yourHRC.org

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

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN 2015

LEADERSHIP, RESOLVE AND COOPERATION AT THE UN'S MAIN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

The Council in 2015: from efficiency to effectiveness, from reaction to prevention?

The ninth year of the Human Rights Council's existence will be remembered for many important initiatives and developments, from the body's work to support human rights in Sri Lanka to the creation of a new Special Procedures mandate on the right to privacy.

Looking back, policymakers might also recall an increasingly polarised atmosphere in Room XX with, as one indicator of this, a spike in the number of voted resolutions (compared to previous years). That spike in turn reflects disagreements over important human rights questions, often related to matters of religion or belief, which influenced negotiations on issues as seemingly unrelated as domestic violence, 'protection of the family,' and 'freedom of artistic expression.'

Notwithstanding these issues and trends, it is likely that, in years to come, people will mainly remember 2015 as a year of efficiency drives, of nascent efforts to tackle the international 'implementation gap,' and (towards the end of the year) of a re-emergent recognition of the importance of prevention in the UN's human rights toolkit.

Upon taking Office on 1st January, H.E. Ambassador Joachim Ruecker, the incoming ninth President of Council, announced three 'baskets' of priorities that would guide his work over the coming year. These were:

- **Efficiency** – this 'basket' sought to respond to concerns that the Council's work and output was widening at an unsustainable rate, and that this was having a detrimental effect on the 'deepening' of the body's work in terms of focus, effectiveness and impact, especially at a time of zero growth in the UN's regular budget.
- **Effectiveness** – any efficiency drive should not be conducted for the sake of it, or to lessen the burden on diplomats, but rather to enable the Council to focus on its core work and on those issues where it can make a real difference to people's lives and rights, and to work more effectively and generate greater impact.
- **Relationship with New York** – Ambassador Ruecker underscored the importance of strengthened coordination and cooperation between the Council and relevant New York-based bodies, including the Third Committee of the General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

Over the course of the year, the President and the Bureau probably devoted most attention to the first of the three 'baskets' – efficiency, and, as we look back at the year now ending, it is clear that their efforts have borne some important results. For example, the calendar year witnessed the first sustained quantitative contraction in the output of the Council since the body's establishment in 2006. The number

of resolutions adopted at the 28th session in March (37) was 12% lower than during the corresponding session one year earlier; and the 29th and 30th sessions likewise saw drops of 24% and 11% respectively (compared to the corresponding sessions of 2014). Overall, 2015 saw 95 resolutions adopted, 15% less than the number adopted in 2014 (112). The number of Panel Debates likewise dropped from 22 in 2014 to 18 in 2015.

Some of the benefits of this rationalisation will take time to be fully felt. For example, as in previous years, the Council was presented with record numbers of OHCHR reports (213) in 2015 – reports requested by 2014 resolutions (for comparison, in 2014 205 reports were presented). Notwithstanding, other benefits were already evident, including more time to respond to emerging challenges, more space to innovate, and more opportunities to consider how to strengthen on-the-ground effectiveness and impact.

Linked with the drive to develop more efficient and effective methods of work, 2015 also saw some important innovations in the way the Council operates.

Taking forward ideas incubated during informal retreats and dialogues in Berlin, Geneva, Glion and elsewhere, a range of actors introduced new and improved ways of realising the Council's mandate, including, *inter alia*: Informal Council Briefings by the High Commissioner; Enhanced Interactive Dialogues; country-specific Panel Debates (on the situation in North Korea); and 'hybrid' resolutions (i.e. texts focused on specific thematic concerns within a geographically-defined situation, such as, for example, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's resolution on the rights of Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar).

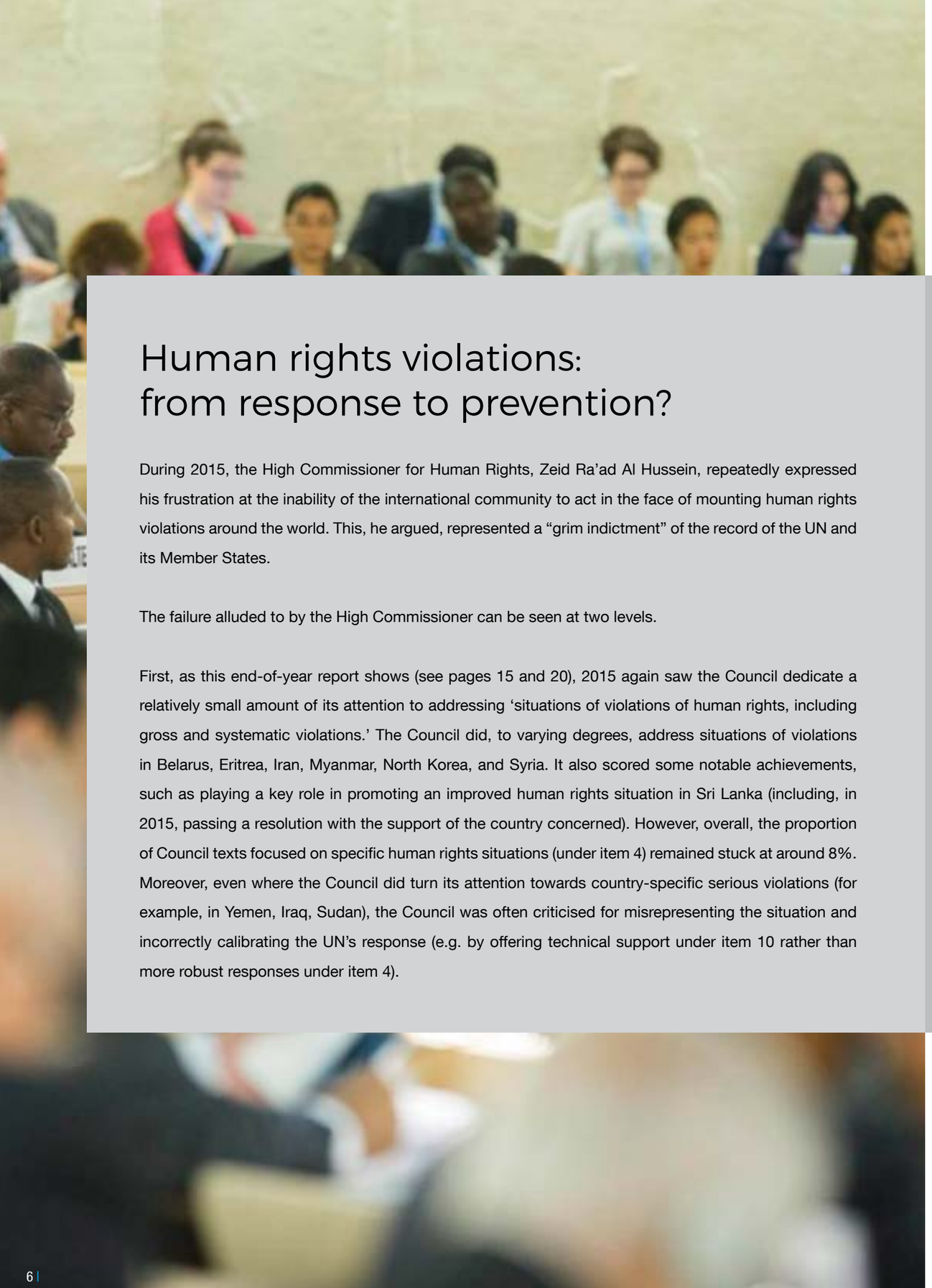
2015 also saw the first adoption, outside of a formal Council review, of a text dealing with institutional reform. At the end of the 29th session, Ambassador Ruecker delivered a Statement by the President (PRST) on 'enhancing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council.' The PRST sought to bring improvements to the voluntary yearly calendar for thematic resolutions (to promote transparency and efficiency); introduce improved modalities for the appointment of Special Procedures mandates over time; and support the development of a 'more distinguishable, accessible and user-friendly webpage for the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms and procedures, including a user-friendly extranet.'

Key goals of these rationalisation efforts, and of associated innovations in the Council's working methods, were to create space for States and NGOs to focus on new and emerging human rights challenges, and to enable the Council to become more effective and thus move to fill the long-standing 'implementation gap' – the difference between international norms and local reality.

2015 saw some progress made in both regards, although much remains to be done as the Council heads into its 10th anniversary year.

In terms of new issues, the streamlining of the Council's calendar vis-à-vis recurrent thematic initiatives, in theory created space for Members to turn their attention towards emerging and urgent issues. There was some evidence of that happening in 2015 (e.g. the new resolution on preventing and countering violent extremism, a new Special Procedures mechanism on the right to privacy in the digital age, and the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the human rights dimension of the migrant crisis), though more will be needed in 2016 if the Council is to effectively respond to criticisms (from some quarters) of its relevance vis-à-vis real world events and challenges.

In terms of effectiveness, impact and bridging the long-standing international 'implementation gap,' 2015 likewise saw some forward momentum. For example, during the Council's 30th session in September, Brazil and Paraguay presented a resolution (building on work being undertaken by OHCHR) that aims to help States establish and/or strengthen national human rights implementation systems and processes, and to mobilise international assistance in that regard. There was also some progress in strengthening the ability of the Council's mechanisms to follow-up on implementation: the March session saw the first-ever dialogue on cooperation and implementation between the Special Procedures system (represented by the Chair of the Coordination Committee) and States; while in late 2015 the Council President kick-started a process of reflection ahead of the third cycle of the UPR, with the aim of strengthening domestic implementation, follow-up and the objective monitoring of impact.



Human rights violations: from response to prevention?

During 2015, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, repeatedly expressed his frustration at the inability of the international community to act in the face of mounting human rights violations around the world. This, he argued, represented a "grim indictment" of the record of the UN and its Member States.

The failure alluded to by the High Commissioner can be seen at two levels.

First, as this end-of-year report shows (see pages 15 and 20), 2015 again saw the Council dedicate a relatively small amount of its attention to addressing 'situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations.' The Council did, to varying degrees, address situations of violations in Belarus, Eritrea, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, and Syria. It also scored some notable achievements, such as playing a key role in promoting an improved human rights situation in Sri Lanka (including, in 2015, passing a resolution with the support of the country concerned). However, overall, the proportion of Council texts focused on specific human rights situations (under item 4) remained stuck at around 8%. Moreover, even where the Council did turn its attention towards country-specific serious violations (for example, in Yemen, Iraq, Sudan), the Council was often criticised for misrepresenting the situation and incorrectly calibrating the UN's response (e.g. by offering technical support under item 10 rather than more robust responses under item 4).

Second, the above point raises the wider question of how the Council can and should respond to different types of situation. This question has often been distilled into a distinction between item 4 interventions (drawing attention to and condemning violations) and item 10 interventions (providing capacity-building and technical assistance to the State concerned). However, especially towards the end of 2015, the Council saw a renewed focus on prevention as an alternative way to construct, and perceive of, international responses to urgent situations.

The re-emergence of this prevention agenda, covering, *inter alia*, initiatives such as the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) initiative and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), is partly an acknowledgement that the Council struggles to have impact in conflict situations where rights violations have already become pervasive (e.g. the situation in Syria). And it partly reflects an acknowledgement that where the Council could play a more effective role, i.e. by preventing gross and systematic violations, it currently lacks the tools to do so. If States are serious about moving towards a prevention paradigm, they will need to engage in a meaningful debate about what the concept means in practice and what new tools and mechanisms are needed to do the job. In 2015, States merely scratched the surface of such questions.

yourHRC.org

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

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

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

Members of the Human Rights Council hold the main responsibility for pursuing and fulfilling the body's important mandate, and thereby of 'promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.'

When establishing the Council, the UN General Assembly decided that it would consist of 47 Member States, elected by a majority of the members of the Assembly. In making their choice, members of the General Assembly 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 General Assembly 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 has been created to promote transparency around the degree to which the Council and its Members are delivering on this crucial mandate, passed to them by the General Assembly and, ultimately, entrusted to them by 'the Peoples of the United Nations' described in the UN Charter.

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 current and former Council member States. 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 leadership on 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 (including comparative information) on candidatures for upcoming Council elections.

3 An annual **'yourHRC.org end-of-year report'** (to be published each December), providing information (including comparative information) on levels of member state engagement and cooperation over the course of that year.

4 A periodic **'yourHRC.org candidate alert'** that will be sent to stakeholders informing them of candidature announcements for future Council elections, and providing information on that state's performance during previous membership terms (where applicable).

The present document is the first annual 'yourHRC.org end-of-year report,' offering an assessment of the Council's work, output, achievements and shortfalls in 2015, and analysing the contributions of Member States to the work of the Council and to the enjoyment of human rights around the world.

