikh.

**Mauritius** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2009-2012, on 5 March 2009.

The majority of the document presents Mauritius' existing legislation, practices, and institutions for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights, rather than pledge further steps. Where it did offer concrete commitments, Mauritius pledged, *inter alia*, to: maintain an active and constructive engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms; strengthen its national human rights framework; cooperate with the UPR and treaty body mechanisms; continue working with UN Member States and relevant bodies for worldwide promotion and protection of human rights.

An analysis of steps taken by Mauritius in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that its participation in reviewing other States during the UPR process has substantially increased, nearly tripling between the second and third cycles. Regarding cooperation with

Treaty Bodies, Mauritius has, for the most part, submitted its reports on time.

**South Africa** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2023-2025, on 24 August 2022.

In the document, only one of seven sections is dedicated specifically to setting out South Africa's pledges for its term on the Human Rights Council. The remainder of the document provides background on South Africa's legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as its active role on the multilateral stage. Where it did offer concrete commitments, South Africa pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue receiving Special Procedures and Human Rights Council mechanisms wishing to undertake country visits; support the OHCHR's programmes and its office in Pretoria; submit on-time country reports to human rights treaty monitoring bodies; continue advocating for a sustainable development programme within the human rights framework and Human Rights Council agenda; work towards updating the ICESCR and ICCPR through an amended protocol, placing the right to development on par with all other rights enumerated in those instruments; and to submit on-time country reports to human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

An analysis of steps taken by South Africa in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it tends to be late in its reporting to the Treaty Bodies (three reports were late and one overdue). It ratified the CED in May 2024, but has yet to ratify the OP-ICESCR. In terms of cooperation with the Special Procedures, South Africa maintains a Standing Invitation, completing 44 per cent of its visit and responding to only 25 per cent of the communications it received.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2025 ELECTION

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

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

**Mauritius** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 5 June 2025. In the document, Mauritius pledges to:

- Continue addressing the negative impact of climate change by promoting multilateral cooperation and linking environmental protection to human rights.
- Promote and protect human rights by providing free public education, healthcare and social security to its citizens.
- Continue promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, and combating all forms of violence.

- Advocate for and protect the rights and participation of persons with disabilities, and take concrete steps to alleviate accessibility challenges.

- Take measures to identify and assist victims of trafficking and exploitation.

- Provide adequate resources and budgetary provisions to guarantee and strengthen the independence and operations of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and take measures to redress any human rights abuses.

- Consider amending the Constitution to strengthen fundamental rights, including emerging rights related to the environment, technology, health, education and other economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the rights of Nature.

**South Africa** had not published voluntary pledges and commitments at the time of publication of this Guide.

## ANGOLA

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Angola** has (in the absence of consensus) tended to abstain on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions tabled under item 2. Angola has abstained during votes on resolutions on the situations in Belarus, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sudan, Yemen, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Myanmar. Nevertheless, Angola has voted in favour of item 2 and 4 resolutions on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Angola voted against item 2 resolution on the Philippines (2019). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Angola has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Angola has mostly consistently joined consensus or voted in favour on all resolutions but abstained on the resolution of cooperation with Georgia (2018, 2020) and cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine (2019). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Angola has generally joined consensus or nearly always voted in favour. The three exceptions are the 2008 OIC resolution on defamation of religion (Angola did not vote); a 2010 resolution on the same subject (again, it did not vote); and a 2011 South African-led resolution on sexual orientation (Angola voted against). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Angola has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Angola** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: protection of the rights of workers exposed to hazardous substances and wastes; from rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; technical assistance and capacity-building to further improve human rights in the Sudan; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic; Renewal of the mandate of the team of international experts on the situation in Kasai; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation; technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya; the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls and the systemic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## EGYPT

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Egypt** has (in the absence of consensus) almost always abstained or voted against resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), except for one resolution on the situation in Myanmar in 2018, for which it voted in favour. Concerning country-specific resolutions under item 2, Egypt has voted against texts concerning Yemen (2018, 2019), Venezuela (2018), Nicaragua (2019), the Philippines (2019) and Eritrea (2019). Egypt voted in favour of texts on the situations of Myanmar, Venezuela, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Burundi. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), Egypt has tended to vote in favour, with the exception of two texts it voted against in 2009. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Egypt has joined consensus on all texts except for the following that were voted on during its time as a member: on cooperation with Ukraine (Egypt abstained twice), cooperation with Georgia (abstained twice) and technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour twice). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Egypt has generally joined consensus and voted in favour where there has been a vote. However, it abstained during voting on resolutions on discrimination based on religion or belief (2007, 2009),

as well as one text on civil society space and another one on torture. Egypt voted against resolutions on the question of the death penalty (2017, 2019) and against a resolution on drug control (2018). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Egypt has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Egypt** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: access to medicines, vaccines, and other health products in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; terrorism and human rights; local government and human rights; youth and human rights; safety of the child in the digital environment; right to work; promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities; protection of the family; the role of freedom of expression in women's empowerment; freedom of opinion and expression; protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and protection of the human rights of civilians in armed conflict.

## MAURITIUS

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Mauritius** has (in the absence of consensus) either voted in favour or abstained of all item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention). It voted in favour of texts on the situations in Belarus, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in 2009, 2010 and 2011); it abstained during votes on texts on the situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2011, 2012), Sudan (2010) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2008). Mauritius has joined consensus or voted in favour of all country-specific resolutions tabled under item 2 and all item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Mauritius has joined consensus on all texts except for one that was voted on during its time as a member: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Mauritius has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Mauritius has nearly always voted in favour, with the exception of three texts on defamation of religions, where it abstained (in 2008, 2009 and 2010). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Mauritius has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Mauritius** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: women, diplomacy and human rights; accelerating progress towards preventing adolescent girls' pregnancy; strengthening the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed States and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; and human rights and the environment.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **South Africa** has (in the absence of consensus) almost always abstained from all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). The exceptions include a vote in favour of a resolution on the situation of human rights in Belarus (2023) and votes against resolutions on Burundi (2017) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (2016). For country-specific item 2 resolutions, South Africa has either voted in favour or abstained. South Africa has usually voted in favour of item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), with the exception of two texts it voted against in 2009. On item 10 resolutions (technical assistance and capacity-building), South Africa has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the following texts that were voted on during its time as a member: two occasions on the situation and capacity-building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour twice), on technical cooperation with Colombia (voted in favour), cooperation with Ukraine (abstained seven times), and on cooperation with Georgia (abstained four times). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, South Africa has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on, inter alia: unilateral coercive measures; racism; the question of the death penalty; mercenaries; the right to peace; defamation of religions; sexual orientation; arms transfers; drones; firearms; and torture. South Africa

has voted against resolutions on: terrorism; civil society; extremism; peaceful protests; and discrimination based on religion and belief. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, South Africa has joined consensus or voted in favour of the majority of texts - it voted against a resolution on protection of the family in 2015.

#### Principal sponsorship

**South Africa** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: access to medicines, vaccines and other health products in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the impact of anti-personnel mines on the full enjoyment of human rights; the role of good governance in the protection and promotion of human rights; education as a tool to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; combating discrimination, violence and harmful practices against intersex persons; Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities; eliminating inequality within and among States for the realization of human rights; the right to social security; equal pay; elimination of discrimination against women in sport; and human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.