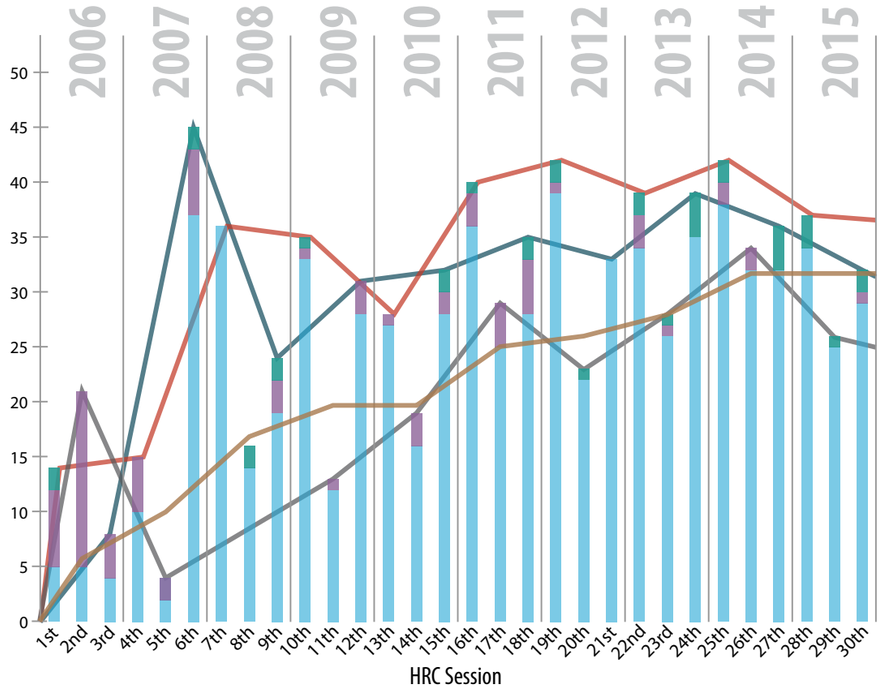
PART I

2015

THE WORK, OUTPUT AND PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS MECHANISMS

THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

Number of Council texts adopted over time

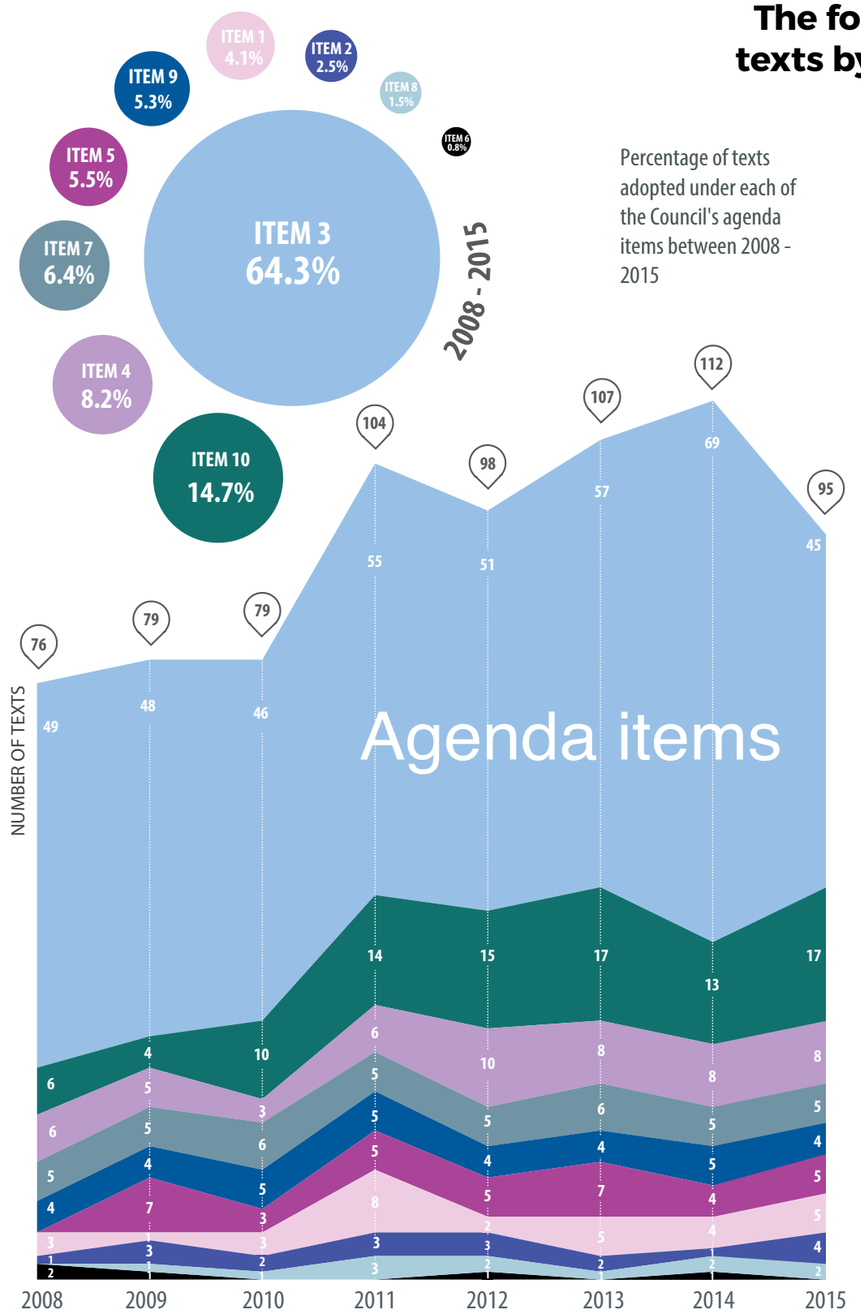


Number of biennialised resolutions **18**

Data source: OHCHR website.

- Each session in 2015 saw a reduction in the number of texts compared to the corresponding sessions in 2014 and 2013.
- This was the first sustained rationalisation since the 2011 Council review.

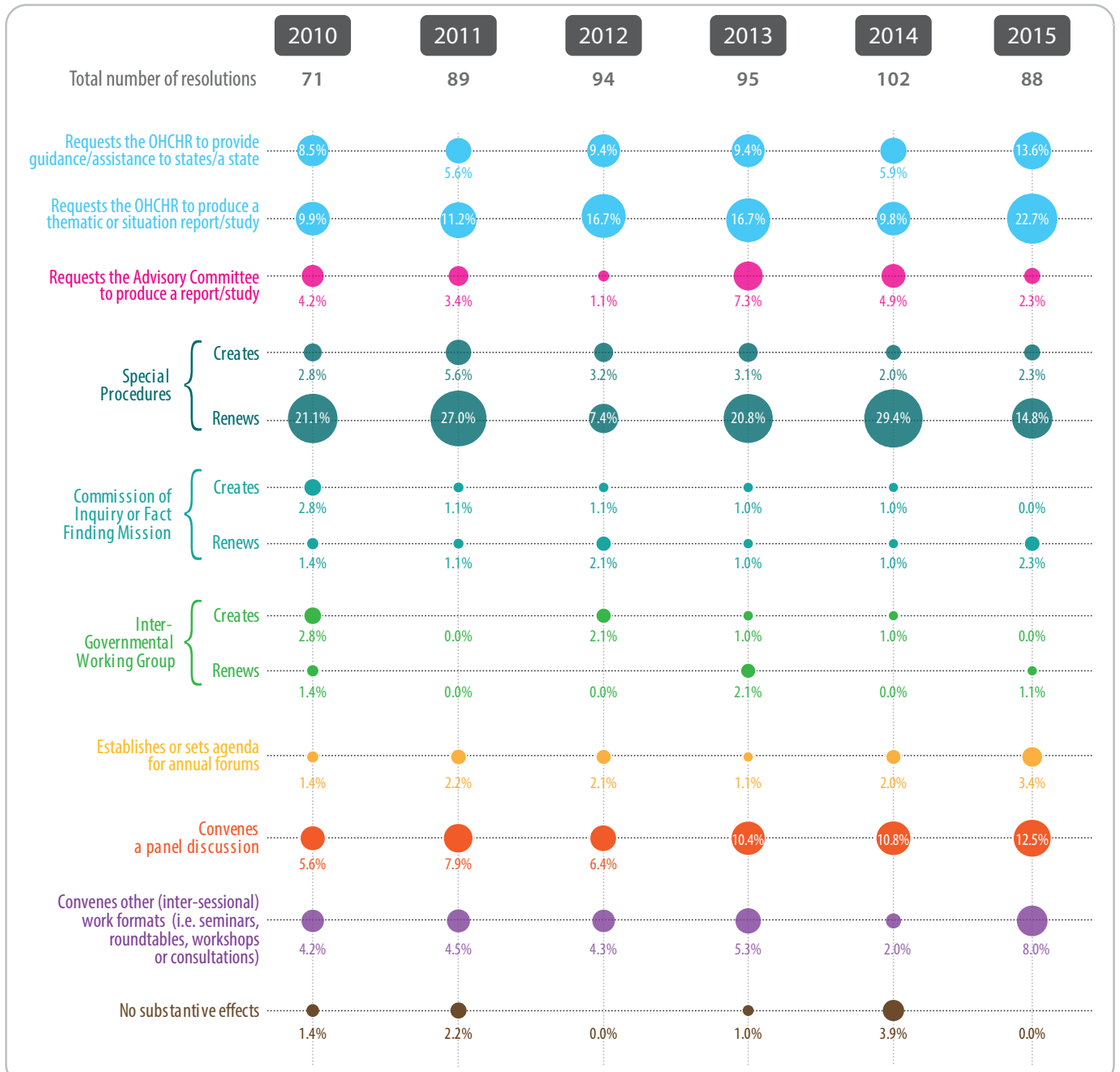
The focus of Council texts by agenda item (2008-2015)



Data source: HRC texts (resolutions, decisions or presidential statements) 2008-2015, available on the OHCHR website.

- 2015 again saw most resolutions adopted under agenda item 3, although the percentage of item 3 texts showed a slight decrease on previous years.
- 2015 also saw an increase in the number of texts adopted under item 10.
- The number of item 4 texts (situations requiring the Council's attention) remained stable at around 8%.

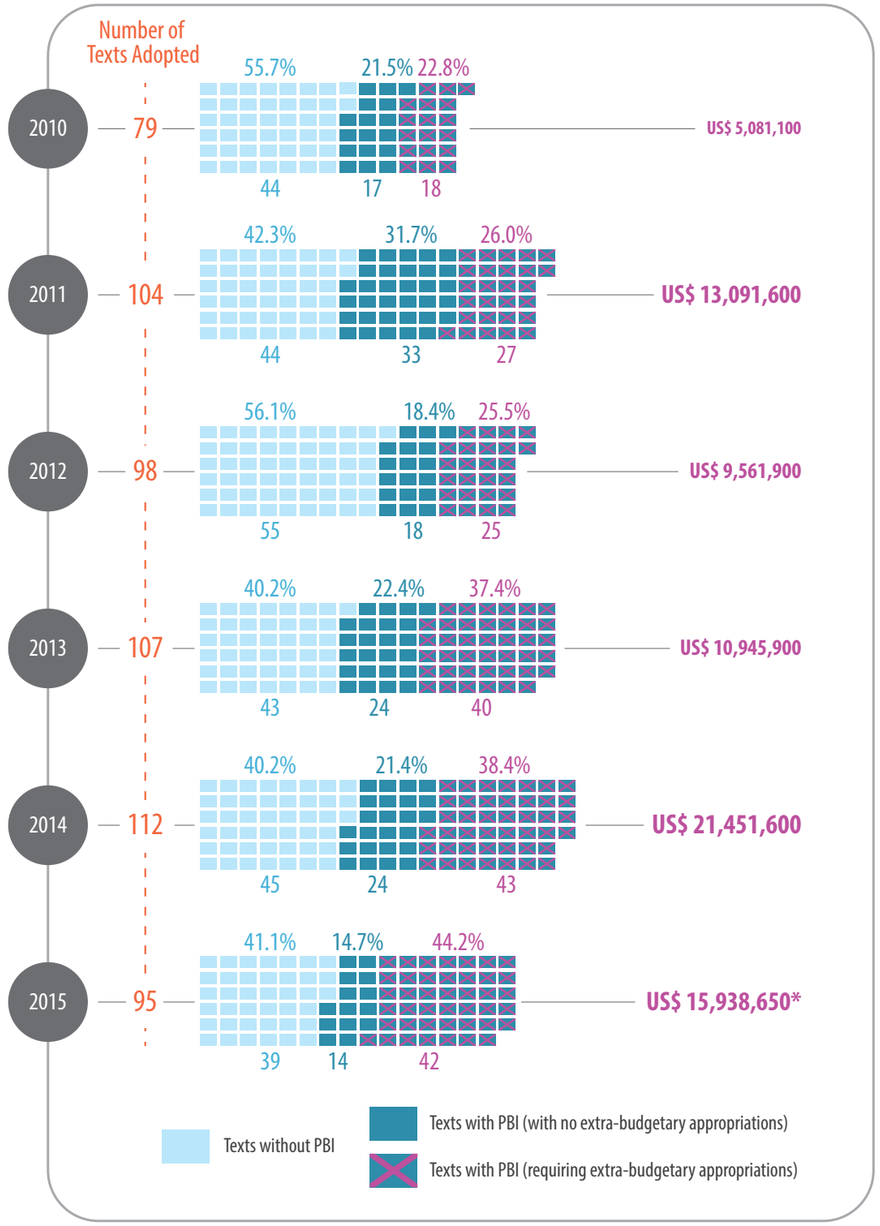
The operative effects of Council resolutions (2010-2015)



Data source: HRC resolutions 2010-2015, available on the OHCHR website

- In 2015, States again showed enthusiam for reports by the High Commissioner, with 23% of texts requesting thematic or situation-specific studies.
- Panel debates also remained popular: in 2015 12.5% of texts called for one.
- At the same time, the percentage of resolutions calling for inter-sessional seminars or workshops reached a new high.

Financial implications of Council resolutions (2010-2015)



* The final amount may be slightly higher because the PBI for res. 29/13, adopted during the 29th session, is yet to be determined. Data source: PBIs arising from each resolution, available on the HRC extranet.

Top themes in 2015: focus of thematic resolutions

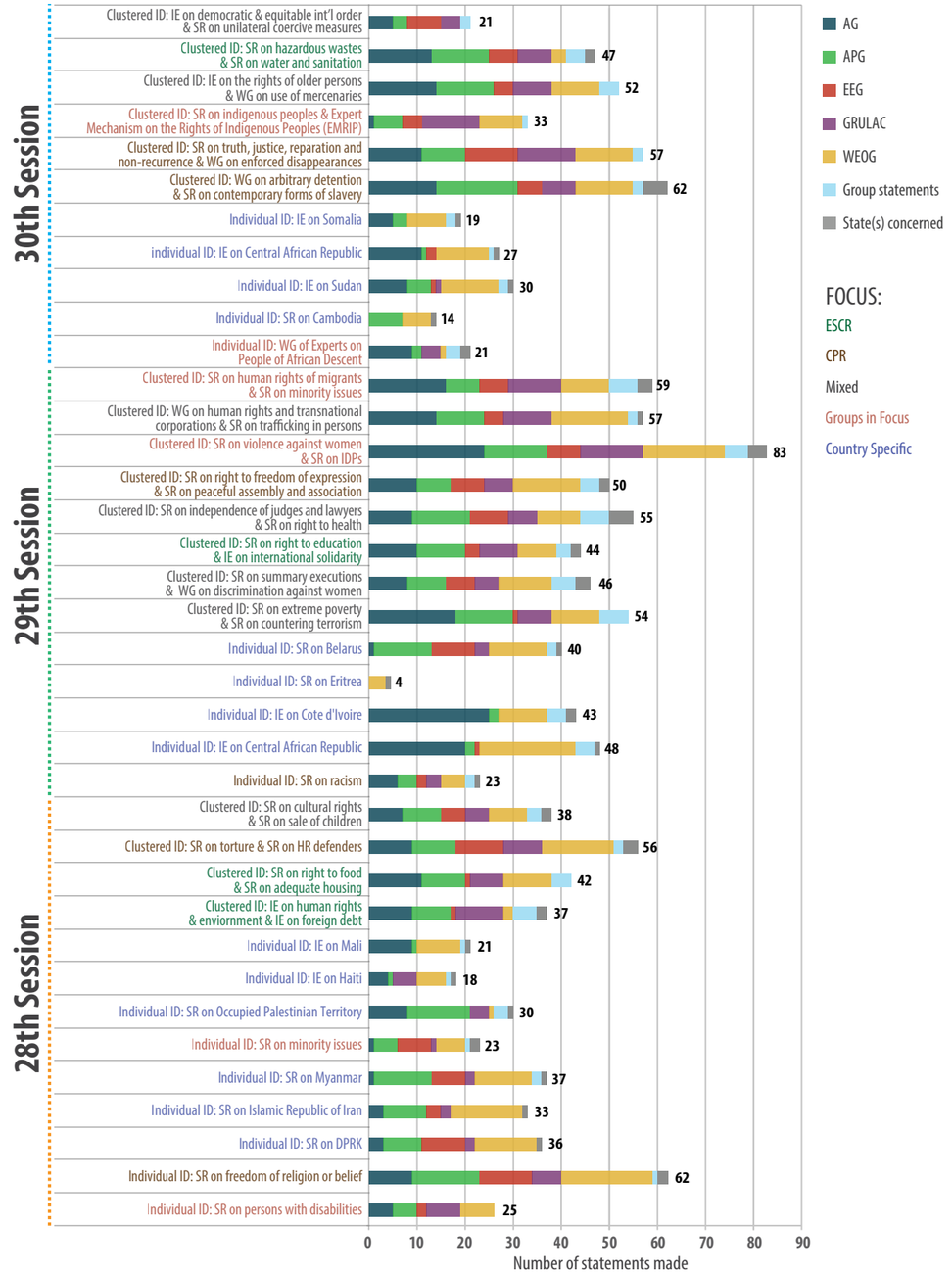
Total number of thematic resolutions **58**

New Initiatives

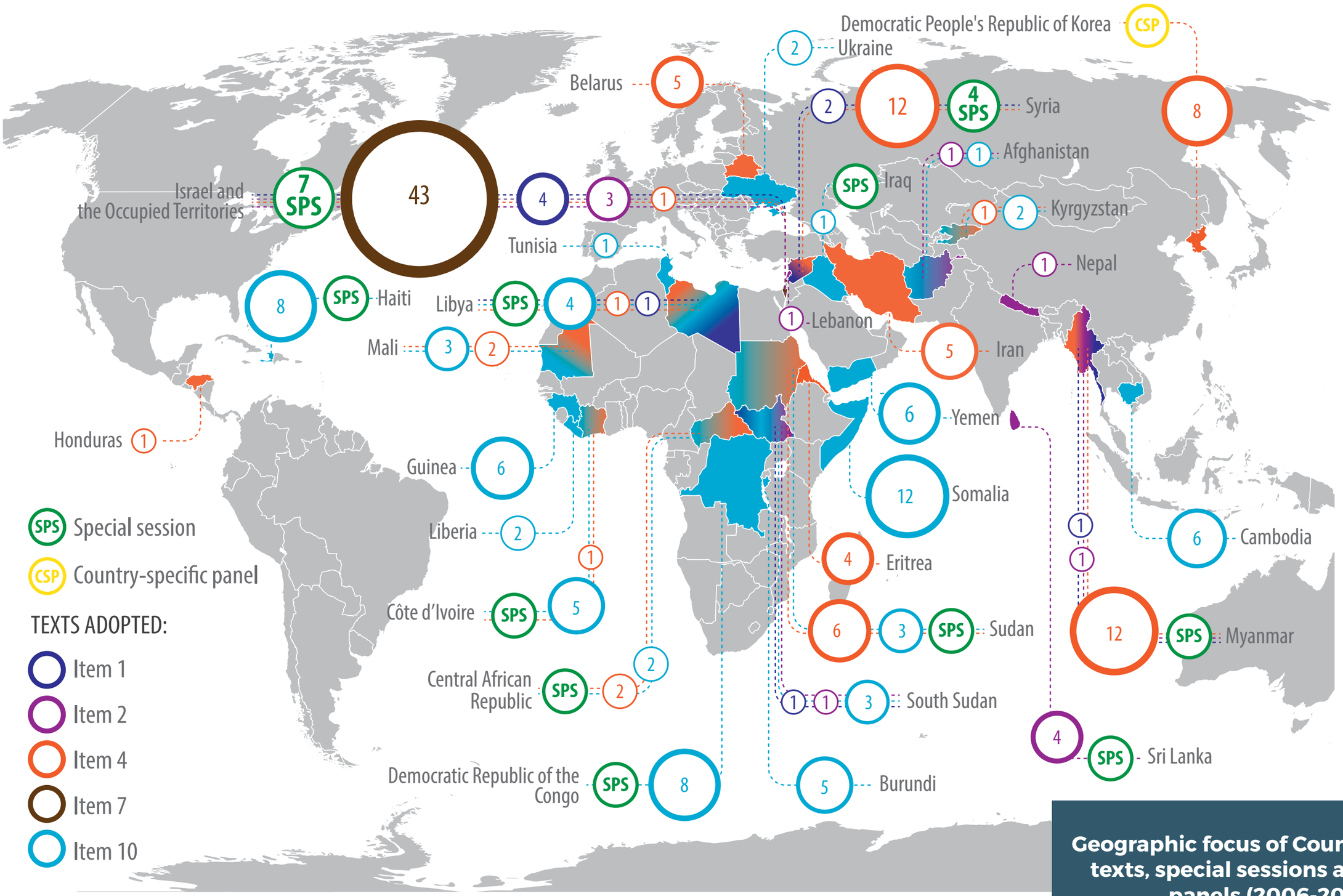
Note: The size of each bubble, and word/phrase within the bubble, relates to the number of resolutions adopted with that focus/theme in 2015. Data source: HRC resolutions for 2015, available on the OHCHR website.

- In 2015, there were slightly more texts focused on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) issues, than on civil and political rights (CPR) issues.
- For ESCR resolutions, the Council paid particular attention to the right to development, equitable international order, international cooperation, and the relationship between human rights and the environment.
- For CPR resolutions, States focused in particular on issues around violent extremism, terrorism, and religious intolerance/freedom of religion.
- For groups in focus, there was, as in previous years, a strong focus on children's rights and women's rights.

State participation in Interactive Dialogues of the Special Procedures in 2015



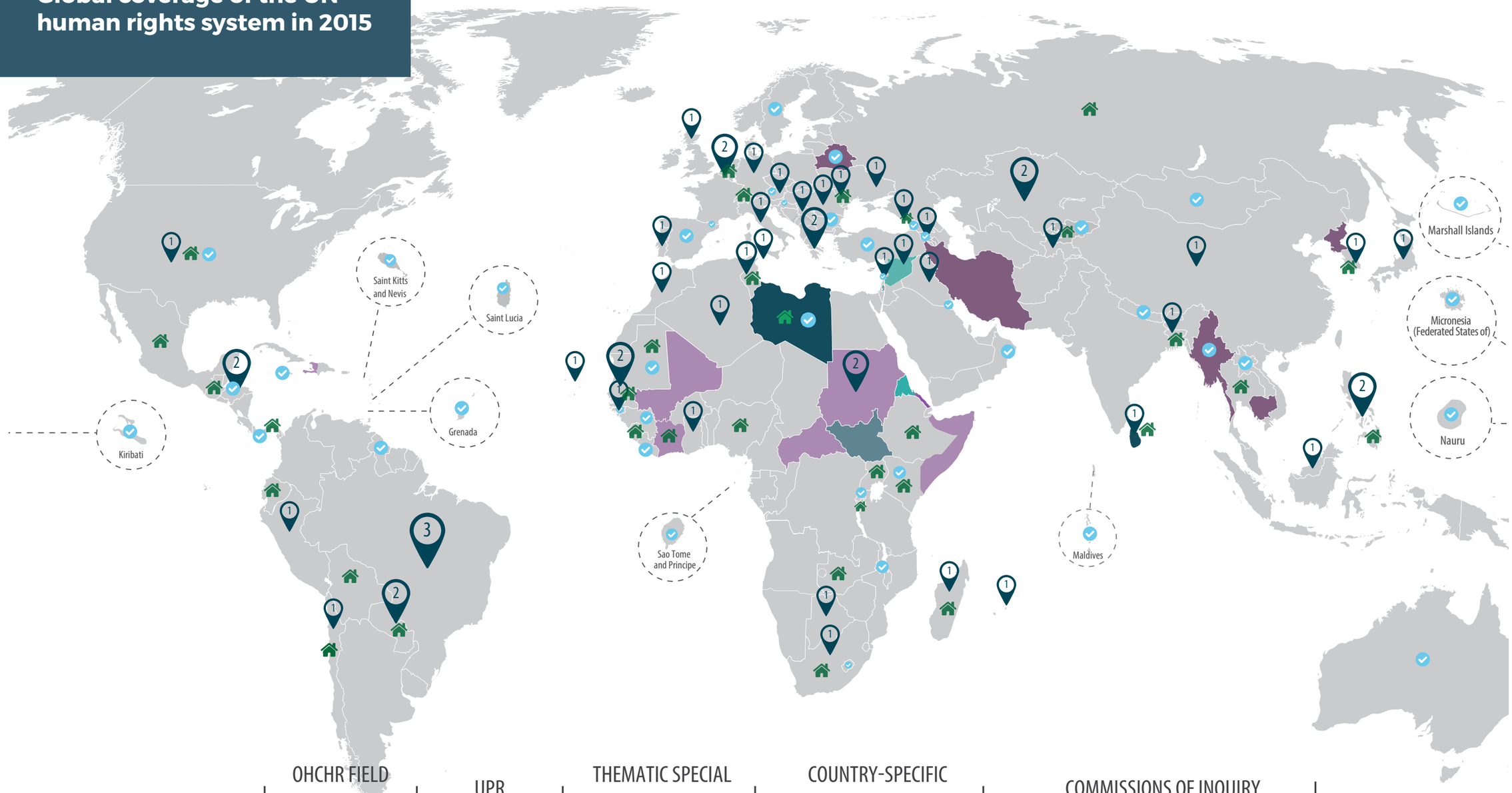
Data source: UN Web TV. Note: for comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see end note.