**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’ (2023-2025)?**

	Mentioned in last 3 years? (Number of cases) as of 2025	Responded to allegations
Angola	0	0
Egypt	3	1
Mauritius	0	0
South Africa	0	0

**Inclusivity/Access**

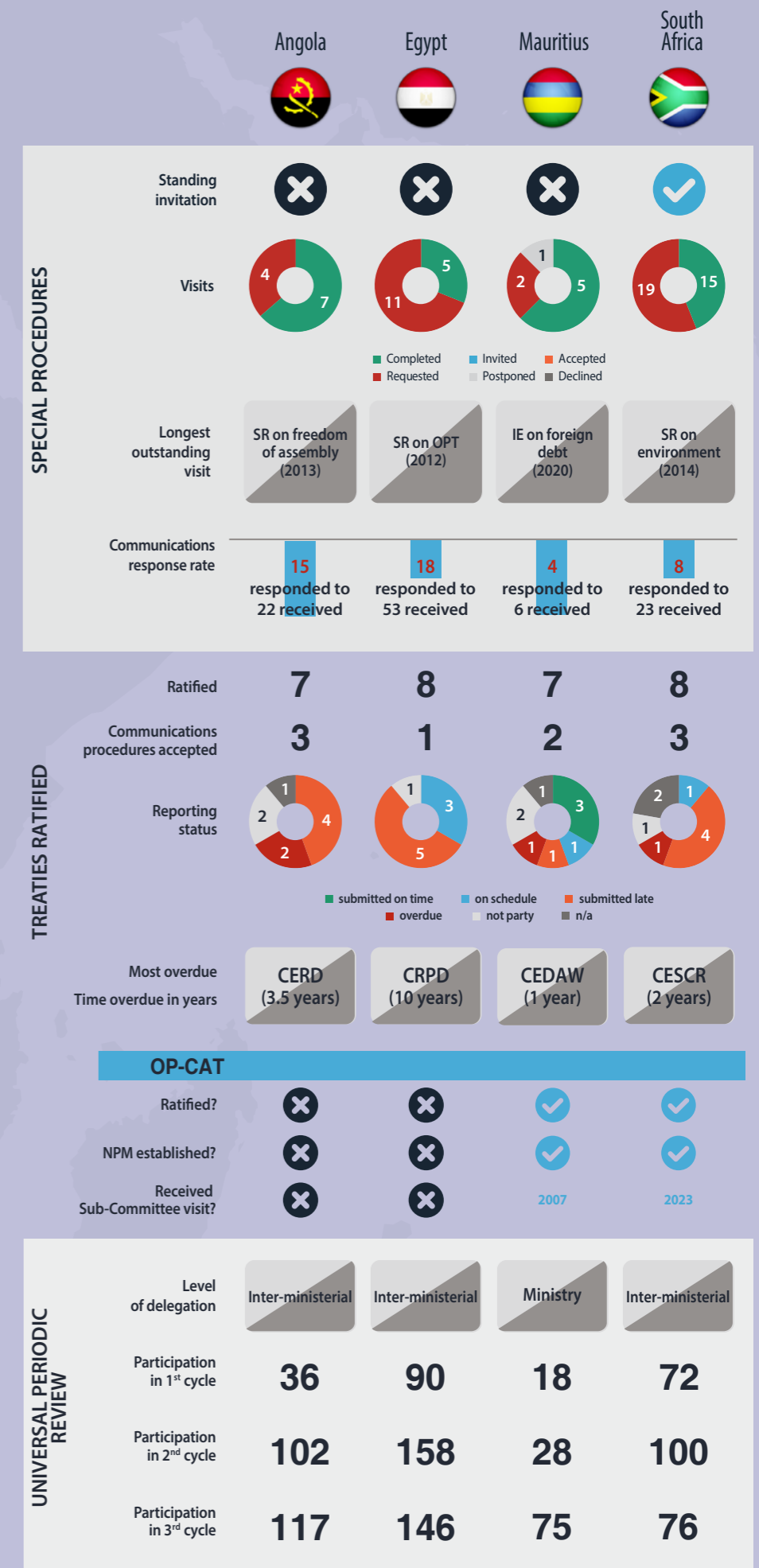
Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council

**69%**

**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.



# ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (APG)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

	Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2025)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
India	Vice-president (2014)	✗	A	6	—
Iraq	Vice-president (2017)	✗	A	1	Human Rights Component of a Peace Mission
Pakistan	—	✓	A	5	—
Viet Nam	—	✗	✗	2	—

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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

**India** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2022-2024 on 16 August 2021.

Key pledges included, *inter alia*, to: continue to strengthen national mechanisms and procedures to promote and protect the human rights of all its citizens; continue to support the protection and promotion of rights of women and children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups through necessary laws, programmes and policies; continue to cooperate with treaty monitoring

bodies; continue to support the OHCHR including through regular voluntary contributions; continue to cooperate with special procedures, accept requests for visits and respond to communications; remain committed to ratifying the CAT; support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and pursuing the domestic actions necessary to implement it, with a focus on poverty eradication; and work with fellow developing countries and the UN development system towards achieving the SDGs.

An analysis of steps taken by India in fulfilment of its pledges shows that it tends to be late in its reporting to the Treaty Bodies, including one report (to the CESCR) overdue by 14 years. Furthermore, despite having signed the Convention in 1997, it has not yet ratified the CAT; it also has yet to ratify the CED. In terms of cooperation with Special Procedures, India maintains a Standing Invitation but has only facilitated 32 per cent of visits and responded to just 14 per cent of communications received. As pledged, India made voluntary contributions to the OHCHR in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

**Iraq** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 12 June 2019. The majority of the document presented Iraq's existing legislation, practices, and institutions for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights. Out of 22 paragraphs, only five offered concrete commitments to take further steps. These included: implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; working constructively with members of the Human Rights Council to provide the necessary assistance to Member States in fulfilling their human rights obligations; continuing efforts to support the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to fulfil her mandate; and providing support to national human rights institutions. Although not concrete pledges, Iraq reaffirmed its "full support" for the UPR process and the Special Procedures.

An analysis of steps taken by Iraq in fulfilment of its pledges shows a marked increase in its engagement with the UPR process: it participated in the review of 16 States during the first cycle, which rose to 163 during the third. Iraq maintains a Standing Invitation to Special Procedures, responding to 59 per cent of communications and facilitating 53 per cent of visits. Iraq hosts a Human Rights Component of a Peace Mission (UNAMI).

**Pakistan** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 18 June 2020. Pakistan made a number of concrete pledges and commitments at both national and international levels.

Key national-level pledges included, *inter alia*, to: continue implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan and strengthening NHRIS; continue considering and implementing UPR and treaty body recommendations; strengthen the system for the provision of free legal aid to the victims of human rights violations; continue providing human rights education, training and capacity building to parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, and the judiciary; and to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for the elimination of violence and discrimination against women, children and other vulnerable groups.

Key international-level pledges included, *inter alia*, to: continue supporting the work of the OHCHR through advocacy, financial contribution and political support; continue to participate in the UPR mechanism and follow up on recommendations received during previous cycles; support efforts at combating climate change and mitigating the human rights impact of climate change on climate-vulnerable communities; continue maintaining consensus on Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 (“Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief”); and continue strengthening cooperation with the special procedures, including by arranging visits of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special rapporteurs.

An analysis of steps taken by Pakistan in fulfilment of its pledges shows that it has not extended a Standing Invitation to Special Procedures and has completed only 17 per cent of visits - it has replied to 14 per cent of communications received. Notably, Pakistan also has an outstanding visit request from the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, dating back to 2009. Pakistan has increased its participation in the review of other States across three UPR cycles, and made voluntary contributions to the OHCHR in 2020 and in 2023. Although it did not submit a mid-term report during the third UPR cycle, it submitted a mid-term report under the fourth cycle in February 2025. On the two occasions where a vote was held on resolutions related to climate change, Pakistan voted in favour both times.

**Viet Nam** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2023-2025 on 4 August 2022. The majority of the document describes Viet Nam’s existing commitment to human rights and its engagement with the UN human rights system.

Some specific pledges included: strengthening the rule-of-law State, conducting legal reforms to enhance the institutional, judicial and policy foundation related to human rights and further incorporating provisions of international human rights treaties into national laws; implementing the accepted recommendations of the third UPR cycle and upholding commitments and obligations under the international human rights treaties to which Viet Nam is a party; engaging in the work of and promoting the role and efficiency of the Human Rights Council, with particular attention the rights of vulnerable groups and the impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights; participating constructively in the review process of the Council with focus on reforming and improving the efficiency in addressing human rights challenges of the Council’s subsidiary bodies, including the universal periodic review; and making further contributions to ASEAN human rights cooperation, particularly in the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

An analysis of steps taken by Viet Nam in fulfilment of its pledges shows that, compared to its fellow candidates, it has participated in the review of relatively few States in the UPR process (96 during the second cycle and 90 during the third). Since 2016, Viet Nam has consistently been a principal sponsor of the resolution entitled “Human rights and climate change,” alongside Bangladesh and the Philippines (see below).