Geographic focus of Council texts, special sessions and panels (2006-2015)

Data source: HRC texts 2006-2015; OHCHR website.

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2015



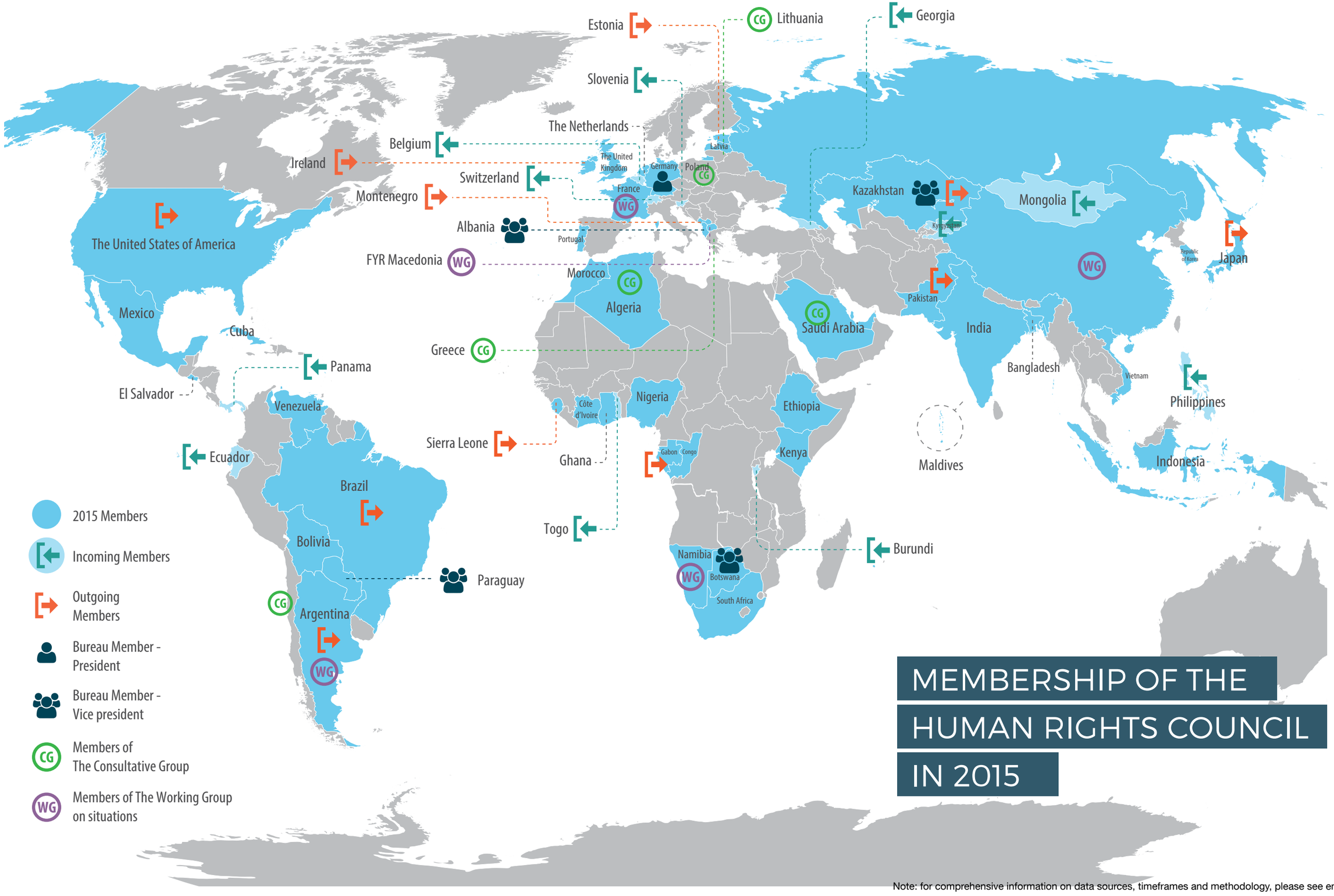
Data source: OHCHR website. Note: for comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see end note.

PART II

2015

COUNCIL MEMBER STATES: ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP, COOPERATION

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN 2015



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

COOPERATION WITH THE UN, ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND MECHANISMS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Secretary-General's report

In September 2015, the UN Secretary-General presented his annual report (pursuant to resolution 12/2) to the 30th session of the Council on: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.'

With resolution 12/2, the Council had condemned all acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals and groups who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, committed by State and non-State actors.

In his 2015 report, the Secretary-General highlighted initiatives and efforts, made by the UN system and other stakeholders, to tackle the issue of reprisals. It presented information on alleged acts of intimidation and reprisal based on data gathered from 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2015, including follow-up information on cases discussed in previous reports.

The report expresses concern at the continued prevalence of acts of intimidation and reprisal. According to the Secretary-General: 'The types of acts reported seem to have become more varied and severe over time, targeting not only the individuals or groups concerned but also their families, legal representatives, non-governmental organisations and anyone linked to them.'

In terms of steps taken by the UN system, the Secretary-General took note of actions by the President of the Council, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies, to develop ways of 'addressing the issue of reprisals in a more coherent and systematic manner.' He also welcomed 'the efforts made by a number of States to provide protection to those individuals and groups engaging with the UN in the field of human rights, including during the sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.' Moreover, he urged 'all concerned to work cooperatively together to ensure that the current deadlock facing Council resolution 24/24 is overcome without further delay.'

The report reaffirmed the primary obligation of the State to protect those who cooperate with the United Nations in the field of human rights and to ensure that they may do so safely and without hindrance.

Taken together with his 2014 report, the Secretary-General has expressed concern about information received relating to cases of intimidation and reprisal in the following countries:

- Algeria
- Bahrain
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- China
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Gambia
- Honduras
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Israel
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Myanmar
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- United Arab Emirates
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Viet Nam

Finally, the Secretary-General recalled that the cases included in his latest report are not exhaustive, but are rather 'examples of a larger number of mostly invisible cases.'

GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION

Latin America and Caribbean Group

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing Invitations issued by: **6/8** Member States

Average visit acceptance rate: **54%**

Average communications response rate: **70%**

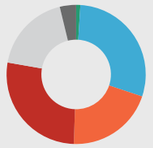
TREATY BODIES

Average number of treaties ratified: **7.5/8**

Average lateness of most overdue report: **3** years

Most late overdue report: **8** years

Average/overall reporting status



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Midterm reports subitted by: **2/8** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **83/193** (1st cycle)

Western Europe and Others Group

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing Invitations issued by: **6/7** Member States

Average visit acceptance rate: **79%**

Average communications response rate: **63%**

TREATY BODIES

Average number of treaties ratified: **6.7/8**

Average lateness of most overdue report: **0.9** years

Most late overdue report: **3.5** years

Average/overall reporting status

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Midterm reports subitted by: **5/7** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **129/193** (1st cycle)

Eastern European Group

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing Invitations issued by: **5/6** Member States

Average visit acceptance rate: **70%**

Average communications response rate: **53%**

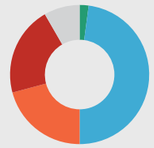
TREATY BODIES

Average number of treaties ratified: **7.3/8**

Average lateness of most overdue report: **2.27** years

Most late overdue report: **9** years

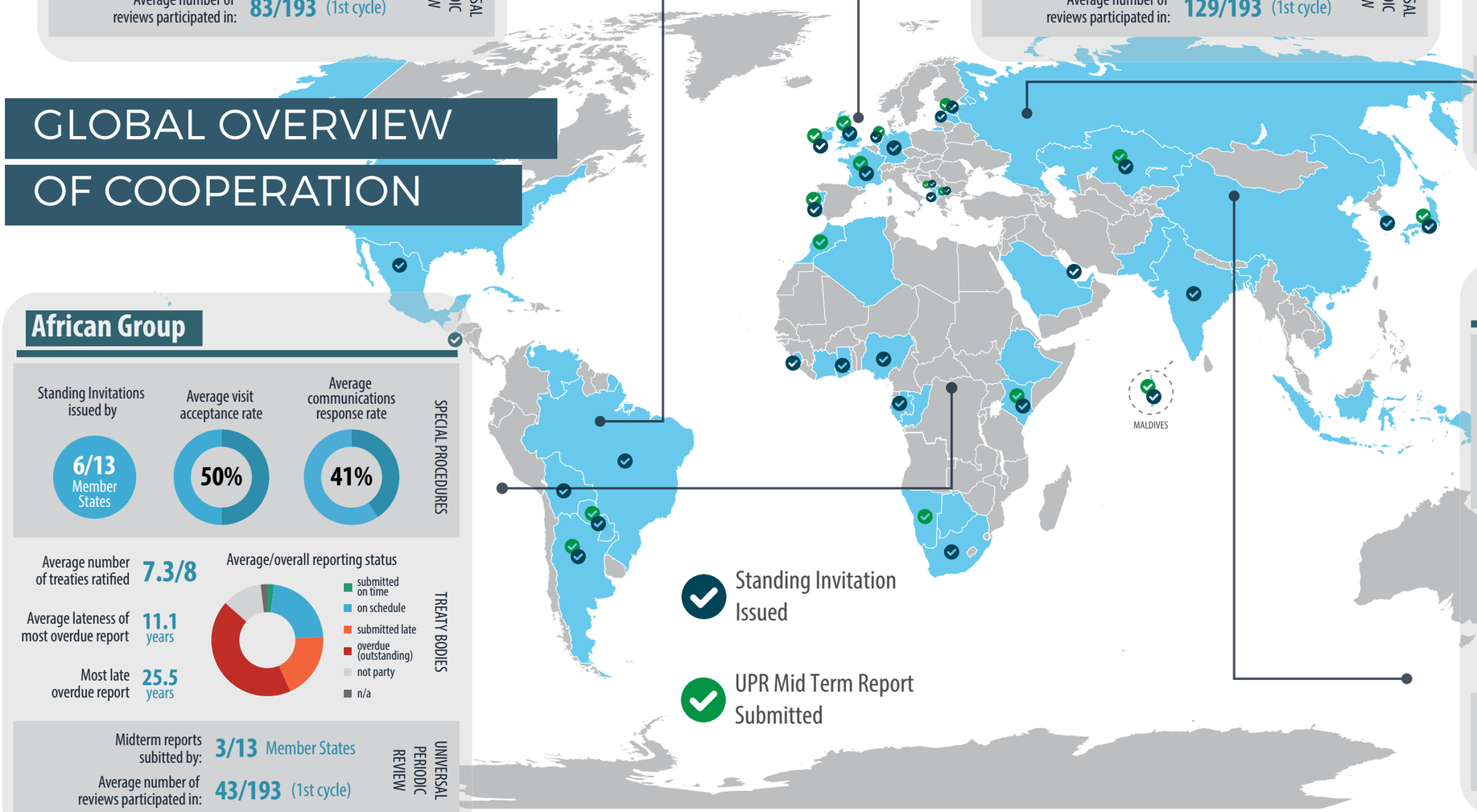
Average/overall reporting status



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Midterm reports subitted by: **3/6** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **28/193** (1st cycle)



African Group

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing Invitations issued by: **6/13** Member States

Average visit acceptance rate: **50%**

Average communications response rate: **41%**

TREATY BODIES

Average number of treaties ratified: **7.3/8**

Average lateness of most overdue report: **11.1** years

Most late overdue report: **25.5** years

Average/overall reporting status

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Midterm reports subitted by: **3/13** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **43/193** (1st cycle)

Asia Pacific Group

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing Invitations issued by: **6/13** Member States

Average visit acceptance rate: **46%**

Average communications response rate: **67%**

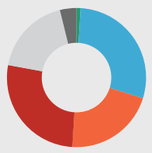
TREATY BODIES

Average number of treaties ratified: **6.0/8**

Average lateness of most overdue report: **6.1** years

Most late overdue report: **16** years

Average/overall reporting status



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Midterm reports subitted by: **3/13** Member States

Average number of reviews participated in: **51/193** (1st cycle)

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

African Group (AG)

Overview of Members

	Voluntary Contribution to OHCHR (2014)	NHRI Accreditation Status	Previous Membership Terms
Algeria	✓	B	2
Botswana	✗	–	2
Congo	✗	B	2
Côte d'Ivoire	✗	–	1
Ethiopia	✗	B	1
Gabon	✗	–	3
Ghana	✗	A	3
Kenya	✗	A	1
Morocco	✓	A	2
Namibia	✗	A	1
Nigeria	✗	A	3
Sierra Leone	✗	A	1
South Africa	✗	A	3

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

Leadership

During the course of 2015, African Members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2015 African Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Algeria (also coordinator of the African Group in 2015) - effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights; national policies and human rights.