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2025 ELECTION

**India** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 11 June 2025. In the document, India pledges to:

- Continue strengthening national mechanisms and procedures to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens.
- Continue to cooperate with and support other States in implementing human rights, providing capacity-building through technical cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experts.
- Continue cooperating and engaging with Special Procedures, accept requests for visits and respond to communications.
- Remain committed to ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and continue strengthening the implementation of the human rights treaties it has ratified.
- Support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continue to pursue the necessary domestic actions to implement it.

**Iraq** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 10 June 2025. In the document, Iraq pledges to:

- Support the High Commission for Human Rights and to strengthen its role in monitoring government institutions, receiving complaints, initiating legal proceedings in cases of human rights violations,

referring cases to the Public Prosecution, and conducting visits to prisons and correctional facilities.

- Continue to strengthen anti-corruption laws as part of the pursuit of good governance and the consolidation of the rule of law.
- Enhance the role of and status of women in political, economic and social spheres, and ensure their effective participation in peacemaking processes.
- Implement the national policy for the prevention of the recruitment of children and juveniles by terrorist groups (2024–2029) and the national strategy for early childhood development (2022–2031) while accelerating the adoption of the bill of child protection.
- Implement the national policy for the empowerment of persons with disabilities and special needs (2024–2028), along with the national guideline specifying suitable jobs for persons with disabilities and special needs.
- Implement dedicated policies and plans providing care to and protecting the rights of the elderly.
- Remain committed to a counter-terrorism strategy that upholds human rights, and ensuring judicial accountability for crimes through transparent legal trials.
- Implement policies and plans providing care and protection to the elderly, and expedite the adoption of the draft national policy for the elderly.
- Continue to extend its support for humanitarian causes, particularly those relating to natural disasters and conflicts.

**Pakistan** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028. In the document, Pakistan pledges to:

- Reinforce the mandates and operational capacities of the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women, and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, and sustain the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan with emphasis on institutional strengthening, data-driven decision-making and accessible grievance redress mechanisms.
- Improve legal aid and assistance for victims of human rights violations through the Legal Aid and Justice Authority and expanding helpline services.
- Expand human rights education and training for parliamentarians, law enforcement, the judiciary, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, and public officials.
- Ratify relevant ILO conventions and improve working conditions to advance labour rights.
- Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence, particularly against women, children and vulnerable groups.
- Implement the National Action Plan on Child Protection and enforce the Juvenile Justice System Act to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Strengthen national climate resilience and environmental protection initiatives, support global efforts addressing the human rights impacts of climate change and advocate for climate justice, especially for vulnerable populations.
- Actively participate in reforms to enhance the Human Rights Council's efficiency, institutional coherence and responsiveness.
- Support the implementation of the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration.
- Continue moral, political, and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Viet Nam** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 26 August 2025. In the document, Viet Nam pledges to:

- Ensure better enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country while making contributions to international endeavours in the field.
- Fulfill the obligations under international human rights treaties to which Viet Nam is a Party through timely and effective implementation of relevant national action plans.
- Accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Enhance human rights education in the national education system, strengthening training of educators, particularly at university level, and promoting human rights training for law enforcement agencies.
- Continue the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, focused on improving the participation, contribution and leading role of women.
- Further the women and peace and security agenda through the implementation of the women and peace and security national action plan and enhance women's participation in peacekeeping and conflict resolution processes and promote their representation in leadership and decision-making roles.
- Foster a digital environment that respects and protects human rights, implementing robust cybersecurity measures to better protect vulnerable groups, especially children.
- Enhance dialogues and cooperation on human rights with all countries and international partners, including the United Nations human rights mechanisms.
- Further contributing to the promotion of dialogue, cooperation and mutual understanding among countries on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, equality and mutual benefits, as well as promoting dialogue between countries and relevant stakeholders.
- Engage responsibly in the work of the Human Rights Council and promoting the role and efficiency of the Council, with particular attention to the rights of vulnerable groups and the impacts of global issues.
- Make further substantive contributions to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights cooperation, through the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.
- Implement effectively the accepted recommendations for Viet Nam from the fourth universal periodic review cycle, including through the review and issuance of a voluntary midterm report.

## INDIA

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **India** has mostly abstained during voting on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), with the exception of one 2012 resolution on the Syrian Arab Republic (India voted in favour). It voted against six texts concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran and against eight concerning Belarus. India has also tended to abstain on country-specific resolutions under item 2; it voted in favour of two resolutions on Sri Lanka (2012, 2013) and one on Afghanistan (2021), but voted against texts on Eritrea (2019, 2020, 2021, 2024), the Philippines (2019), Yemen (2019, 2020) and Tigray (2021). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), India has mostly voted in favour, abstaining on five occasions. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), India has joined consensus on all texts except for the following that were voted on during its time as member: on cooperation with Ukraine (India abstained seven times), cooperation with Georgia (abstained five times), the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour twice) and capacity-building in Colombia (voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, India has mainly joined consensus. Where

there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on issues including: mercenaries; racism; arbitrary detention; arms transfers; civil society; democracy and the rule of law; and discrimination based on religion or belief. Resolutions it has abstained on include texts on defamation of religions, drones, sexual orientation, torture, and the right to peace. It has consistently voted against resolutions on the question of the death penalty. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, India has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**India** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: access to medicines, vaccines, and other health products in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members; and human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

## IRAQ

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2017, **Iraq** has abstained or voted against on all resolutions under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), with the exception of a vote in favour of a text on Myanmar (2018). Concerning country-specific resolutions under item 2, Iraq has voted in favour of texts concerning Myanmar (2018, 2019) and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2019) and against texts on Eritrea (2019) and the Philippines (2019). It abstained during voting on resolutions on Yemen (2018, 2019), Nicaragua (2019) and Venezuela (2018). Iraq has voted in favour of all resolutions tabled under item 7 (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Iraq has generally joined consensus except those on cooperation with Ukraine (Iraq voted in favour once and abstained once), cooperation with Georgia (abstained twice) and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Iraq has generally joined consensus, and has mostly

voted in favour where there has been a vote. Exceptions include abstention during voting on a text on the integrity of the judicial system, and votes against resolutions on the question of the death penalty and on drug control. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Iraq has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Iraq** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; human rights and preventing and countering violent extremism; the human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups.

## PAKISTAN

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Pakistan** has abstained or voted against on all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), with the exception of votes in favour of texts on Myanmar (2018), the Syrian Arab Republic (2013), and Belarus (2023). Similarly, for country-specific resolutions under item 2, Pakistan has abstained or voted against most texts. It has, however, voted in favour of resolutions concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2019, 2020, 2021, 2023), Venezuela (2019, 2020), and Myanmar (2018, 2019). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), Pakistan has almost always voted in favour, with the exception of two texts it abstained on in 2009. On item 10 resolutions (technical assistance and capacity-building), Pakistan has generally joined consensus; where a vote has been called, it has almost always abstained, with the exception of one vote in favour of a 2009 resolution on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Pakistan has generally joined consensus - where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. However, Pakistan tends to vote against resolutions on sexual orientation, the question of the death penalty, international drug control, and peaceful protests. It has abstained during voting on: discrimination based on religion or belief (2007, 2009), torture (2009), the question of the death penalty (2013), and preventing and countering violent extremism (2015). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Pakistan has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Pakistan** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights; enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national frameworks for the protection of and empowerment of children in the digital space; promoting accessibility for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all; promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities; eliminating inequality within and among States for the realization of human rights; the central role of the State in responding to pandemics and other health emergencies, and the socioeconomic consequences thereof in advancing sustainable development and the realization of all human rights; promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health through enhancing capacity-building in public health; ensuring use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law; and 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.

## VIET NAM

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2014, **Viet Nam** has (in the absence of consensus) either abstained or voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2, with the exception of four votes in favour of item 2 resolutions concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Viet Nam has consistently voted in favour of resolutions tabled under item 7 (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Viet Nam has generally joined consensus except for the following texts that were voted on during its time as a member: five occasions on cooperation with Ukraine (Viet Nam abstained), on cooperation with Georgia (abstained twice), and on capacity-building in Colombia (voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Viet Nam has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Viet Nam has generally joined consensus, and has mostly voted in favour where there has been a vote. However, it abstained during voting on texts on the question of the death penalty (2014, 2015, 2023), democracy and the rule of law (2015), peaceful

protests (2016), civil society (2016), and transitional justice (2016). It voted against a 2014 resolution on peaceful protests. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Viet Nam has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Viet Nam** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national frameworks for the protection of and empowerment of children in the digital space; and human rights and climate change.