Botswana - equal participation in political and public affairs; independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

Cote d'Ivoire – protection of the family.

Ethiopia – the negative impact of corruption; preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

Morocco – the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council; effects of terrorism; human rights, democracy and rule of law; human rights and environment; the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; the negative impact of corruption; preventing and countering violent extremism; protection of the family.

Sierra Leone - preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

South Africa – the rights of peasants.

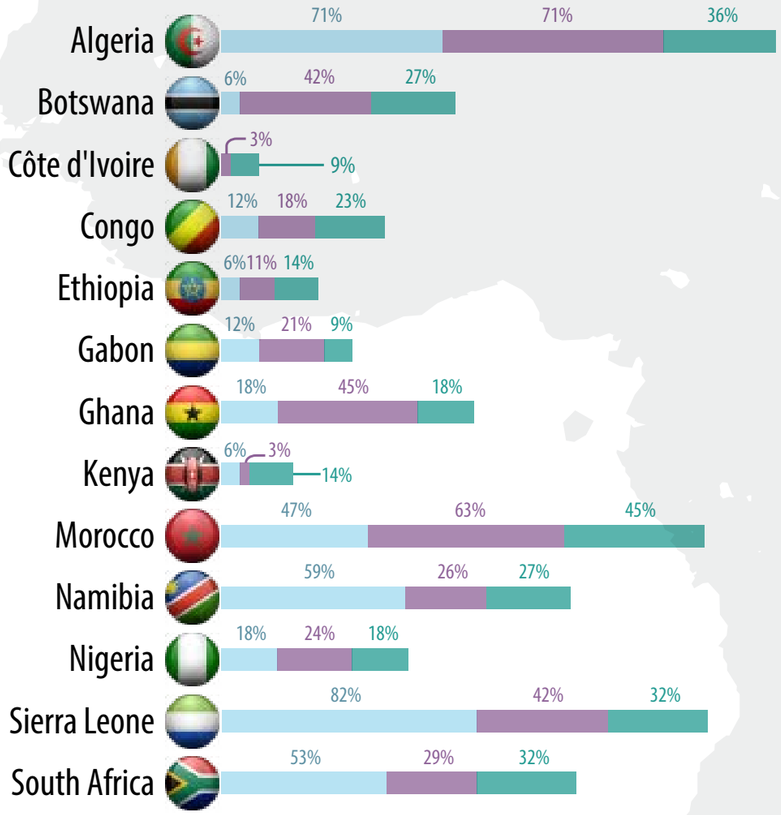
At a country-specific level, African Members led (as part of a core group), inter alia, on the following situations:

Morocco - the situation in Syria.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that African States often work through their regional group. In 2015, the African Group led on thematic initiatives focused on: racism; people of African descent; the human rights of persons with albinism; the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin; and private military and security companies.

The African Group also led on Council initiatives aiming to deliver technical assistance to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Libya, Mali, and Sudan.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2015



Note: data based on participation during the last 3 regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (28th-30th sessions). For full methodology, see end note. Data source: HRC Extranet.

Engagement with Panel Debates (as % of total)

Engagement with Interactive Dialogues (as % of total)

Engagement in General Debates (as % of total)

Voting analysis

With regard to texts on country-specific situations, African Members of the Council displayed markedly different voting records in 2015. On item 4 texts (situations that require the Council's attention), Botswana, Gabon and Sierra Leone voted in favour of all texts (except, in the case of Sierra Leone and Gabon, for one). Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Morocco voted in favour of resolutions on the situations in North Korea and Syria, but abstained on texts focused on the situations in Belarus and Iran. Algeria voted against all texts (3) focused on violations in Syria, and abstained in voting on Belarus, Iran and North Korea. Others, including Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia and Nigeria abstained during voting on every item 4 text.

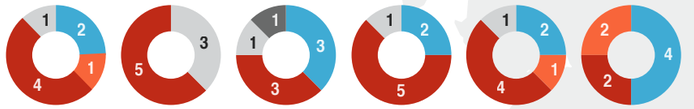
For country-specific item 2 texts (e.g. on reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka and in South Sudan, and on the rights of minorities in Myanmar), African Members joined consensus. During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), African States generally voted in favour (though they occasionally abstained). For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), African Members joined consensus on all texts in 2015, except for when a vote was called (i.e. on assistance to Ukraine – with African States either voting in favour or abstaining).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called in 2015, African Members usually voted in favour (some, such as Congo and Sierra Leone, voted in favour every time). Notable exceptions include voting on:

- The resolution on the question of the death penalty – with a number of African countries voting against (e.g. Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria), some in voting in favour (Algeria, Congo), and some abstaining (Ghana, Kenya, Morocco).
- The resolution on human rights, democracy and rule of law – Algeria, Ethiopia and Nigeria abstained.
- The resolution on the effects of terrorism – for example, Botswana and Namibia abstained.
- The resolution on preventing and combatting violent extremism – for example, Namibia abstained.

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

	Algeria	Botswana	Congo	Côte d'Ivoire	Ethiopia	Gabon
SPECIAL PROCEDURES						
Standing Invitation	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Visits Completed (1998-20th November 2015)	6/15 40%	4/6 67%	2/2 100%	16/23 70%	3/13 23%	1/4 25%
Visits Completed in 2015	1 SR on the right to education	1 SR the right to water and sanitation	0	3 IE on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire	0	0
Communications Response Rate (as referenced in last UPR national report)	10 responded to 20 received 50%	1 responded to 1 received 100%	0 responded to 1 received 0%	1 responded to 2 received 50%	6 responded to 16 received 38%	0 responded to 0 received n/a
Core Conventions Ratified*	7	5	7	7	7	8
TREATY BODIES						
Reporting Status (data as at 26th November 2015)						
Most Overdue Report	ICCPR (4 years)	CAT (14 years)	ICESCR (25.5 years)	ICESCR (21.5 years)	CERD (2.5 years)	CERD (16.5 years)
Conventions Ratified in 2015	–	–	–	–	–	–
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW						
Reviewed in 2015	–	–	–	–	–	–
Level of Delegation (at latest review)	Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister
Mid-term Reporting (1st and/or 2nd cycle)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Participation in other reviews (1st cycle)	179	18	16	17	7	8

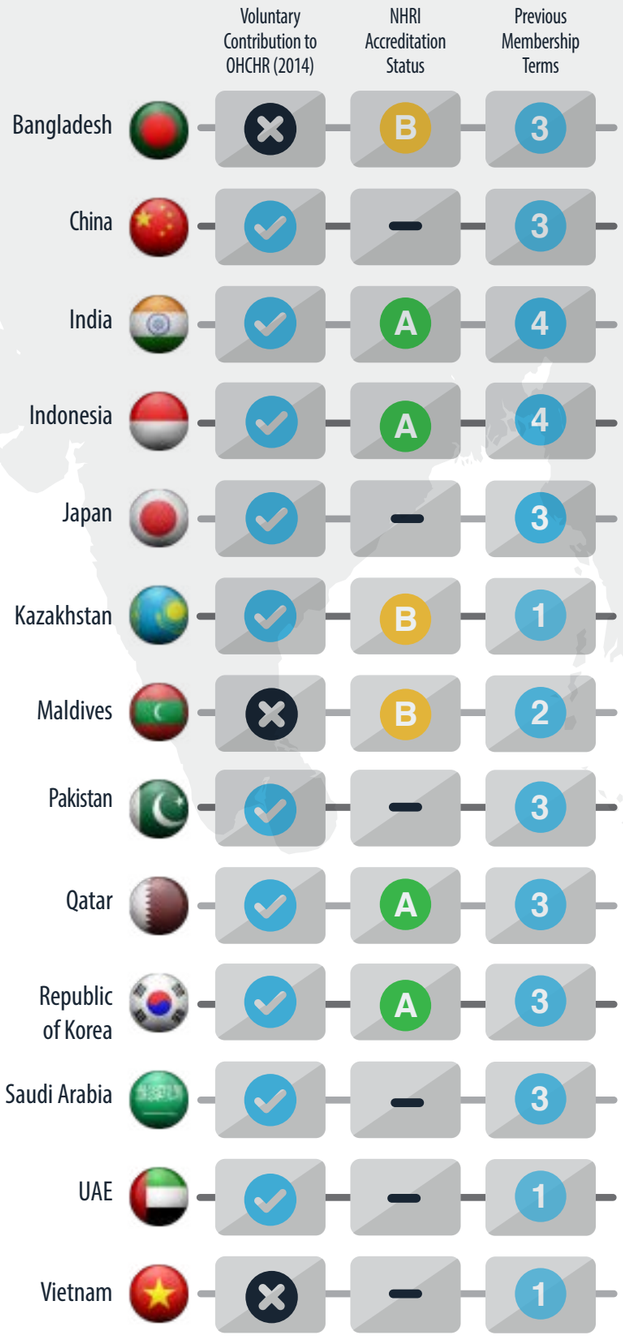
	Ghana	Kenya	Morocco	Namibia	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	South Africa
SPECIAL PROCEDURES							
Standing Invitation	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Visits Completed (1998-20th November 2015)	6/10 60%	11/21 52%	10/28 36%	3/5 60%	5/16 31%	2/6 33%	10/17 59%
Visits Completed in 2015	1 SR on torture	0	1 SR on the right to food	0	0	0	0
Communications Response Rate (as referenced in last UPR national report)	1 responded to 1 received 100%	2 responded to 20 received 10%	21 responded to 29 received 72%	1 responded to 4 received 25%	6 responded to 28 received 21%	0 responded to 3 received 0%	2 responded to 9 received 22%
Core Conventions Ratified*	7	7	8	7	8	7	7
TREATY BODIES							
Reporting Status (data as at 26th November 2015)							
Most Overdue Report	ICESCR (12.5 years)	CERD (1 year)	CERD (2 years)	CRPD (5.5 years)	ICCPR (16 years)	ICESCR (17.5 years)	CAT (7 years)
Conventions Ratified in 2015	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓ ICESCR
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW							
Reviewed in 2015	–	✓	–	–	–	–	–
Level of Delegation (at latest review)	Deputy Attorney General	Attorney General	Minister	Minister	Attorney General	Attorney General	Deputy Minister
Mid-term Reporting (1st and/or 2nd cycle)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Participation in other reviews (1st cycle)	65	0	117	4	60	0	72

* 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 (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of Members



Leadership

During the course of 2015, Asia-Pacific Members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2015 Asia-Pacific Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Bangladesh – human rights and climate change; preventing and countering violent extremism; protection of the family.

China – protection of the family. (It is important to note that in 2015, China also led initiatives on capacity building in public health, and on the anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These were adopted as Presidential Statements).

Indonesia – equal participation in political and public affairs; the impact of corruption on human rights; the right to work; technical assistance and capacity building in the field of human rights.

Japan – discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

Maldives – the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council; human rights and the environment; independence and impartiality of the judiciary; preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

Qatar – protection of the family.

Pakistan – remotely piloted aircraft and armed drones.

Republic of Korea – human rights, democracy and rule of law.

Saudi Arabia – effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights; protection of the family.

At a country-specific level, Asia-Pacific Members led, inter alia, on the following situations:

Japan – technical assistance for Cambodia; situation in North Korea.