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' (2023-2025)?

	Mentioned in last 3 years? (Number of cases) as of 2025	Responded to allegations
India	3	3
Iraq	3	—
Pakistan	2	1
Viet Nam	3	2

### 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.

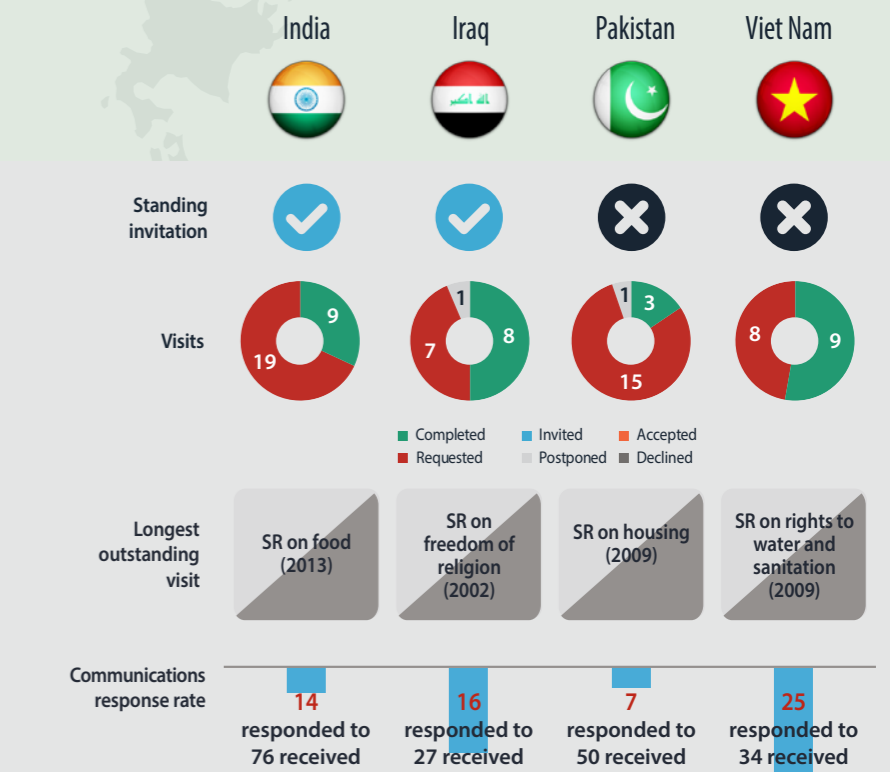
Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

### Inclusivity/Access

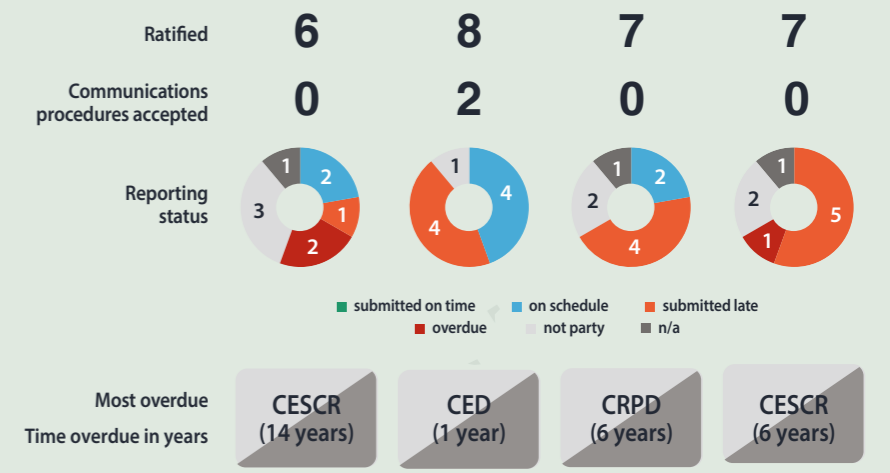
Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council

55%

### SPECIAL PROCEDURES



### TREATIES RATIFIED



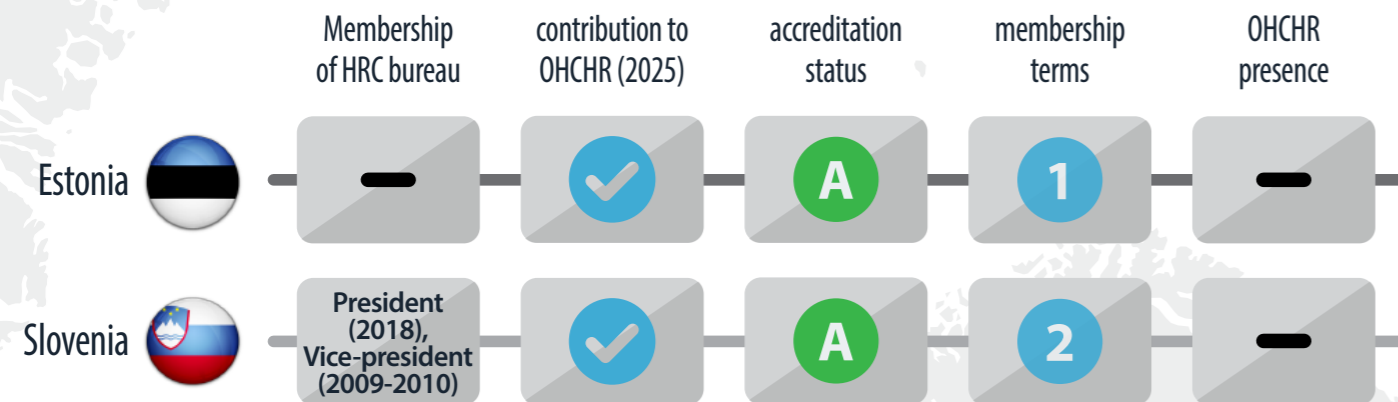
OP-CAT				
Ratified?	✗	✗	✗	✗
NPM established?	✗	✗	✗	✗
Received Sub-Committee visit?	✗	✗	✗	✗

### UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

	India	Iraq	Pakistan	Viet Nam
Level of delegation	Inter-ministerial	Inter-ministerial	Inter-ministerial	Inter-ministerial
Participation in 1 <sup>st</sup> cycle	28	16	75	38
Participation in 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle	71	96	111	96
Participation in 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle	147	163	126	90

# EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (EEG)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

**Estonia** did not issue voluntary pledges and commitments ahead of its previous election.

**Slovenia** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2016-2018, on 3 September 2015.

Key pledges included, *inter alia*, to: continue to fulfil its obligations under the international human rights conventions, including by submitting periodic reports in a timely manner; work to implement its national action plan relating to Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security; strengthen efforts to promote the rights of children in Slovenia and the international community; bring due attention in international human rights forums to the need to strengthen

the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons; promote the nexus of environmental issues in the enjoyment and realisation of all human rights, and continue to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment; and promote the World Programme for human rights education internationally, and contribute to the implementation and development of its third phase.

An analysis of steps taken by Slovenia in fulfilment of its pledges shows that it was late in submitting three of its periodic reports, and has yet to submit its report under the CESCR. Slovenia has supported initiatives on women's rights, children's rights, minority rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of older persons, and the environment.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2025 ELECTION

**Estonia** tabled its [commitments and voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 14 May 2025. In the document, Estonia pledges to:

- Support the Human Rights Council in addressing country-specific situations and human rights violations, and work to uphold the role of the Council as a forum for dialogue on thematic human rights issues.
- Continue its voluntary contribution to OHCHR and to advocate for sustainable and predictable financing for UN human rights mechanisms.
- Continue implementing its juvenile justice system in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Push for stronger and systematic cooperation across stakeholders to remove barriers to the full participation of women and girls in the digital sphere, including in activities related to artificial intelligence.
- Continue tackling the spread of disinformation and improve media literacy to enhance media freedom, as well as countering hate speech and gender-based violence online and offline.
- Actively engage men and boys in promoting gender equality and in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.
- Prioritise gender equality in its green transition, and integrate and incorporate human rights considerations in its domestic climate change-related legislation.
- Provide expertise and financial support to the International Criminal Court, the Office of the Prosecutor, the Special Fund for Security and the Trust Fund for Victims.
- Strengthen cooperation between countries in advancing LGBTIQ+ rights.