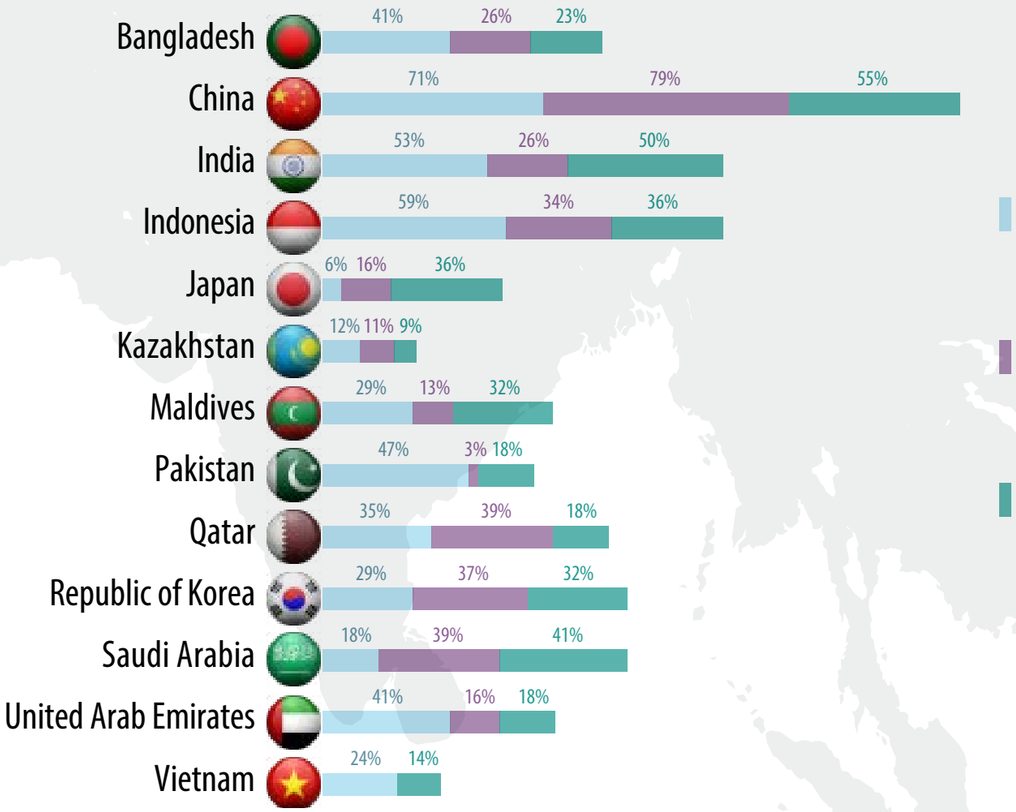
Qatar – situation in Syria.

Saudi Arabia – situation in Syria.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some Asia-Pacific States regularly work through political groups (especially the Arab Group and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation - OIC). In 2015, the Arab Group led on resolutions dealing with technical assistance for Iraq and for Yemen, while the OIC (with Pakistan as coordinator) put forward resolutions on the situation of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar, on human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and on combatting religious intolerance.

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

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2015



Note: data based on participation during the last 3 regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (28th-30th sessions). For full methodology, see end note. Data source: HRC Extranet.

Voting analysis

With regard to texts on country specific situations, Asia-Pacific Members of the Council displayed markedly different voting records in 2015. On item 4 texts (situations that require the Council's attention), in the absence of consensus, China voted against all texts (though it did join consensus on resolutions on the situations in Eritrea and Myanmar), Vietnam did likewise (except for resolutions on Syria – when it abstained), while others (e.g. Bangladesh, Pakistan) abstained on all (or nearly all) texts. At the other end of the scale, where a vote was called, Japan, Maldives and South Korea voted in favour of all texts (except, in the case of Maldives, for the resolution on Iran – on which it abstained). A number of Asian States (e.g. India, Kazakhstan) displayed a mixed voting record, voting against item 4 texts on Belarus and Iran, but abstaining during voting on Syria. Indonesia voted in favour of a resolution on the situation in Syria in March but changed its vote to abstention in June and September (it also abstained in voting on Belarus and North Korea, and voted against the text on Iran). Arab States (e.g. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE) voted in favour of all three resolutions (in 2015) on Syria, but tended to abstain during voting on other item 4 texts (e.g. on Belarus, Iran, North Korea).

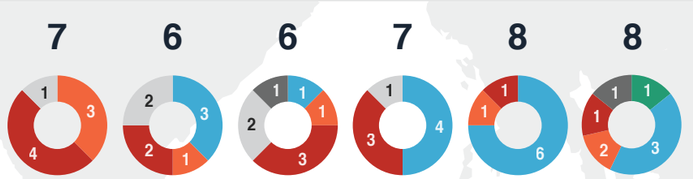
For country-specific item 2 texts (e.g. on reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka and in South Sudan, and on the rights of minorities in Myanmar), Asian Members joined consensus. During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Asian States nearly always voted in favour. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Asian Members joined consensus on all texts in 2015, except for when there was a vote called (i.e. on assistance to Ukraine – with Asian States usually abstaining).

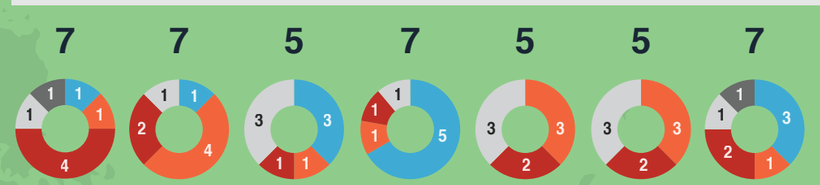
For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called in 2015, Asian Members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions included voting on:

- The resolution on the question of the death penalty – with a number of States voting against (e.g. Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE), or abstaining (e.g. South Korea, Maldives).
- The resolution on human rights, democracy and rule of law – China, Saudi Arabia and UAE abstained.
- The resolution on the effects of terrorism – for example, Japan and South Korea voted against; while Kazakhstan and Qatar abstained.
- The resolution on preventing and combatting violent extremism – for example, China, Kazakhstan and Pakistan abstained.
- The resolution on armed drones – Japan and South Korea voted against; Bangladesh and India abstained.
- The text on 'concrete action against racism' – South Korea and Japan abstained.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Asian States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The exceptions were Japan and South Korea, which voted against resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, international solidarity, protection of the family, and the impact of foreign debt. Moreover, Japan and South Korea both abstained during voting on the resolution on the right to development.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

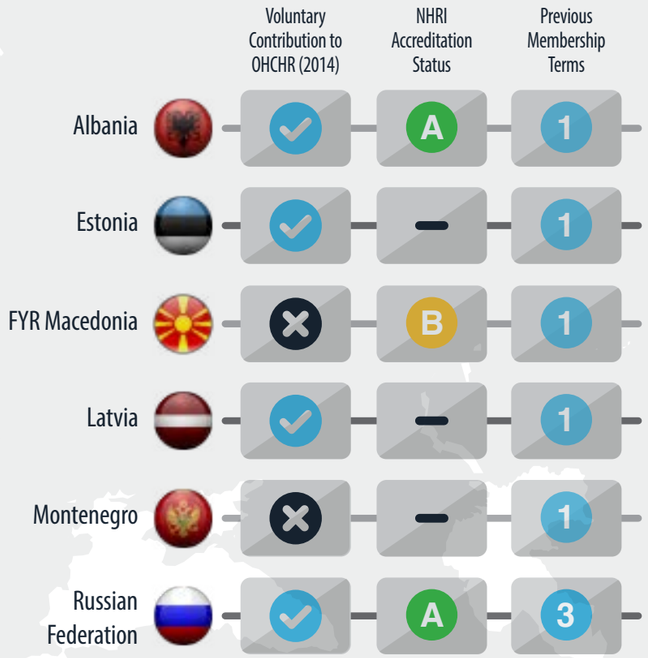
	Bangladesh	China	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan
SPECIAL PROCEDURES						
Standing Invitation	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Visits Completed (1998-20th November 2015)	6/17 35%	6/20 30%	9/24 38%	13/32 41%	14/20 70%	11/13 85%
Visits Completed in 2015	1 SR on freedom of religion or belief	1 IE on foreign debt	0	0	2 SR on human rights in DPRK; SR on sale of children	2 SR on freedom of association; SR on hazardous substances
Communications Response Rate (as referenced in last UPR national report)	27 responded to 30 received 90%	80 responded to 100 received 80%	76 responded to 98 received 78%	10 responded to 31 received 32%	6 responded to 6 received 100%	12 responded to 18 received 67%
Core Conventions Ratified*	7	6	6	7	8	8
TREATY BODIES						
Reporting Status (data as at 26th November 2015)						
Most Overdue Report	CAT (16 years)	CERD (3 years)	ICCPR (14 years)	CERD (5 years)	CPED (3 years)	CESCR (5 months)
Conventions Ratified in 2015	–	–	–	–	–	✓ CRPD
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW						
Reviewed in 2015	–	–	–	–	–	–
Level of Delegation (at latest review)	Minister	Special Envoy	Attorney General	Minister	Ambassador	Deputy Minister
Mid-term Reporting (1st and/or 2nd cycle)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Participation in other reviews (1st cycle)	84	57	28	78	75	20

	Maldives	Pakistan	Qatar	Republic of Korea	Saudi Arabia	UAE	Vietnam
SPECIAL PROCEDURES							
Standing Invitation	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Visits Completed (1998-20th November 2015)	6/11 55%	3/16 19%	3/5 60%	14/18 78%	2/12 17%	4/12 33%	7/16 44%
Visits Completed in 2015	0	0	0	2 SR on human rights in DPRK; SR on hazardous substances	0	0	0
Communications Response Rate (as referenced in last UPR national report)	2 responded to 11 received 18%	39 responded to 65 received 60%	4 responded to 4 received 100%	6 responded to 6 received 100%	20 responded to 45 received 44%	6 responded to 23 received 26%	21 responded to 26 received 81%
Core Conventions Ratified*	7	7	5	7	5	5	7
TREATY BODIES							
Reporting Status (data as at 26th November 2015)							
Most Overdue Report	CAT (10.5 years)	CAT (4 Years)	CERD (3 months)	ICESCR (1.5 year)	CERD (9 years)	CERD (2 years)	ICCPR (11 years)
Conventions Ratified in 2015	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓ CAT; CRPD
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW							
Reviewed in 2015	✓	–	–	–	–	–	–
Level of Delegation (at latest review)	Minister	Minister	Minister's assistant	Deputy Minister	President of the Human Rights Commission	Minister	Deputy Minister
Mid-term Reporting (1st and/or 2nd cycle)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Participation in other reviews (1st cycle)	35	75	39	69	45	22	38

* 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 (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see end note.

Eastern European Group (EEG)

Overview of Members



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

Leadership

During the course of 2015, Eastern European Members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2015 Eastern European Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Albania – preventing and countering violent extremism; contribution of the Human Rights Council to the General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem 2016.

Montenegro – preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

Russia – 40th anniversary of the International Covenants; protection of the family.

At a country-specific level, Eastern European Members led, inter alia, on the following situations:

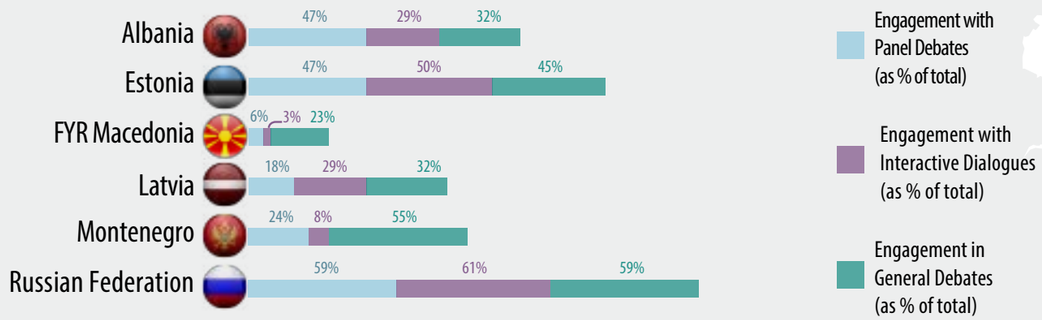
Albania – fact-finding mission to South Sudan.

Montenegro – reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka.

Macedonia - reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka; the human rights situation in Iran.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some Eastern European Council Members regularly work through the EU. In 2015, for example, Latvia (on behalf of the EU) led on resolutions dealing with, inter alia, freedom of religion or belief, the human rights situation in Belarus, and the human rights situation in Myanmar.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2015



Note: data based on participation during the last 3 regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (28th-30th sessions). For full methodology, see end note. Data source: HRC Extranet.

Voting analysis

With regard to country specific situations, Eastern European Members tended to vote in favour of item 4 texts (situations that require the Council's attention) in 2015. In the absence of consensus, Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro and Macedonia voted in favour of all item 4 resolutions (covering situations in Belarus, Iran, North Korea and Syria). The major exception to this trend was Russia. Where a vote was called, Russia voted against all item 4 resolutions.