**Slovenia** tabled its [commitments and voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 1 May 2025. In the document, Slovenia pledges to:

- Continue to support efforts to empower and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, and support efforts to improve gender balance in leadership positions in the UN system.
- Continue promoting the active participation of children in annual debates on the rights of the child held during Human Rights Council sessions.
- Address the gaps and limitations in international human rights law regarding the rights of older persons, strengthen the promotion and protection of their rights, and combat ageism.
- Continue contributing to the development of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and work for the effective implementation of its Fifth Phase.
- Reduce the vulnerability/increase the resilience of Slovenia's natural and human systems to the impacts of climate change on the environment and society.
- Promote respect for children's rights and the protection of children by implementing measures such as the Programme for Children 2020-2025, the resolution on Family Policy 2018-2028, the Action Plan for Child Guarantee 2022-2030 and the resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2024-2029.
- Continue working on the protection of vulnerable groups from discrimination and maintain a zero-tolerance approach to hate speech.

## ESTONIA

### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2014, **Estonia** has (in the absence of consensus) 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. Estonia has nearly always voted in favour of item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), with the exception of one abstention in 2014. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Estonia has joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Estonia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: the question of the death penalty; arms transfers; firearms; peaceful protests; human rights, democracy and the rule of law; extremism; sexual orientation and gender identity; and education as a tool to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It has voted against resolutions on the right to peace, racism, and terrorism, and has abstained from voting on texts on drones, integrity of the judicial system, and on several texts on racism. For thematic resolutions dealing with

economic, social, and cultural rights, Estonia has joined consensus on the majority of texts. Resolutions that it has voted against are: texts on protection of the family, the effects of foreign debt, international solidarity, and unilateral coercive measures. Estonia has abstained on resolutions on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, on a resolution on access to medicines and on a resolution on the effects of foreign debt.

#### Principal sponsorship

**Estonia** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: situation of human rights in the Russian Federation; mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights; and elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

## SLOVENIA

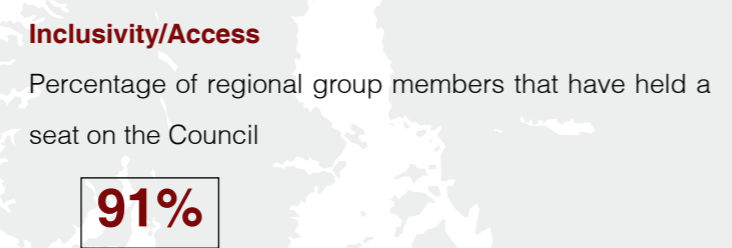
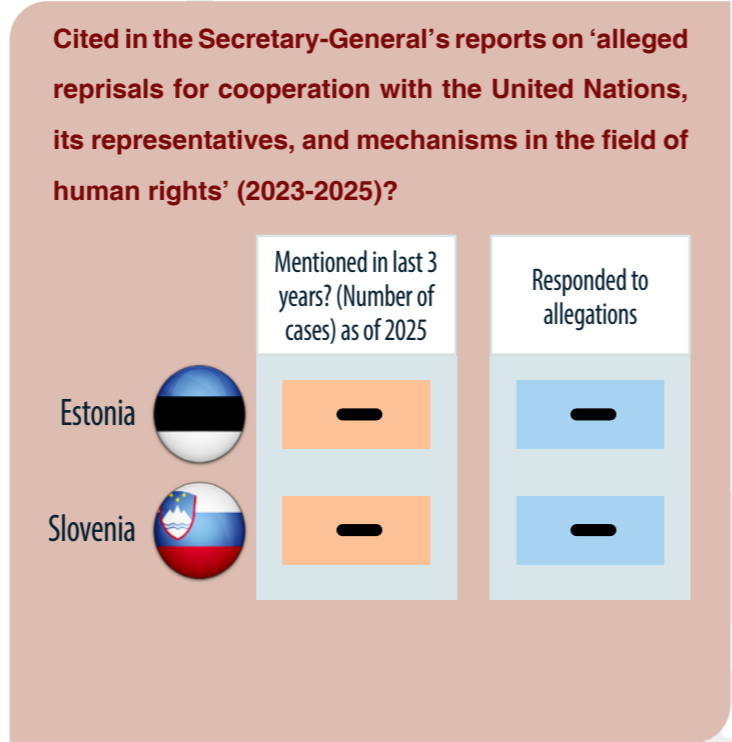
### VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Slovenia** has voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and nearly every country-specific resolution under item 2, with the exception of one 2017 resolution on Burundi. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), Slovenia has twice voted against: once on a resolution on human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan (2018) and once on a follow-up resolution to a text on human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2008). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Slovenia has either joined consensus or voted in favour, with the exception of one abstention during voting on a text related to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Slovenia has generally 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 mercenaries. Slovenia has voted in favour of resolutions on, inter alia: religious discrimination; torture; peaceful protest; sexual orientation; arbitrary detention; transitional

justice; the question of the death penalty; international drug control; and civil society space. 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. Slovenia has voted against resolutions on, inter alia: the right to peace; international solidarity; unilateral coercive measures; foreign debt; protection of the family; and the right to development.

#### Principal sponsorship

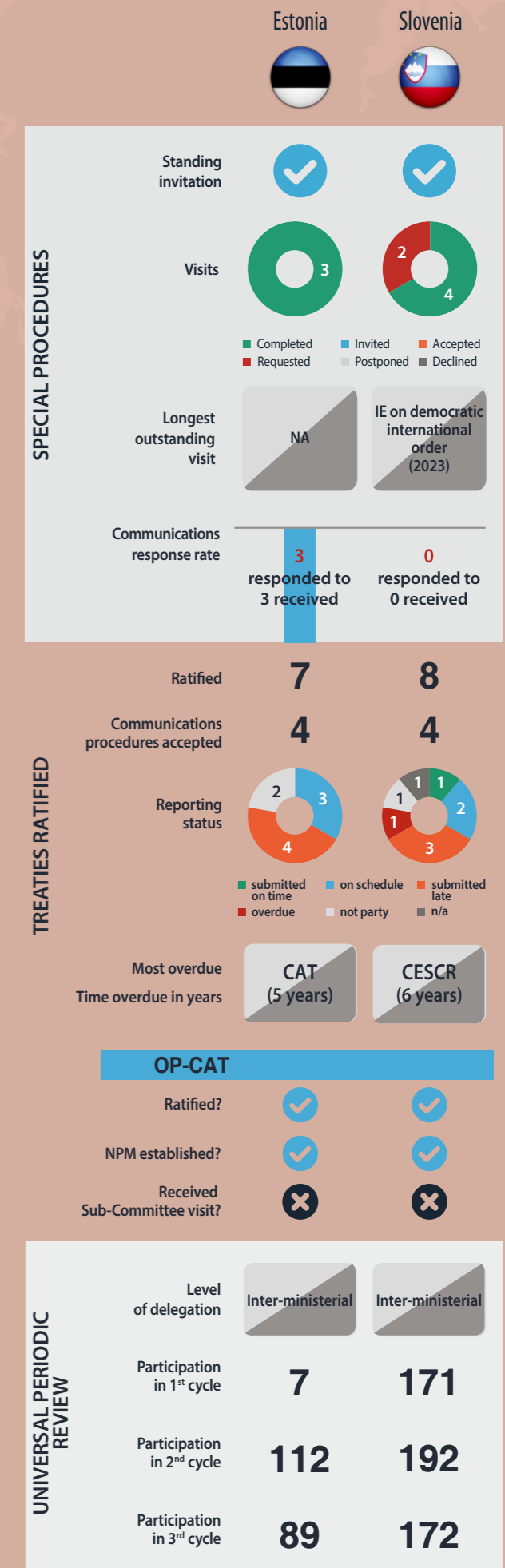
**Slovenia** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: women, diplomacy and human rights; the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; World Programme for Human Rights Education; situation of human rights in the Russian Federation; rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; human rights of older persons; mandate of Special Rapporteur on minority issues; United Nations declaration on human rights education and training.



### COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

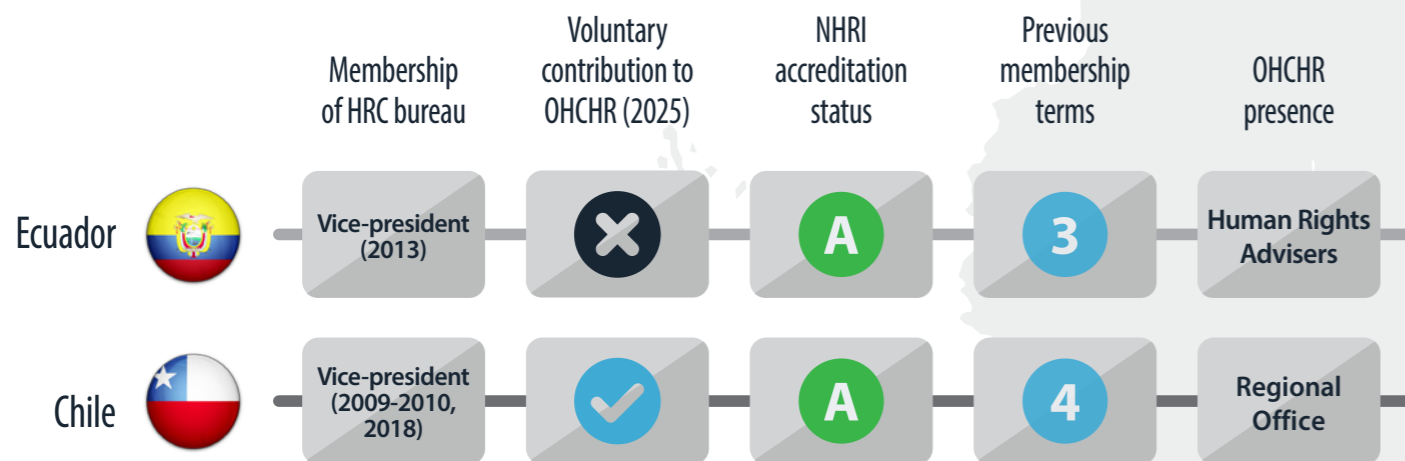
\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the nine ‘core human rights conventions,’ namely the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, CMW, and the CRPD.

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



# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GROUP (GRULAC)

## OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

## FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

**Ecuador** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2016-2018, on 5 October 2015.

At the international level, Ecuador pledged, *inter alia*, to: strengthen the Council as an independent and non-selective human rights body; acknowledge the universal periodic review as the sole mechanisms for compliance and for the assessment of the status of human rights throughout the world; reaffirm the commitment of Ecuador to the OHCHR and the regional offices in investigations, dissemination, the exchange of best practices, and responses to complaints made to the corresponding mechanisms and special procedures of alleged

human rights violations; to encourage State to ratify all international human rights instruments and meet the goal of the universalisation of the human rights field; propose or support the adoption of new international instruments to protect human rights and to promote consultations with affected persons; and continue to offer an alternative approach to the current development model.

At domestic level, Ecuador pledged, *inter alia*, to: consolidate the work of the National Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law of Ecuador, the reform of the social rehabilitation system and to implement the prison management model comprehensively; continue with the inclusive policy

of democratisation of access to primary, secondary and higher education for prisoners; strengthen human rights training and education; within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, to continue the implementation by the Government of Ecuador of the National Agenda for the Equality of Ethnicities and Peoples; reduce and prevent hazardous child labour; support active citizenship of the older population and positive aging and the promotion of the rights of older persons; continue with the progressive implementation of the National Plan for the Eradication of Gender-Based Violence; promote the establishment of a network of national mechanisms for gender equality, in cooperation with other countries; strengthen the Judiciary School with basic, continuing and specialised training programmes; continue with high-level dialogue to establish a comprehensive public policy for LGBTI population; continue with the inclusive policy and programmes implemented by the Government related to the rights of persons with disabilities; and provide technical assistance to countries in the region.

An analysis of steps taken by Ecuador in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it does maintain a Standing Invitation, and has facilitated 74% Special Procedures visits. Ecuador has also responded to 82% of the communications received. Ecuador demonstrates similarly high levels of cooperation with the UPR (it was represented at vice-presidential level, and has presented a mid-term report). In terms of cooperation with Treaty Bodies, Ecuador is Party to all the core conventions and submitted almost all of its periodic reports, one being overdue. Ecuador has participated in around half of all the debates at the Council.

**Chile** tabled [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2023-2025 on 12 May 2022.

The majority of the document presents Chile's existing legislation, practices, and institutions for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights, and describes its engagement with the international human rights system. Key pledges included, *inter alia*, to: improve protection for human rights defenders, particularly in the context of protests; increase its efforts to define and implement a feminist foreign policy aiming to institutionalise and mainstream a human rights-based approach, a gender perspective and intersectionality; strengthen its independent human rights protection institutions; make progress towards ratifying the OP-CESCR and the Escazú Agreement; and to cooperate and collaborate with all human rights mechanisms to strengthen the rule of law and ensure justice, truth and compensation for the victims of the social unrest of October 2019. Although not a concrete pledge, in the document, Chile reiterates that it "strives to respond to the many requests for information sent each year by special procedures."

An analysis of steps taken by Chile in fulfilment of its level pledges shows that Chile has been a co-sponsor of a number of resolutions on the subject of civil society space and, more recently, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. Regarding cooperation with the Special Procedures, Chile has responded to 81 per cent of received communications, and has facilitated 75 per cent of visits. Chile has ratified all nine core treaties, but has yet to ratify the OP-CESCR - it did, however, ratify the Escazú Agreement in June 2022, as pledged.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2025 ELECTION

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

**Chile** tabled its [commitments and voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 25 February 2025. In the document, Chile pledges to:

- Establish a national mechanism to follow up on the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, in cooperation with its national human rights institution.
- Continue holding constructive dialogues with the treaty bodies, ensuring that all branches of government are represented and in consultation with its national human rights institutions and civil society organisations.
- Continue leading efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Continue strengthening its independent national institutions for the protection of human rights, and consider establishing new similar mechanisms.
- Develop a draft law on due diligence in the field of human rights and business.

## ECUADOR VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Ecuador** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of resolutions on the situations in the Syrian Arab Republic (2012 and 2018) and Sudan (2010), and against resolutions on the situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2011 and 2016) and Belarus (2011 and 2012). Ecuador has also abstained on various item 4 texts covering the situations in Belarus, Burundi, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar and the Syrian Arab Republic. Notwithstanding, in 2015 and 2018 Ecuador joined consensus on an item 2 resolution on the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. On item 2 resolutions, Ecuador has generally joined consensus or voted in favour, except for 2 resolutions (2012 and 2013) on the situation in Sri Lanka. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Ecuador has consistently voted in favour or joined consensus for all texts. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Ecuador has consistently joined consensus or voted in favour. Ecuador abstained from 2 item 10 resolutions on co-operation with Georgia (2017 and 2018). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Ecuador has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Ecuador has nearly always voted in favour. The only exception is a 2007 resolution (OIC) on defamation of religion (Ecuador abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Ecuador has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

### Principal sponsorship

**Ecuador** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; the impact of arm transfers on human rights; Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua; human rights and the civilian acquisition, possess and use of firearms; enhancing the support capabilities of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, established by the Human Rights Council resolution 26/9; plastic pollution implications on the full enjoyment of human rights; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members; promoting human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery; promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda; ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; the right to development; enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas; human rights in cities and other human settlements; contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review; national policies and human rights; elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

## CHILE VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

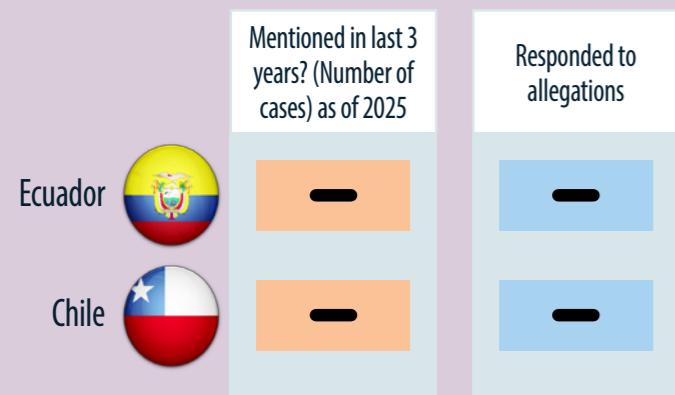
Since it first became a member of the Council in 2008, **Chile** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and nearly all under item 2 (country-specific resolutions), except for two texts on Venezuela (voted against) and one text on the Philippines (abstained). Chile has nearly always voted in favour of item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory) - it abstained twice in 2010. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Chile has either joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Chile has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour, with the exception of two texts on defamation of religions which it voted against (2009 and 2010). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Chile has joined consensus or voted in favour of most texts. It abstained on several resolutions on the effects of foreign debt, on a resolution on the right to development, and on another on eliminating inequality within and among States. It voted against one resolution, on protection of the family (2014).

**Principal sponsorship**

**Chile** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; mandate of Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; civil society space; mandate of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls; neurotechnology and human rights; women, diplomacy and human rights; promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua; the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights; local government and human rights; situation of

human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls; combating discrimination, violence and harmful practices against intersex persons; human rights and a culture of peace; extreme poverty and human rights; promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the right to development; enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; and human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.

**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' (2023-2025)?**



**Inclusivity/Access**

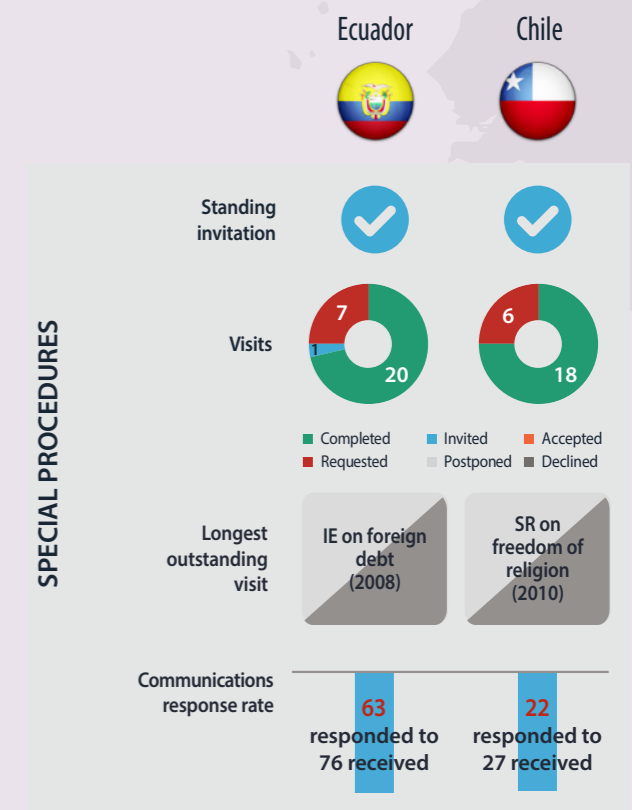
Percentage of regional group members that have held a seat on the Council

**61%**

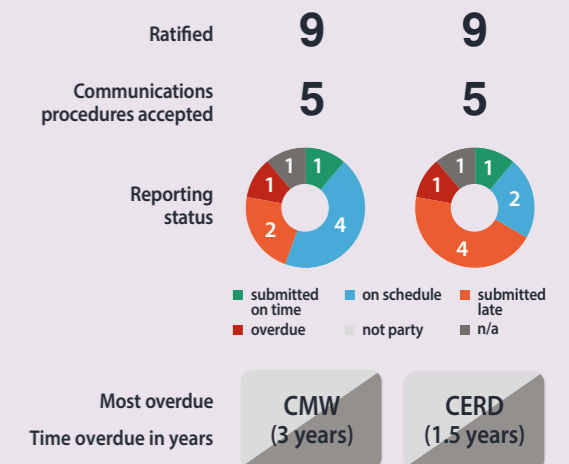
**COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS**

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.

**SPECIAL PROCEDURES**



**TREATIES RATIFIED**



**OP-CAT**



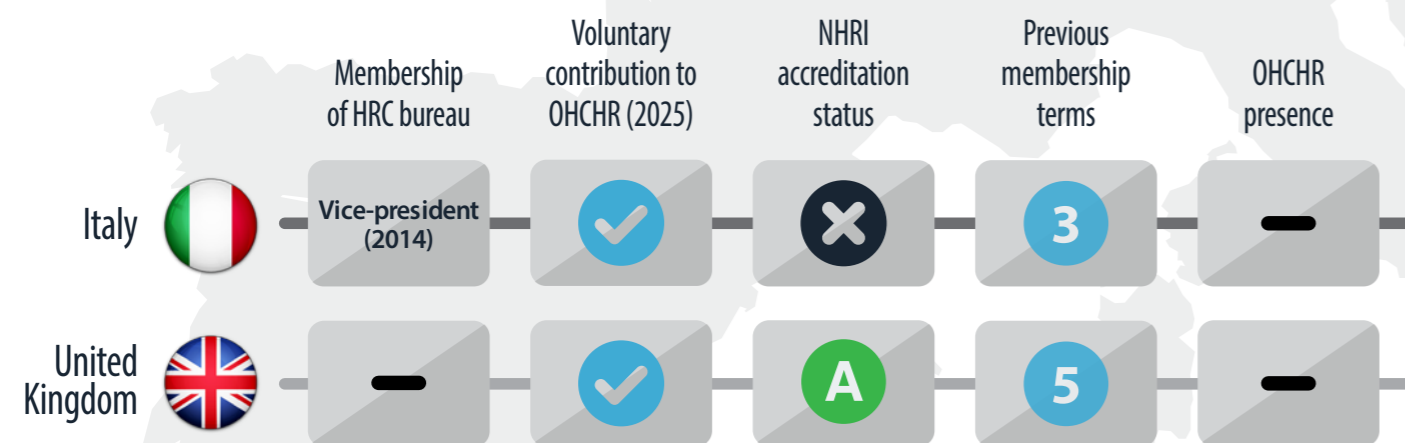
**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**



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

## WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP (WEOG)

### OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

### FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Italy presented a number of [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 22 February 2018.

The **United Kingdom** presented [voluntary pledges and commitments](#) in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 9 September 2020.

Key pledges included, inter alia, to: support the activities and the work of the special procedures; continue to prevent and combat international crimes and impunity, including by taking concrete steps to ensure the accountability of perpetrators; support specific initiatives and resolutions presented to the Human Rights Council to prevent and combat racism and all forms of discrimination; support international campaigns for the eradication of harmful practices; support international initiatives aimed at preventing and combating the involvement of children in armed conflict; develop and implement advocacy and awareness-raising programmes on the needs of persons with disabilities; and support human rights defenders and step up its efforts against all forms of reprisal.

The United Kingdom made commitments to: continue working to end violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, and conflict-related sexual violence; raise awareness of violations of freedom of religion and belief, and call out States which target and persecute people on those grounds, including in international meetings, United Nations universal periodic reviews, and other international fora; support the participation of human rights defenders and civil society in UN business and work to counter instances of reprisals to create a safe environment for them; and continue working with other Governments to promote a free media and create a safe and enabling environment protecting journalists and media workers from harm.

An analysis of steps taken by Italy in fulfilment of its pledges shows that it has supported all resolutions on the thematic areas it pledged to work on. Italy has a good record of facilitating visits by Special Procedures (89 per cent) and responding to communications (79 per cent).

An analysis of steps taken by the United Kingdom in fulfilment of its pledges shows that it has among the highest levels of engagement with the UPR process, extending recommendations to all 192 States during the first cycle. The UK's own report was presented by a high-level delegation, and it submitted a detailed mid-term report on implementation. However, over the course of three cycles, it has issued only 34 recommendations related to freedom of religion and belief in total.

## KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2025 ELECTION

**Italy** tabled its [commitments and voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 24 February 2025. In the document, Italy pledges to:

- Continue to prevent and combat international crimes and impunity, including by taking concrete steps to ensure the accountability of perpetrators.
- Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender-responsive and in compliance with humanitarian policies on women's empowerment and women's rights.
- Prevent and combat the spreading of hate speech, racism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, both online and offline.
- Prevent and combat child exploitation and abuse, support child victims, and strengthen international cooperation to investigate and prosecute related crimes.
- Continue its active engagement in UN negotiations on resolutions against the death penalty and advocacy efforts supporting the General Assembly resolution on a universal moratorium on the death penalty.
- Identify concrete measures for protecting victims of violence or discrimination on the basis of religion or ethnic group, and work closely with the UN and other international organisations to strengthen available analysis and assessment tools to identify the risk of atrocity crimes.
- Tackle the root causes of irregular migration and promote sustainable growth in countries of origin.