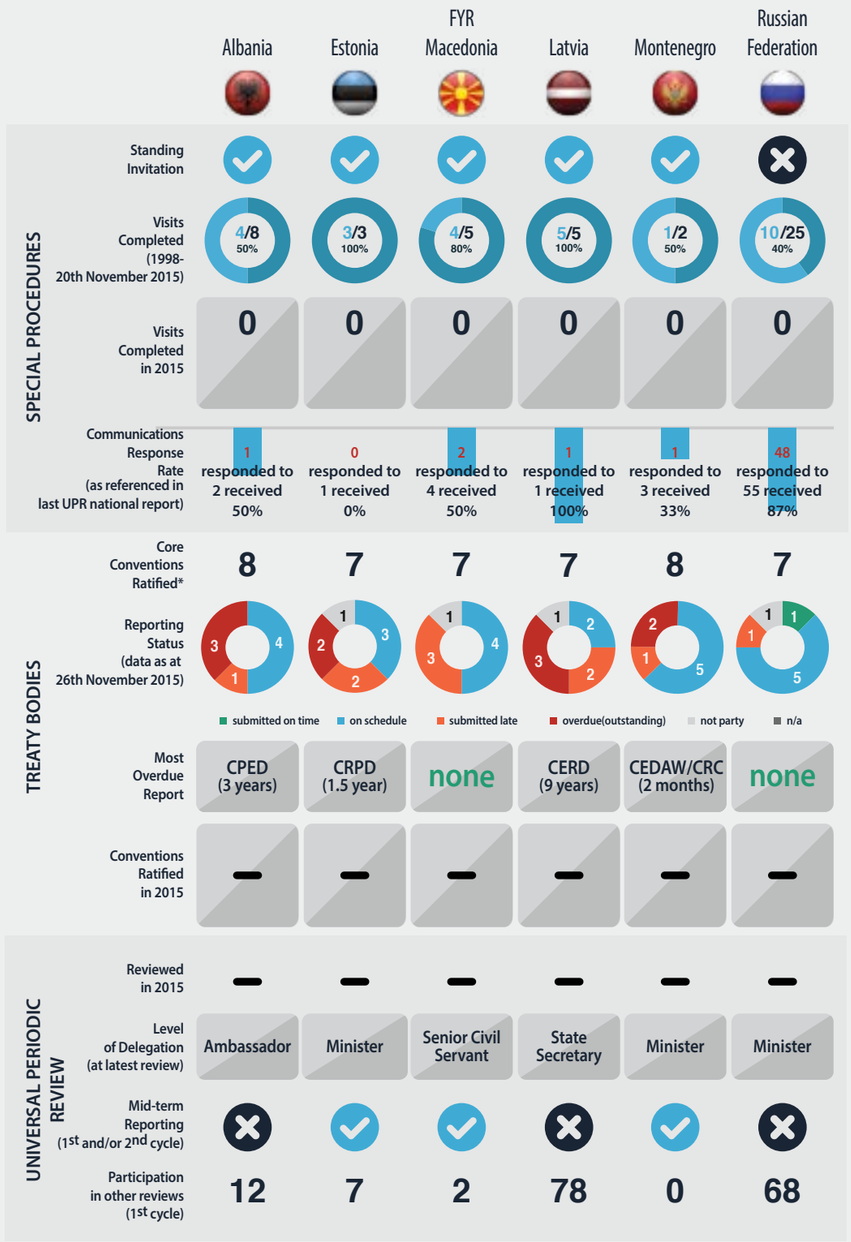
Regarding country-specific item 2 texts (e.g. on reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka and in South Sudan, and on the rights of minorities in Myanmar), Eastern European Members always joined consensus. During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), EEG States nearly always voted in favour. The exception was Macedonia, which abstained during three votes. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), EEG Members joined consensus on all texts in 2015, except for when there was a vote called (i.e. on Ukraine – with all Eastern European States, except Russia, voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called in 2015, Eastern European Members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions included voting on:

- The resolution on the right to peace – Albania abstained; while Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro and Macedonia all voted against.
- The resolution on human rights, democracy and rule of law – Russia abstained.
- The resolution on the effects of terrorism – Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro and Macedonia all voted against.
- The resolution on preventing and combatting violent extremism – Russia voted against.
- The resolution on armed drones – Albania, Estonia, Latvia and Montenegro all abstained, while Macedonia voted against.
- The text on 'concrete action against racism' – Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro and Macedonia voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, EEG States usually joined consensus. Where there was a vote, Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro and Macedonia voted against resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, international solidarity, protection of the family, and the impacts of foreign debt. Russia either joined consensus on or voted in favour of all ESCR resolutions.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for the eight "core human rights conventions," which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see end note.

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of Members

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

Leadership

During the course of 2015, GRULAC Members of the Human Rights Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2015 GRULAC Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Argentina – preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

Bolivia – the rights of peasants.

Brazil – contribution of the Human Rights Council to the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; the negative impact of corruption on human rights; promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems and processes; technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.

Cuba – composition of the staff of OHCHR; democratic and equitable international order; international solidarity; the rights of peasants; the right to peace; the Social Forum; use of mercenaries.

El Salvador – protection of the family; unaccompanied migrant children.

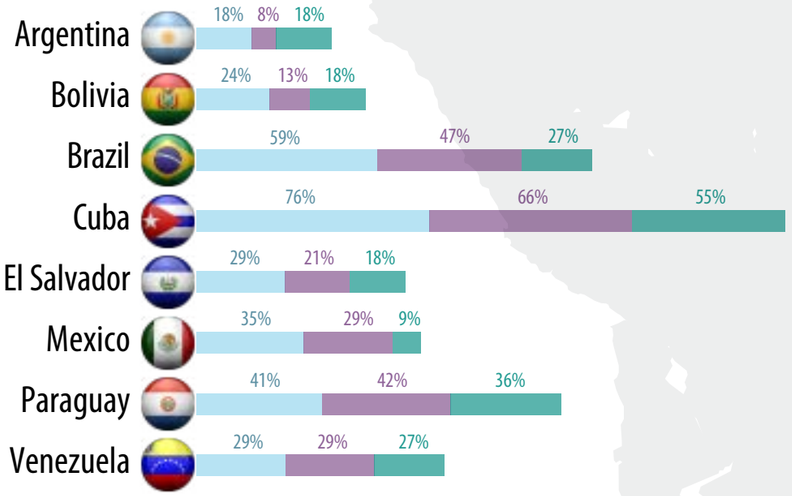
Mexico – birth registration; elimination of discrimination against women; the human rights of migrants; human rights and indigenous peoples; review of the mandate of the expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples; independence and impartiality of the judiciary; protecting human rights while countering terrorism; question of the death penalty; right to work.

Paraguay - promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems and processes; the contribution of the Human Rights Council to the General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem 2016.

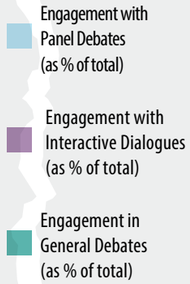
At a country-specific level, GRULAC Members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

Paraguay - fact-finding mission to South Sudan.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2015



Note: data based on participation during the last 3 regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (28th-30th sessions). For full methodology, see end note. Data source: HRC Extranet.



Voting analysis

With regard to texts on country specific situations (specifically resolutions tabled under item 4 – situations that require the Council's attention), Latin American Members of the Council can be divided into two groups vis-à-vis their voting records in 2015. Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay tended to vote in favour of item 4 resolutions, (with some exceptions – for example, El Salvador and Mexico abstained during voting on the resolution on the situation in Belarus). Brazil voted against resolutions on Syria and Iran in March, but thereafter voted in favour of item 4 texts. The second group is made up of Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela. These States voting against all item 4 resolutions.

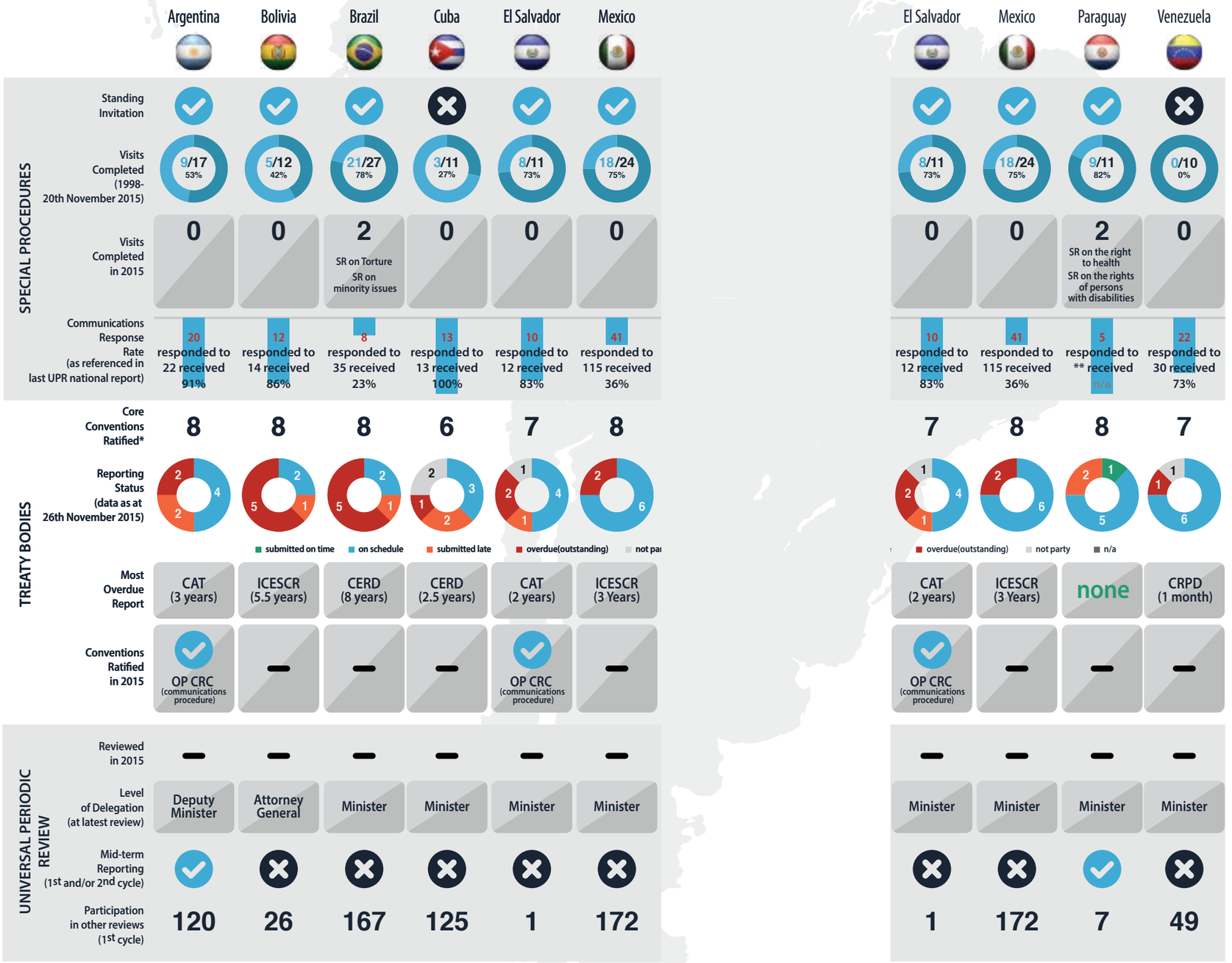
For country-specific item 2 texts (e.g. on reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka and in South Sudan, and on the rights of minorities in Myanmar), GRULAC Members joined consensus. During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Latin American States nearly always voted in favour (the exception being Paraguay, which abstained during nearly all item 7 votes). For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), GRULAC Members joined consensus on all texts in 2015, except for when there was a vote called (i.e. on Ukraine – with most either voting against or abstaining).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called in 2015, GRULAC Members usually voted in favour. Some, including Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay voted in favour or joined consensus on all civil and political rights texts, including on: the effects of terrorism; preventing and countering violent extremism; human rights, democracy and rule of law; drones; and the question of the death penalty. Notwithstanding, GRULAC members voted against, or abstained during voting on, some texts, including:

- The resolution on human rights, democracy and rule of law – Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela abstained.
- The resolution on the effects of terrorism – Mexico voted against.
- The resolution on preventing and combatting violent extremism – Bolivia, Cuba, and El Salvador abstained; Venezuela voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, GRULAC States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The main exception was voting on the resolution on 'protection of the family,' which saw abstentions from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for the eight "core human rights conventions," which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). ** data not available.

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

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of Members

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

Leadership

During the course of 2015, Western Members of the Human Rights Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2015 WEOG Members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

France – preventing and countering violent extremism; question of the death penalty.

Germany – right to privacy in the digital age.

Netherlands – preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage; equal participation in political and public affairs.

Portugal – contribution of the Human Rights Council to the high level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights; the right to education.

UK – preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

US – preventing and countering violent extremism.

At a country-specific level, WEOG Members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

France – the human rights situation in Syria; the human rights situation in Haiti.