- Develop and implement advocacy and awareness-raising programmes to enhance understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities.

- Promote an ongoing dialogue with civil society organisations and involve them in the drafting of actions and policies through permanent consultative mechanisms.

**The United Kingdom** tabled its [commitments and voluntary pledges](#) in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2026-2028 on 13 June 2025. In the document, the UK pledges to:

- Support civil society and human rights organisations and promote freedom of expression, including free media, and ensure the protection of journalists and media workers.
- Strengthen scrutiny and accountability for international human rights crises, and promote the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 with a focus on access to justice, particularly for those belonging to marginalised groups.
- Tackle gender-based violence and harmful practices, and promote women's economic empowerment.
- Tackle modern slavery and human rights abuses in global supply chains.
- Ensure that human rights and governance principles are embedded in the use of new technologies.

## ITALY VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Italy** has (in the absence of consensus) consistently voted in favour of texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). It has mostly voted in favour of country-specific resolutions under item 2, with the exception of four abstentions (in 2019 and 2020): twice during voting on texts concerning Venezuela, and twice on texts concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory), Italy has tended to vote in favour; it has however, voted against six resolutions (in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2019 and 2020) and abstained during voting on another six (in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014 and 2021). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Italy has either joined consensus or voted in favour, apart from one occasion when it abstained (on a 2009 resolution on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote has been called, Italy has generally voted in favour or abstained. Texts where Italy has voted in favour include: the question of the death penalty; sexual orientation; firearms; peaceful protest; arms transfers; democracy and the rule of law; torture; and freedom of religion or belief. Italy voted against resolutions on mercenaries (2019, 2021), on defamation of religions

(2008, 2009, 2010), and on some texts on racism and the Durban Review Conference (2007, 2008, 2009, 2021). Concerning thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Italy has voted in favour of texts on the right to development (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014) and on HIV and AIDS. Resolutions it has voted against include texts on unilateral coercive measures, international solidarity, foreign debt, protection of the family, the right to development (2019), and the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights.

### Principal sponsorship

**Italy** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; World Programme for Human Rights Education; situation of human rights in the Russian Federation; youth and human rights; mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic; child, early and forced marriage; national policies and human rights; assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; and human rights education and training.

## THE UNITED KINGDOM VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **United Kingdom** has (in the absence of consensus) consistently voted in favour of texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). On country-specific item 2 resolutions, the United Kingdom has tended to vote in favour; exceptions include resolutions concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory (abstained thrice and voted against once), a resolution on Burundi (voted against), and a resolution on Venezuela (abstained). The United Kingdom has voted in favour, voted against, or abstained almost equally on all item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory) in the absence of consensus. Since 2018, where a vote has been called, the United Kingdom has voted against all item 7 resolutions. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the United Kingdom has joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts, except for one occasion when it abstained (on a 2009 resolution on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights,



the United Kingdom has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on, inter alia: the question of the death penalty; civil society; sexual orientation; drug control; arbitrary detention; peaceful protests; firearms; democracy and the rule of law; torture; and freedom of religion or belief. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include those on: defamation of religions; the right to peace; drones; arms transfers; mercenaries; and some texts on racism and the Durban Review Conference. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, the United Kingdom has, in the absence of consensus, tended to vote against or (less frequently) abstain on texts. It has voted against resolutions on, inter alia: foreign debt; unilateral coercive measures; international solidarity; protection of the family; and the right to peace. It has voted in favour of resolutions on, inter alia: HIV and AIDS; the right to food; and the right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

### Principal sponsorship

**The United Kingdom** has been in the core group of the following resolutions: the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; accelerating efforts to achieve women's economic empowerment; advancing Human Rights in South Sudan; situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; The impact of anti-personnel mines on the full enjoyment of all human rights; situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic; promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; responding to the human rights and humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing armed conflict in the Sudan; assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; informing the Human Rights Council on the human rights adviser programme; role of States in countering the negative

impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights; realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl; child, early and forced marriage; Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar; fact-finding mission to improve human rights, accountability and reconciliation for South Sudan; the role of freedom of opinion and expression in women's empowerment; promoting awareness, understanding and the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; and situation of human rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

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' (2023-2025)?

	Mentioned in last 3 years? (Number of cases) as of 2025	Responded to allegations
Italy 	—	—
United Kingdom 	—	—

**Inclusivity/Access**

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

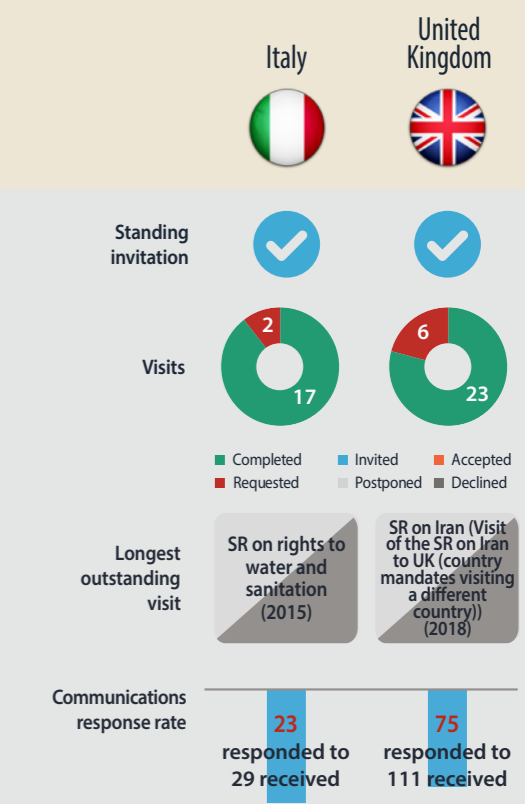
**66%**

**COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS**

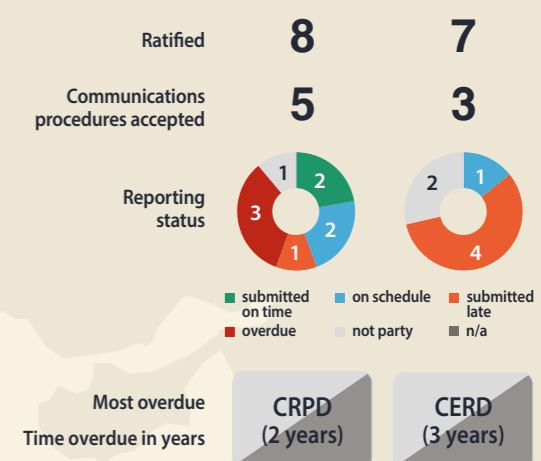
\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the nine 'core human rights conventions,' namely the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, CMW, and the CRPD.

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




**SPECIAL PROCEDURES**



**TREATIES RATIFIED**



**OP-CAT**

Ratified?		
NPM established?		
Received Sub-Committee visit?	2015	2019

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

	Italy 	United Kingdom 
Level of delegation	Inter-ministerial	Ministry
Participation in 1 <sup>st</sup> cycle	127	192
Participation in 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle	158	191
Participation in 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle	174	174

# 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:** 19 September 2025.

### Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2025)

**Source:** Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2025.

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/aboutus/fundingbudget/voluntarycontributions2025.pdf>

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

### NHRI Accreditation Status

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

[https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Accreditation-Status\\_Chart\\_Jun2025.pdf](https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Accreditation-Status_Chart_Jun2025.pdf)

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

### 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:** 19 September 2025.

## OHCHR Presence

**Source:** OHCHR website. UN Human Rights Appeal 2025.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/annual-appeal/un-human-rights-appeal-2025>

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

## Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Source:** UN GA website; OHCHR website.

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

**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)

### 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:** 19 September 2025.

**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' (2023-2025)

**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:** 23 September 2025.

### Inclusivity/Access

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

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

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

#### 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:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

**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.

**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 2025 election

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

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

**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.

- **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:** 19 September 2025.

#### NPM Established:

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

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

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

##### Mid-term reporting

**Source:** OHCHR Website

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

**Data as at:** 19 September 2025.

**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:** 19 September 2025.

**Note:** Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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  
United Nations Human Rights Council



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