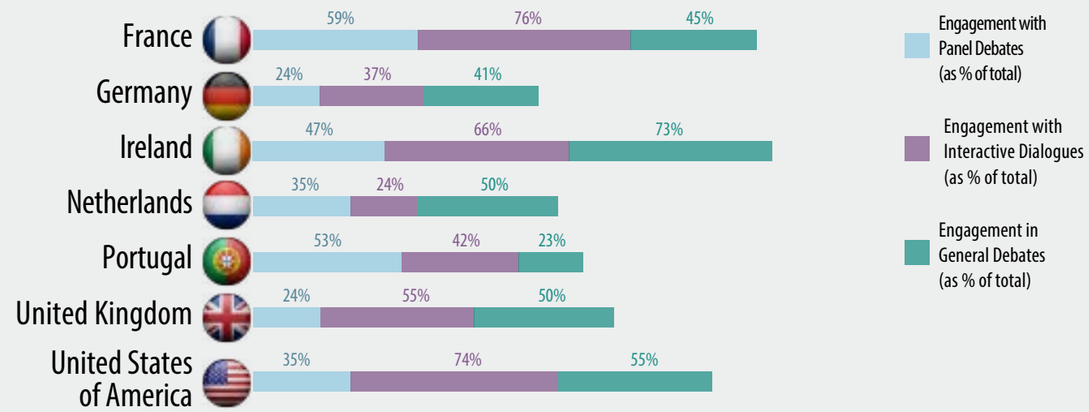
Germany – the human rights situation in Syria.

UK – assistance to Somalia; fact-finding mission to South Sudan; promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka; the human rights situation in Syria.

US – the human rights situation in Iran; assistance to Somalia; fact-finding mission to South Sudan; promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka; the human rights situation in Syria.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some WEOG Council Members regularly work through the EU. In 2015, for example, the EU led on resolutions dealing with, inter alia, freedom of religion or belief, right of the child, the human rights situation in Belarus, and the human rights situation in Myanmar.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues in 2015



Note: data based on participation during the last 3 regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (28th-30th sessions). For full methodology, see end note. Data source: HRC Extranet.

Voting analysis

2015 saw Western Members of the Council either join consensus on or vote in favour of all texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). This included resolutions on the situations in Belarus, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Myanmar and Syria.

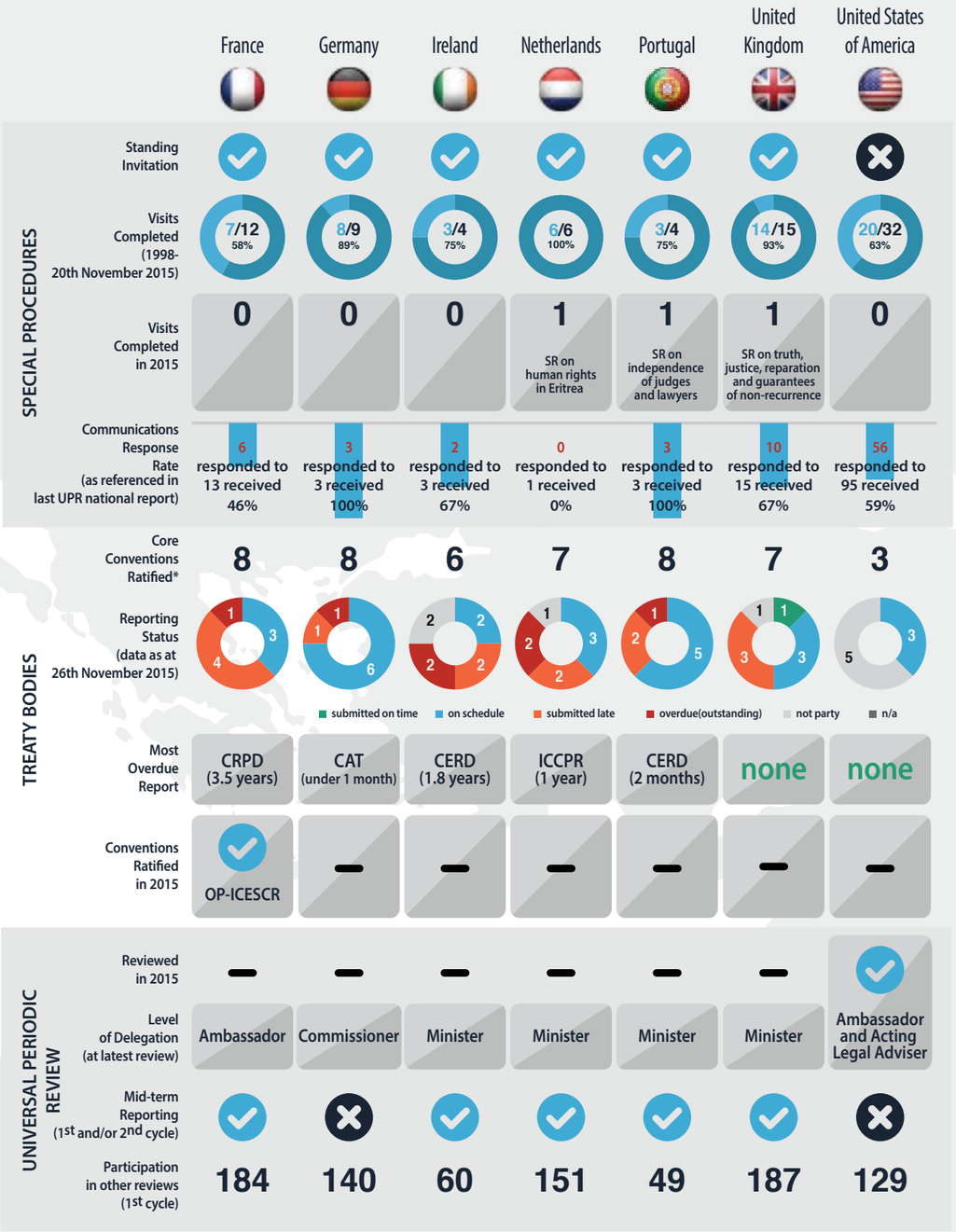
Regarding country specific item 2 texts (e.g. on reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka and in South Sudan, and on the rights of minorities in Myanmar), WEOG Members joined consensus. During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Western States generally voted in favour. The exception was the United States, which voted against all five texts presented under item 7 in 2015. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), WEOG Members joined consensus on all texts, except when there was a vote called (i.e. on the resolution on assistance to Ukraine – with WEOG Members voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called, WEOG Members usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, WEOG members voted against, or abstained during voting on, texts including:

- The resolution on the effects of terrorism – France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, the UK and the US voted against.
- The resolution on the right to peace – France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, the UK and the US voted against; Portugal abstained.
- The resolution on 'concrete action against racism' – France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, the UK and the US voted against; Portugal abstained.
- The resolution on armed drones – France, the UK and the US voted against; Germany and Portugal abstained.
- The resolution on the question of the death penalty – the United States voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, WEOG States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, most adopted texts. The main exceptions were voting on the resolutions on 'protection of the family;' unilateral coercive measures; the right to development; international solidarity; and the effects of foreign debt on human rights. Action on these texts saw France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, the UK and the US voting against (with one exception - Portugal abstained during the vote on the right to development).

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for the eight "core human rights conventions," which include: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Note: for more comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology, please see end note.

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.

Section I

Texts adopted in 2015

Source: OHCHR Website.
Timeframe: 2006-2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Agenda Items of HRC texts

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements (PRSTs), available on the OHCHR Website.
Timeframe: 2008-2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.
Note: HRC Agenda Items are as follows: Item 1.Organizational and procedural matters; Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General; Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development; Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention; Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms; Item 6. Universal Periodic Review; Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories; Item 8. Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building.

Resolution effects

Source: Individual resolutions, available on the OHCHR Website.
Timeframe: 2010-2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Financial implications of resolutions

Source: Individual PBIs, available on the HRC extranet.
Timeframe: 2010-2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Word Bubble

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements (PRSTs), available on the OHCHR Website.
Timeframe: 2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.
Note: The word bubble shows the number of HRC texts falling under each group and theme (where it is a new initiative, or a theme with more than one resolution) in 2015.

Interactive Dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet and UN Web TV archive.
Timeframe: 28th-30th sessions of the Human Rights council, all held in 2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Country-specific texts and initiatives 2006-2015

Source: OHCHR Website; individual resolutions, decisions and presidential statements (PRSTs), available on the OHCHR Website.
Timeframe: 2006-2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.
Note: map shows all Council country-specific initiatives since 2006, including resolutions, Special Sessions and panels.

Country-specific mechanisms 2015

Source: OHCHR Website. OHCHR Presence taken from Human Rights Appeal 2015, p. 48-49 (with the addition of updated information on the Republic of Korea).
Timeframe: all country-specific initiatives during 2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Section II

Map of 2015 Membership

Source: OHCHR Website; GA website (http://www.un.org/en/ga/70/meetings/elections/hrc.shtml).
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights

Cases cited in the Secretary General's reports (2014-2015)
Source: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' report by the Secretary General (UN Docs. A/HRC/27/38, A/HRC/30/29).
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Overview of Membership

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2014)
Source: Human Rights Appeal 2015, p.44.
Data as at: April 2015.

NHRI Accreditation Status
Source: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Contact/NHRIs/Pages/Global.aspx.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.

Previous Membership terms
Source: OHCHR website.
Data as at: 28th September 2015.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet.
Timeframe: 2015.
Data as at: 30th November 2015.
Note: The level of participation in Panel Discussions, Interactive Dialogues and General Debates was calculated based on individual and joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet during 2015 (i.e. during HRC sessions 28-30). Joint statements by set regional or political groups (e.g. the African Group or the EU) were not counted on the basis that this was not a conscious effort by the state concerned to participate in the debate, as is the case, for example, with ad-hoc cross-regional statements. Nor were we able to count joint statements on behalf of a group of states that were not individually listed (this includes some statements on behalf of the Like-Minded Group). Nevertheless, of course, states do also participate in this broader manner. Full-day discussions were counted as one panel – so states participating in either the morning or the afternoon were counted as having participated.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing Invitation
Source: OHCHR website.
Data as at: 20th November 2015.

Country visits / visit requests
Source: OHCHR website [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/CountryvisitsA-E.aspx].
Timeframe: 1998-20th November 2015 (for donut diagram); just 2015 (for 2015 visits).
Data as at: 20th November 2015.
Note: The number of total country visits since 1998 includes all visits undertaken, visits agreed by the state concerned but which has not yet taken place, and requests that have received no reply, as listed on the OHCHR website. The number of visits undertaken includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on the OHCHR website.

Responsiveness to communications
Source: 'Compilation of UN Information' report during the State's latest UPR.
Data as at: 26th November 2015.
Note: The response rate to Special Procedures communications (i.e. to letters of allegations and urgent appeals) is based on the information provided in the 'Compilation of UN Information' report submitted to the most recent UPR review of the state concerned.

Treaty Bodies

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as at: 26th November 2015.

Core Conventions Ratified, Reporting Status and Most Overdue Report

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 (CPED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

Explanation of Options:

- SUBMITTED ON TIME: The State Party Report submitted the report before the due date;
- ON SCHEDULE: the current cycle due date is in the future;
- SUBMITTED LATE: The State Party Report has been submitted for the current cycle, but was submitted late;
- OVERDUE (OUTSTANDING): the current cycle report has not yet been submitted, and is overdue;
- NOT PARTY: The State has not ratified the respective Treaty;
- N/A: where data was not available.

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

Data as at: 26th November 2015.

Conventions Ratified in 2015

Source: OHCHR website (http://indicators.ohchr.org).
Data as at: 26th November 2015.

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

Source: the Head of a State's delegation (for its last UPR) was determined using the 'Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.' Where the rank of the representative was not clear, the URG followed up with the relevant missions as far as possible.
Data as at: 26th November September 2015.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as at: 20th November 2015.
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: 20th November 2015.
Note: Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other 1st cycle reviews (out of 192) during which the state concerned made its own recommendations.

Overview of cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms in 2015

Note: based on data in the 'cooperation with human rights mechanisms' section. See above for details of data sources, timeframes and last updates.

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

Image Credits

United Nations Photo, 'Palais des Nations, Geneva: The flags of the193 member states are back after the renovation of the "Allée des Drapeaux" at the Palais des Nations,' 7 February 2014, UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (page 2); UN Geneva, 'Human Rights Council – 29th Session: Opening of the 29th regular session of the Human Right Council. Room XX,' 15 June 2015, UN Photo/Pierre Albouy, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (page 5); UN Geneva, 'Human Rights Council – 29th Session: Opening of the 29th regular session of the Human Right Council. Room XX,' 15 June 2015, UN Photo/Pierre Albouy, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (page 6); United Nations Photo, '18th Session of the Human Rights Council: A wide view of the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, in Geneva, Switzerland,' 16 September 2011, UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (page 8-9); UN Geneva, 'Human Rights Council – 28th Session: Panel discussion on national policies and human rights with simultaneous sign language interpretation during the 28th Session at the Human Rights Council,' 19 March 2015, UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (page 10-11).

UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP
Ch. du Grand-Montfleury 48

CH-1290 Versoix
Switzerland

info@universal-rights.org

design by mydear-agency.com

yourHRC.org

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

UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY